

Queen's Park Today – Daily Report October 27, 2017

Today at Queen's Park.....	1
Today's events	3
Weekend events	4
News briefs — Governmental	4
Question period	6
New lobbyist registrations	8
Lobbyist re-registrations and amended registrations	11

Quotation of the day

“I’d like to challenge both Patrick Brown and Andrea Horwath to finally tell the people of Ontario what they would do differently and what impact their plans would have on electricity bills.”

Upon release of his Long-Term Energy Plan, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault concluded his speech by challenging the opposition leaders to present detailed plans of their own.

Today at Queen's Park

On the schedule

The House is adjourned until Monday, October 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Debates and proceedings

MPPs convened at 9:00 a.m. to continue second reading debate on **Bill 160**, Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act. The omnibus healthcare bill was voted on after question period. It passed with Liberal and PC support. The New Democrats opposed (Ayes 69; Nays 13). **Bill 160** was referred to the Standing Committee on General Government.

Two bills and one motion, all from Liberal members, were debated during private members' business:

- Liberal MPP **Lou Rinaldi's Bill 170**, Child Abuse Prevention Month, was granted second reading by voice vote and referred to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.

- Liberal MPP **Nathalie Des Rosiers' Bill 164**, Human Rights Code Amendment Act, which adds "immigration status, genetic characteristics, police records and social condition" as prohibited grounds of discrimination under Human Rights Code, also passed second reading by voice vote and was referred to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.
- Liberal MPP **Soo Wong's** motion calling on the Ontario Legislature to proclaim December 13 as "Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day" in Ontario also passed.

Committee business

The Standing Committee on Justice Policy reported **Bill 154**, Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, back to the House with amendments

The Standing Committee on Finance's Thursday meeting on **Bill 148** was cancelled. The committee will instead hold public hearings on the bill on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

In the park

Corrections and parole officers were at Queen's Park to put pressure on the government to hire more front-line corrections workers, as it promised ahead of last year's possible strike.

The Ontario Autism Coalition held a protest on the Queen's Park lawn to "put public pressure on the government to resolve a range of inadequacies in classroom support for special needs children, in particularly those with autism."

Premier Wynne holds NAFTA roundtable

On Thursday afternoon, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** and Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** participated in a roundtable discussion with automakers on NAFTA renegotiations. In a news conference following the meeting, Wynne said, despite difficult negotiations with the U.S. trade team, Canadian governments and businesses must redouble their efforts.

"I think the more we can have a cohesive partnership with our businesses and with our counterparts in the United States, the more likely, when we get to the point where there is an endgame, the people who are making decisions at the White House are going to hear a real unified message," the premier said.

With it being impossible to tell who influences President **Donald Trump's** decision-making, Duguid said the Ontario government has to be influential on all fronts. "We want to ensure we are having some impact with anybody that may have influence over [Trump]," said Duguid.

Representatives from Unifor, who also attended the roundtable, called for a renewed NAFTA to include "tougher and enforceable labour standards" as well as making tariff-free access "conditional on fair labour practices and corporate investment proportional to each country's share of the North American market."

Wynne also told reporters that she called **Pat Sorbara** as soon as she heard the Sudbury verdict to congratulate her. She said Sorbara will be back working on the Liberal re-election campaign soon.

Asked why she has not been wearing her trademarked glasses, including in a recent political ad, Wynne said her eyes are changing but that she can see almost as well without them: "I'm in the process of prescription, not, how am I going to do this?"

Topics of conversation

- PC leader **Patrick Brown** confirmed his party has taken down its recent television ad attacking the Liberal Party that included references to the Sudbury by-election trial.
- Working Ontario Women, a new third-party advocacy group, posted its first attack ads against Brown on [Facebook](#). In one ad, a female actress reflects on Brown's voting record on gay marriage and says, "It seems like he'd be willing to make anybody a second class citizen. We don't matter to Patrick Brown."
 - The other ads focus on a woman's right to choose and on funding for women's healthcare.
- Twenty-five busloads of hospital staff from North Bay, Toronto, Kingston, Peterborough and Hamilton travelled to Ottawa on Wednesday to hold a large rally on Ontario's underfunding of hospitals.
- New 2016 census data reveals Toronto is now the [most expensive city](#) in Canada for housing, surpassing Vancouver. In Toronto 33.4 per cent of people spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing. In Vancouver, it is 32 per cent of residents.

