

TBS Issues Review for Thursday, July 20, 2017

From: "Doose, Ann (TBS)" <ann.doose@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 20 Jul 2017 07:37:07 -0400
Attachments: Toronto Star-Auto insurance faces second 2017 rate hike.docx (17.83 kB)

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

Minister Sandals is not mentioned in any media coverage sighted at this time.

COMPENSATION & HR:

*CP is reporting LCBO workers have ratified a new four year contract. 56% of workers voted in favour of the tentative deal, which was signed in late June with the help of a mediator. OPSEU says the new deal caps the number of casual works at 70% from the current 84% and commits to reaching that mark within four years. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

TREASURY BOARD:

*Sun Media newspapers have coverage of a Fraser Institute report that's found Ontario has had the fastest-rising electricity prices and its city residents paid some of the highest hydro bills in Canada over the past decade. This despite the government launching its "Fair Hydro Plan" this year to reduce residential hydro bills by an average of 25 per cent. Columnist Lorrie Goldstein writes 'real people suffer when governments are incompetent'. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*Hydro One is buying Avista -- a massive U.S. utility -- in a \$6.7-billion deal. The Toronto Star quotes Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault as saying the deal will not impact rates for Ontario Customers. Avista operates in Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*Kelly McParland of the National Post has written a piece that is highly critical of the government's alternative energy plan and word this week the Siemens Canada plant in Tillsonburg is shutting down. The author questions if anyone remembers the last time anything positive emerged from Ontario's electricity industry, and that it's been "manhandled" by the government. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*An opinion piece in the North Bay Nugget says the abrupt closing this week of Siemens' Tillsonburg plant is hardly surprising, given the fact its business plan was predicated on the government's promise to subsidize wind turbine development in Ontario. Peter Epp writes the plant builds wind-turbine blades, but was threatened once the Premier announced last September that the province would not be signing a second round of large renewable contracts. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

*Canadian manufacturing sales came in better than expected for May as they increased 1.1% to \$54.6 billion. Stats Can reports this was the third consecutive month to see an increase. Gains were led by the transportation equipment and chemical manufacturing industries. **Article in TBS Media Watch.***

CBC.ca is reporting talks to renegotiate NAFTA are expected to start with a first round

on August 16th in Washington. The Globe & Mail describes the timeline as aggressive, with the U.S. hoping to be close to a deal by early next year. **Articles in TBS Media Watch.**

COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION:

The premiers discussed international trade, the economy, marijuana legalization, national pharmacare, the opioid crisis and the court system Wednesday. QP Briefing also reports Premier Wynne and Quebec Premier Couillard want to set the same legal age limit for recreational cannabis use. **Articles in TBS Media Watch.**

FYI:

Masayoshi Son, chief executive of SoftBank Group Corp., says artificial intelligence combined with data gathered by billions of sensors will bring on an "information revolution," that will benefit people more than the 19th Century Industrial Revolution. The Associated Press reports, Son, Japan's richest person, has told customers and partners that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. **Article in TBS Media Watch.**

Auto insurance rates rose again in the second quarter of this year. New figures released by the Financial Services Commission of Ontario show rates jumped an average of 1.24% in the last quarter. David Marshall, Ontario's auto insurance provider, reported that the average auto insurance premium comes in at \$1,458, which is almost 55 per cent higher than the average of all other Canadian jurisdictions—this despite Ontario boasting one of the country's lowest levels of road accidents and fatalities. **Article attached.**

CALENDAR:

The Fraser Institute to release a study on the cost of electricity in Ontario
5:00 a.m. / Toronto: The Fraser Institute will release a study on the cost of electricity in Ontario. (www.marketwired.com)

Premier Wynne to attend the 2017 North American Indigenous Games
3:15 p.m. / Toronto: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne attends the 2017 North American Indigenous Games and participates in a medal presentation. (York University, Tait McKenzie Centre, 1 Thompson Road)

PC Leader Brown to deliver a speech
6:30 p.m. / Barrie: Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown delivers a speech to supporters after accepting the Ontario PC Party nomination for the riding of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte. (Barrie Legion, 410 St. Vincent Street)

Council of Ministers of Education
Charlottetown: 106th meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. Through July 20.

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