

TBS Issues Review for Friday March 3

From: "Bigley, Jane (TBS)" <jane.bigley@ontario.ca>
Date: Fri, 03 Mar 2017 07:33:17 -0500
Attachments: Relieving the pressure of high priced electricity.docx (17.07 kB); Infrastructure spending in Canada.docx (16.21 kB)

Good morning!

Here is the Treasury Board Secretariat Issues Review.
Cabinet Top Issues for today will be sent later.

Minister Sandals is quoted in a QP Briefing story on cyber security. The article is in response to the Auditor General's concerns of the province's aging IT system. "Quite frankly, we would not refer to it in detail, and I would hope the auditor not refer to it in detail, because when you set up a security system, the last thing you need is somebody running around dissecting it," said **Sandals**. "This is an area where you do not want to discuss the details because when you discuss the details, what you're really doing is helping people who want to breach your system," said Sandals. "Revealing details actually plays into the hands of the people who want to breach." Ontario's security advisor Ray Boisvert is also quoted. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

HYDRO RATE CUTS:

There is multiple media coverage on the announcement of hydro rate cuts. Generally critics say the plan makes the future generation pay for "our mistakes" and it is an election play. Highlighted below is a selection of stories: **Multiple Articles in TBS Media Watch.**

The Globe and Mail (A1) notes the plan provides only modest relief to industrial customers. Firms say they can't compete and electricity costs are driving business out of the province.

The Toronto Star (A14) notes 'cheaper hydro now will cost more in the long run.' It reports "This will result in an annual cost to the treasury of \$1.83 billion."

QP Briefing notes the 25% reduction is an "adventure in accounting". The article then goes on to explain 'how' government will do it.

The Toronto Sun's (A9) Lorrie Goldstein writes "Trusting Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals to fix the hydro mess they've created is like trusting rabbits to guard the lettuce patch."... "Ontarians will be paying for that mistake for generations to come."

Guelph Today quotes **Minister Sandals** from a telephone interview. "I think we've heard from people all across the province that some of them are really, really struggling with their electricity bills," she said. "So we sat down, had a look and said, what can we do to make the electricity bills more affordable." "So why are we asking today's consumer to pay in 20 years for something that people are going to be using for 30 years," **Sandals** said. "We are saying that everybody who is going to get electricity from that generator (over a 30-year period) should help pay for the capital costs of building that generator." **Article attached**

TREASURY BOARD :

The Toronto Star (B6) and the Globe and Mail (B1) report the Canadian economy outperformed expectations in the final three months of 2016 by growing at an annual rate of 2.6 per cent. – thanks to consumer spending in the fourth quarter. **Articles in TBS Media Watch.**

The Ottawa sun (A13) has a piece by Charles Lamman of the Fraser institute. He writes about five 'myths and reality' in Canada's infrastructure spending. **Article attached**

The Toronto Star(A1) and The Globe and Mail report Metrolinx is in talks to replace Bombardier with another company to supply vehicles for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. Court filings show Metrolinx claims " Bombardier's failure to deliver vehicles on time has pushed the situation to an "urgent crisis point." They warn that Metrolinx could suffer "extreme" financial losses if it's not permitted to find another supplier. The agency's \$770-million vehicle deal with the Quebec-based rail manufacturer has been tied up in court since earlier this month." **Articles in TBS Media Watch.**

The Globe and Mail (A3) reports the federal budget will " be based on a two-month-old survey of private-sector economists in spite of increasing signs lately that the economy is doing better than expected." **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

COMPENSATION and HR:

The National Post (A6) reports English Catholic Teachers have voted 87% in favour of a 2-year deal. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Windsor Star reports the city's inside workers have voted 94% in favour of a new four-year agreement with the city. Wages will increase 1.25% for each year of the agreement. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

I.T. and OPEN GOVERNMENT:

The Waterloo Region Record (C10) reports BlackBerry's shift from smartphone maker to a software maker is complete but branding is now a challenge for the inventor of the smartphone. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

The Toronto Star (B3) reports the CEO of Yahoo has agreed to forgo her \$2M bonus and her \$12M equity award (for 2017) because of the massive customer data breach her company suffered in 2014. **Article in TBS Media Watch**

CALENDAR:

Premier Wynne to make calls to Ontarians about Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan
10:00 a.m. / Toronto: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne makes calls to Ontarians about Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. (Main Legislative Building, Room 281, Queen's Park)

MPPs speak about Ontario's plan to lower electricity bills and ensure fairness
1:45 p.m. / Ottawa: MPPs Bob Chiarelli, Nathalie Des Rosiers, John Fraser, Marie-France Lalonde and Yasir Abbas Naqvi speak about Ontario's plan to lower electricity bills and ensure fairness. (Hydro Ottawa - Main Gate, 3025 Albion Rd. North)

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