Today's events



October 27 at 10:30 a.m. — Ottawa

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care **John Fraser** will make an announcement at the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre.



October 27 at 10:30 a.m. — Puslinch

Treasury Board President **Liz Sandals** will make a small business announcement at H.P. Polymers Ltd.



October 27 at 12:30 p.m. — Kingston

Health and Long-Term Care Minister **Dr. Eric Hoskins** will make an announcement at Kingston General Hospital.

Weekend events



October 28 at 3 p.m. — Dundas

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will attend the Hamilton—West Ancaster—Dundas NDP nomination meeting at Dundas Town Hall.



October 29 at 2 p.m. — Ottawa

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will attend her party's Ottawa Centre nomination meeting at Albert Street Education Centre. The NDP has attracted a roster of [high-profile candidates](#) vying to represent the New Democrats in Ottawa Centre.



October 29 at 3 p.m. — Toronto

The Ontario Liberal Party will hold its Don Valley West nomination meeting at Leaside Memorial Gardens. Odds are good that Premier **Kathleen Wynne** will win re-nomination.

News briefs — Governmental

Ministry of Energy

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** released the government's Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), the province's first since 2013. The 2017 LTEP projects that residential electricity bills will not exceed \$200 per month by its endpoint of 2035. The 2013 LTEP had predicted bills could reach \$250 per month by 2020.

As outlined by experts examining the Fair Hydro Plan, bills will drop in 2017 and then begin increasing in 2022 once they stop being tied to inflation. Thibeault acknowledged average bills will increase over time, eventually hitting just under \$200 per month in 2030, but said the government is committed to avoiding sharp increases.

The LTEP introduced the concept of "market renewal," which is the government's term for how it will address energy capacity once the Pickering nuclear plant is decommissioned and its long-term energy contracts begin expiring around 2023. Instead of signing more 20-year contracts, Thibeault said market renewal will mean shifting away from long-term procurement towards capacity auctions that identify diverse and cost-effective ways to meet capacity when the province needs it. He said implementing market renewal will save Ontario \$5 billion.

Because of conservation initiatives, the provincial demand for electricity is not projected to increase over the next 20 years, but as contracts expire about one-third of the capacity has not yet been procured.

The tagline title of the 150-page [LTEP report](#) is “Delivering Fairness and Choice.” The goal is to open up consumer choice in the marketplace by working with the Ontario Energy Board to “update rules to better value energy storage and distribute generation resources within the electricity system.” Along with the option to choose their own time-of-use plans, Ontarians will also be able to work with third-party providers to own and operate net-metered renewable generation systems, such as rooftop solar panels. Improved energy storage technology and the significantly lower market price for solar panels will make this more viable. Thibeault said he will move forward with legislation on third-party generation in January 2018 once consumer protection measures are in place.

The OEB will also have increased regulatory authority over the 326,000 individually-metered condo and apartment units in the province, which the ministry said will result in savings for residents of those buildings.

The LTEP includes plans to build a new energy transmission line in the northwest GTA because of predicted population growth. According to the ministry, the main growth in electricity use will come from the electrification of GO transit rail lines and the proliferation of electric vehicle usage. The report predicts there will be 2.4 million EVs on the road by 2035; currently there are approximately 15,000.

The province continues to encourage the voluntary consolidation of small utilities as a cost-saving measure and will continue to promote big data initiatives like Green Button, which allows ratepayers to monitor and control their use via an app.

Thibeault ended his presentation on the LTEP by calling on leaders of the PC Party and the NDP to present their own credible and realistic energy plans. He said the PC Party’s plan would cost millions to tear up contracts while dialing back on money and energy-saving programs. He said the NDP’s plan to buy back shares of Hydro One would cost \$10 billion and would not save ratepayers a dime.

Responses

PC Energy critic **Todd Smith** criticized the LTEP as a political document that does not even show the true cost of electricity generation. Smith said the party is “freezing rates to get us through the next election cycle because they know how detrimental this energy crisis is for Ontario.” Smith said a PC government would “get down to work renegotiating contracts” and removing costs from the system.

