

Hampered in Hamilton - Facts Still Matter - Thursday, December 7, 2017

From: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
To: Todays News (OPO) <todays.news@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 07 Dec 2017 09:05:48 -0500

Facts Still Matter in Ontario – December 7, 2017

Yesterday, Ontario PC leader Patrick Brown spoke at the Macdonald-Cartier Club of Hamilton where he barred the media from attending the event and then dodged them for the rest of the day ([Hamilton Mountain News](#), December 6, 2017).

Patrick Brown spoke about his newly released document that contains over \$12B from essential services that people depend on like health care and education while offering a tax cut much smaller than promised. That small cut would be financed by a new tax on items like gas and home heating, driving up families' everyday expenses. It doesn't make any sense, and will make everyone in this province worse off.

He can wrap his document up in all the slick packaging he wants, but Facts Still Matter in Ontario.

He claimed: *"I am committed to our value for money audit"*

Fact: We already know that on page 76 of Patrick Brown's campaign document, he outlines \$12.275 billion in cuts to programs and services that will hurt Ontario families. These cuts will directly impact healthcare, education, and cut funding towards repairing schools, hospitals, and social housing.

We're balancing the budget this year and in the years that follow, and at the same time our government has the lowest per capita program spending in the country. And we know that 'value for money audits' is just conservative language for cuts.

Great Lakes Clean-Up Fund	13	13	13	13
Liberal Cap-and-Trade Slush Fund Obligations (4)	1,500	-	-	-
Savings from Cancelling Liberal Cap-and-Trade Slush Fund	(475)	(1,900)	(1,900)	(1,900)
Savings from Value for Money Audit (5)	-	(1,100)	(2,200)	(2,800)

\$12.275 =

(Source: <https://www.ontariopc.ca/peoplesguarantee>, <http://www.fao-on.org/web/default/files/commentaries/GFS%20Commentary.pdf>)

He claimed: *"We're going to pledge to the people of Ontario, a 22.5% tax cut to the middle class"*

Fact: This is Patrick Brown's signature promise, and it is patently false. There isn't a single person in Ontario who will actually see a 22.5% reduction in their personal income tax. That's because Patrick Brown is not factoring in the fact that we have a progressive income tax system, which has multiple income brackets. All Patrick Brown is talking about is a 22.5% cut in the rate of one bracket.

And he's also not factoring in the increased costs because of his new, more expensive carbon tax. So when you look at that he's putting forward it's only about half of the equation, and it's deceptive.

(Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/frequently-asked-questions-individuals/canadian-income-tax-rates-individuals-current-previous-years.html>)

He claimed: *"You haven't had a raise – you haven't had a raise in – in your disposable income in 15 years"*

Fact: Average weekly earnings in Ontario are higher than the rest of Canada and up 34% since 2003. Also – we already know that Patrick Brown is going to roll-back our increase to minimum wage. Delaying a minimum wage increase is the same as denying one and Patrick Brown would need to introduce legislation to roll-back a \$15 minimum wage coming into effect in 2019. His party also voted against increasing the minimum wage this year.

Selected items [Add/Remove data]

Type of employees = All employees ¹²

Overtime = Including overtime

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) ¹⁸ = Industrial aggregate excluding unclassified businesses [11-91N] ^{2, 5}

Geography	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Canada	691.14	709.28	737.02	755.11	787.61	810.26	822.58 ^A	852.46 ^A	873.66 ^A	895.58 ^A	911.45 ^A	935.58 ^A	952.24 ^A	956.50 ^A
Ontario	728.71	748.99	776.33	788.80	819.19	838.34	848.91 ^A	881.44 ^A	893.44 ^A	906.17 ^A	920.03 ^A	938.30 ^A	962.94 ^A	973.56 ^A

(Source: <http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/cansim/a47>)

He claimed: *"Right now our credit rating is worse than Quebec's for the first time in my lifetime"*

Fact: Moody's and Fitch have the same rating and while S&P's rating is higher for Quebec, DBRS's rating is higher for Ontario.

Credit Ratings	Ontario	Quebec
Moody's	Aa2	Aa2
Fitch	AA-	AA-
S&P	A+	AA-
DBRS	AA-	A (high)

(Source: <http://www.ofina.on.ca/ir/rating.htm>, http://www.finances.gouv.qc.ca/en/Financement_Quebec61.asp)

He claimed: *"We give [surplus electricity] to Michigan, we give it to Pennsylvania, we give it to Ohio"*

Fact: We've seen this one from Patrick Brown before. The last time the provincial Conservatives were in power, they spent \$900 million importing electricity over two years just to keep the lights on. Given our position of strength, Ontario is a net exporter now, benefitting ratepayers to the tune of \$236 million in 2016.

(Source: Independent Electricity System Operator)

He claimed: *"the Liberal [Fair Hydro] plan was a temporary ploy"*

Fact: Despite claiming he's against it, Patrick Brown is now sneakily including our Fair Hydro Platform in his own platform. That's probably because he knows our plan is lowering bills by 25% on average and holding rates to inflation for the next four years. Following this period, our Long-Term Energy Plan lays out a path for predictable, affordable electricity prices as well.

(Source: PC Platform; <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-long-term-energy-plan>)

He claimed: *"We've been a have-not province for 8 years"*

Fact: In 2017-18, it is estimated that Ontarians will contribute approximately \$7.1 billion to the Equalization program while Ontario will only receive roughly \$1.4 billion in return — representing a net contribution of \$5.7 billion — the highest of all provinces.

And maybe Brown is having trouble holding his caucus back, because just last week his own MPP, Michael Harris, told CBC that "we are the economic engine still of Canada."

(Source: <https://mowatcentre.ca/mind-the-gap/>, CBC News November 27th, 2017)

Please share our website factsstillmatter.ca if you agree that Facts Still Matter in Ontario.