If elected government, NDP Energy critic **Peter Tabuns** said his party would review the entire plan, including the costs of refurbishing nuclear plants. “We would go from the bottom up assessing what makes sense and what’s cost-effective because we know people need to have affordable electricity.” This includes phasing out the Fair Hydro Plan. Tabuns also said the LTEP “hints at further privatization.”

On the projected adoption of 2.4 million electric vehicles, Transportation Minister **Steve Del Duca** said two-thirds of the electric vehicle charging stations the government procured are now installed, and the rest are in the works, although the contractor it hired has run into some issues receiving permits.

Del Duca said he has seen a spike in the number of EVs on roads, thanks to the government's subsidy and "broader general awareness in the public about the need to fight climate change." Del Duca said he is the owner of a Chevrolet Bolt, an electric vehicle.

The report was well-received by the energy industry.

Question period

PC lead-off

Autism funding

- With parents of children with autism in the chamber for question period, PC leader **Patrick Brown** led off by asking when the government will finally provide adequate funding for autism services.
 - He cited a survey from the Ontario Autism Coalition that shows 72 per cent parents do not think their children receive enough support at school.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** responded with the \$500 million in dedicated autism services funding and 16,000 new treatment spaces the government announced in June.
 - Children and Youth Services Minister **Michael Coteau** discussed the \$5 million for ABA services in schools, which was announced Wednesday.

Long-Term Energy Plan

- Brown asked where the section in the Long-Term Energy Plan is that talks about giving mega energy contracts to Liberal donors and insiders.
- PC MPP **Todd Smith** said the government managed to break a basic law of economics in its LTEP: "Demand is going to stay the same; supply is going to stay the same; prices, however, will shoot to new record highs after the next election."
 - Smith asked when the province will actually start taking costs out of the system.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said he took billion in costs out of the system by not building new nuclear plants, canceling LRP II and renegotiating the Samsung deal.
 - Thibeault said, "On that side of the House, they don't have a plan. And they don't have a clue either."

Gas plants trial

- PC MPP **Vic Fedeli** asked about a "bombshell" revelation in the gas plants trial on Wednesday. IT expert **Rolf Gitt** gave [testimony](#) that contradicted what the province's chief information officer **David Nicholl** told the courtroom last week.
 - Gitt said Nicholl urgently requested access to all of the computers in the premier's office for a group of people, something he found unusual.

- Up until now Nicholls's story had been that the [request was casual](#) and not atypical.
 - Fedeli said Nicholl remains the province's chief information officer and asked whether Ontarians should be worried information is still at risk.
- Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** said the government takes record keeping very seriously and, since the gas plants incident, has developed mandatory staff training programs.

Agriculture Minister **Jeff Leal** reacted so angrily to a question from PC MPP **Laurie Scott** about funding for the horse-racing industry that Speaker **Dave Levac** ordered he be removed from the chamber.

NDP lead-off

Long-term care homes

- NDP MPP **Teresa Armstrong** asked about long-term care home redevelopment forcing seniors' homes to move out of Toronto.
 - Armstrong said, whether or not these homes have filed the paperwork with the ministry, they have indicated publicly their intention to leave the city.
- Premier Wynne said her government is working with the long-term care homes to make sure this scenario does not happen.

Long-Term Energy Plan

- NDP MPP **Peter Tabuns** said the LTEP shows 10 years from now, people will be paying 42 per cent more every single month just to keep the lights on. He called the LTEP a political document that sugarcoats more bad news for Ontario ratepayers.
- Tabuns said the plan shows, even when Ontarians use less electricity, they will be paying more. He asked why the premier is sticking to this \$40-billion borrowing scheme.
- Thibeault said, "When it comes to a party that's actually bringing something for the people of Ontario, it's this government, not the two opposition parties. One doesn't have a plan and one makes it up as it goes along."

Other NDP questions

- NDP MPP **Catherine Fife** asked about new flights from Billy Bishop Airport to Kitchener—Waterloo that are beginning next week at a cost of \$138 one-way.
 - Fife said this price is out of reach for everyday commuters and asked when the government will deliver on its promise of two-way all-day GO rail service.
- NDP MPP **France G  linas** asked when the Indigenous health program will also be provided in French.

New lobbyist registrations

New lobbyist registrations from October 20 – 26, 2017

Organization — Dairy Processors Association of Canada

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- DPAC's primary goal is to provide information to officials on the impacts that international trade agreements (such as NAFTA, TPP, CETA) entered into by the Federal government will have on the dairy sector both in Ontario and at a national level, and gain support for dairy processing industry positions.
- A secondary, broader, goal is to educate officials on the contributions made by the dairy processing industry to the provincial and national economies.

Client — Allscripts

Consultant — Caitlin McClung and Andrew Steele

Firm — StrategyCorp Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To lobby the Ontario government on behalf of and alongside Allscripts to better understand the Ontario Ministry of Health's "Health Information System" Renewal policy.

Client — Ontario Retirement Communities Association

Consultant — Andrew Steele and Saad Baig

Firm — StrategyCorp Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Propose amendments to Ontario **Bill 148**: Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act to reduce the impact of minimum wage statutory holiday pay on retirement homes.

Client — Chronometriq

Consultant — Omar Khan

Firm — Hill+Knowlton Strategies

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Looking to educate decision makers about the company and see if there are synergies with Ontario's digital health, economic development and innovation strategies.

Organization — StubHub

Consultant — Laura Dooley

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Inform government's consideration of amendments to the Ticket Speculation Act.
- Offer feedback and recommendations with a view of enhancing consumer protection and choice.
- Create an understanding of StubHub's policy priorities and operations including consumer protection guarantees.
- Discuss government priorities surrounding consumer affairs related to ticket sales for any potential alignment or conflict, or gaps in current legislation/regulation/enforcement.

Client — Microsoft Canada Inc.

Consultant — Brian Teefy and Saad Baig

Firm — StrategyCorp Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To brief staff on new and emerging IT activities, including cloud based technology opportunities and to discuss broad IT policy initiatives. To brief staff on benefits of Office 365.

Client — Toyota Canada Inc.

Consultant — Caroline Pinto

Firm — Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Provide input and recommendations to enhance and protect Ontario's automotive manufacturing footprint. Provide input and recommendations to the government regarding Ontario's Climate Change policy to ensure Ontario's competitiveness.
- Provide input and recommendations to the government regarding policies, programs and decisions that impact the demand, supply and adoption of advanced technology vehicles (hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrids, fuel cell electric vehicles and battery electric vehicles).
- Provide input and recommendations to the government regarding policies, programs and decisions that impact the ability to bring to market alternative forms of transportation to meet Ontario's goals to reduce transportation related greenhouse gas emissions including low-speed vehicles, 3-wheeled vehicles, automated and connected vehicles.

Client — ChargePoint Inc.

Consultant — Colin MacDonald

Firm — Navigator Ltd.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To work with the government on program design to assist in meeting the electric vehicle targets in the Climate Change Action Plan.

Client — Prometic Life Sciences Inc.

Consultant — D'arci McFadden

Firm — NATIONAL Public Relations

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Arranging meetings for Prometic to discuss its expertise in chromatography and bioseparations with the Government of Ontario. Build awareness of Prometic's start-of-the-art technologies for bioseparations to develop plasma-derived therapeutic product and its benefits to the health system.

Client — URENCO Group

Consultant — D'arci McFadden

Firm — NATIONAL Public Relations

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- U-Battery® Consortium, led by URENCO, is developing a micro nuclear reactor that holds the potential of providing low emission energy that can be deployed locally without a requirement for an electricity grid.
- Lobbying activity includes communications with provincial officials and arranging meetings regarding the potential for this technology and the path to licensing it.

Client — BMW Canada Inc., Honda Canada Inc., Kia Canada Inc., Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc., Toyota Canada Inc. and Hyundai Auto Canada

Consultant — Chelsey Colbert

Firm — Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Advocate for greater investment in publicly accessible fueling infrastructure for hydrogen electric vehicles.

Lobbyist re-registrations and amended registrations

New lobbyist registrations from October 20 – 26, 2017

Client — Greater Toronto Airports Authority

Consultant — John Duffy, John Matheson, Brian Teefy, Stephen Adler, Katie Locke, Rob Nicol and Andrew Steele

Firm — StrategyCorp Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To ensure the GTAA is a key player in all transit & transportation discussions going forward, in particular, those concerning ground transportation. Ensure transit and road funding decisions improve connections to Pearson Airport.

Organization — Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc.

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- **Bill 30**, Human Rights Code Amendment Act (Genetic Characteristics), 2016 Lobbying to exclude its applicability to insurance underwriting.
- **Bill 162**, Insurance Amendment Act (Life Settlements), 2017 To prevent the trafficking or trading of life insurance policies.
- **Bill 164**, Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2017 Lobbying to exclude its applicability to insurance underwriting.

Client — Ensysce Biosciences

Consultant — Steve Megannety

Firm — Niagara Luminaire Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To provide information about a FDA Phase 1 Clinical Human Trial underway to test a new opioid resistance technology.
- The lobbying goal is to provide information, not to influence decision-making or policy.

Client — Harris Canada Systems

Consultant — Omar Khan

Firm — Hill+Knowlton Strategies

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Introducing Harris Corporation into the Ontario government marketplace for the opportunity to bid on the forthcoming Government Mobile Communications Project.

- It is important for the government to know about Harris Corporation's value and capabilities in light of the above proposed Request For Proposal (RFP).

Client — Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association

Consultant — Anne McConnell

Firm — McConnell Hirning Consulting

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Waste Diversion Transition Act and Waste Reduction & Circular Economy Act: the goal is to provide input to the development of policies and regulations under the Acts, helping to present and share the point of view of the regulated industry.

Client — Tembec Inc.

Consultant — Chris Benedetti

Firm — Sussex Strategy Group

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Northern Development Pulp & Paper electricity programs: Demand response program to facilitate contribution to Ontario's energy needs.
- Lobbying to ensure participation and continued support for Northern Ontario industry by extending and revising the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program for three years and otherwise working towards maintaining competitive electricity rates for Ontario industrials. Cap and Trade System (Ontario, Quebec, California)
- Involved in discussions with the Ontario Government and associations (Ampco) as part of the overall Government consultation on implementation process to ensure that it is done with a review of economic development and limit negative impact to electricity prices and policies.
- The lobbying activity conducted with representatives of the Minister of Finance concerning possible financial relief efforts with respect to Tembec's pension plans.
- Lobbying to ensure participation and continued support for Northern Ontario industry by extending and revising the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate (NIER) program for three years.

Client — Airbnb Ireland UC

Consultant — Caroline Pinto

Firm — Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017. Engage with the Province on the timing and implementation of the new taxation power permitting mandatory hotel/ tourism/short-term accommodation taxes under the Municipal Act and/or the City of Toronto Act, including how they are supposed to be applied to short-term accommodations.

Client — Beef Farmers of Ontario

Consultant — Grant Gonzales and Carol Mitchell

Firm — Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Continued support and advocacy for additional funds for the Business Risk Management Program and ensuring that RMP remains predictable and bankable for Ontario's beef farmers; helping to arrange meetings and sharing information to create a better understanding of agricultural industries and their business opportunities, and the challenges that they face.
- Advocacy to support the use of crown land in the Great Northern Clay Belt to help establish a larger Ontario beef industry.
- Working with Ontario beef farmers to advance the role of Foodland Ontario's responsibilities through expanding brand recognition, advocacy for local food, and ensuring investments in results-based agriculture is recognized by the Ontario government.

Client — Henderleigh Holdings

Consultant — Derek Ferguson

Firm — Dawson Ferguson Communications Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- The removal of a parcel of land from the Greenbelt.

Organization — Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC

Consultant — Mark Holle and Adam Coote

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Advocating for improved market access and sustainable business environment for our industry. We interact with government officials on pricing policy, process and interchangeability status under the Ontario Drug Benefit Act and Drug Interchangeability and Dispensing Fee Act, Intellectual Property protection and international trade and agreements.

Organization — Yves Landry Foundation

Consultant — Karyn Brearley

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To promote advancement of skills in the technician, technology and engineering, skills trades areas - seek funding and drive program improvements

Client — Algonquin Park Residents Association

Consultant — Charles Harnick

Firm — Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Renewal of Algonquin Park Cottage leases

Client — Shaftesbury Film

Consultant — Gordon Quaiattini

Firm — Maple Lead Strategies

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Explore potential funding sources to assist with expanding new media enterprise opportunity for Shaftesbury in Ontario including an application to the Jobs and Prosperity Fund.

Client — Citibank

Consultant — Ryan Singh

Firm — Temple Scott Associates Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Monitoring developments to **Bill 59** Putting Consumers First Act regarding alternative financial services.

Organization — Canadian Opera Company

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Ongoing core operating grant - Ontario Arts Council

Organization — Environmental Defence

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Establishment of a deposit return program for all single use plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Enhance the ability to achieve sustainable communities through the Greenbelt and Growth Plan reviews.
- Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA): introducing a regulation under the TURA to label toxics on consumer products. Establishment of a deposit return program for all single use plastic bottles and aluminum cans.
- Communication with government and regulators about the implementation and reviews of the Growth Plan; Greenbelt Plan; National Energy Strategy; the Certification of beaches at Ontario Parks; Ontario Climate Action Plan; Long Term Energy Plan; Ontario Municipal Board review; Transportation Plan; Building Code; Great Lakes Protection Act; Canada Ontario Agreement

Client — Peoples Trust

Consultant — Ryan Singh

Firm — Temple Scott Associates Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Monitoring Consumer Protection Act for possible changes regarding Prepaid Card Fees

Client — Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs

Consultant — Jeffrey Bangs

Firm — Pathway Group Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To raise awareness of the snowmobile industry in Ontario. Work with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to implement the Ontario Trail Strategy.
- Funding for the refurbishment of icegroomers and to offset the rising costs of insurance.

Organization — Workers' Action Centre

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- The Ontario government is currently reviewing and seeking to update the Ontario Employment Standards Act (ESA) as part of its "Changing Workplaces Review".
- WAC has prepared its own 70 page detailed review of the ESA - "Still Working on the Edge: Building Decent Jobs from the Ground Up" - with 94 specific recommendations for improvements to the ESA.
- Lobbying for these recommendations to be considered by the government and these changes made to the ESA.
- In addition, we are running a grassroots campaign, raising awareness through social media about our recommendations, and urging citizens to contact their local MPP to advocate for these changes.
- As we do not know which MPP's have been approached, we have included all Ontario MPP's as potential targets of lobbying for ESA improvements.

Client — TransUnion of Canada Inc.

Consultant — Ryan Singh

Firm — Temple Scott Associates Inc.

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Monitoring developments to the credit reporting policy regarding consumer protection issues. Monitoring policy developments with respect to use of credit information in insurance.

Client — Longyuan Canada Renewables Ltd.

Consultant — David Timm

Firm — Sussex Strategy Group

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- To advise on matters related to planning, procurement, permitting and the operation of renewable energy generation assets in Ontario.

Organization — Ontario Medical Association

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- **Bill 71**, Lung Health Act,; consultation with MPPs
- **Bill 148**, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act; consultation with MPPs
- **Bill 160**, Strengthening Quality and Accountability for Patients Act, consultation with MPPs
- HIPA regulations resulting from the Health Information Protection Act (formerly **Bill 119**) Regulations resulting from Patients First Act (formerly **Bill 41**).
- Regulations resulting from Protecting Patients Act (formerly **Bill 87**)
- Protecting a Woman's Right to Access Abortion Services Act (**Bill 163**)

Organization — Canadian Snowbird Association

Consultant — Various in-house lobbyists

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Preservation of Health Coverage for Frequent Travellers, Access to Emergency Health Coverage when Travelling, Access to prescription Medication for use During Travel, OHIP reimbursement rates for out of country treatment.
- Allow international travel for up to eight months or 8 months with an unlimited number of short-term trips (23 days) anywhere in the world, while still maintaining health benefits.
- Ontario to comply with the Canada Health Act by reimbursing emergency in-patient and out-patient services required by travelling Ontarians at the same rate as that paid for services within the province.
- Simplify the process for obtaining access to a 212 day supply of prescription drugs. Reimburse the cost of medication prescribed by appropriately accredited physicians and dispensed outside the province.

Organization — Center for Pediatric Excellence

Consultant — Judy van Stralen

▪ **Name or Description of Policy, Program or Decision:**

- Substitution of generics should not be allowed where there is evidence of patient outcomes being compromised.

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