

Media Prep Note: Budget Day Interviews

Thursday, April 27, 2017 – 5:00 –6:10PM

Location: Queen's Park Press Gallery Studio/Your Office

Prepared by: Jennifer Beaudry

Reviewed by: Rebecca MacKenzie

Premier,

On Thursday you will do a series of one-on-one interviews with a variety of TV supper time newscasts, following Minister Sousa's Budget Speech. This is the first of 2 days of interviews.

You will be speaking with Dwight Drummond of CBC Toronto, Ken Shaw of CTV Toronto, Graham Richardson of CTV Ottawa, Alan Carter of Global News and Cynthia Mulligan of CityNews .

You last spoke with Dwight, Ken, Graham, Alan and Cynthia in March about Ontario's recently announced Fair Hydro Plan.

There will be no embargo for these interviews. However, because of the times scheduled many of these interviews will be pre-taped.

It's going to be a great afternoon. A note for your interviews in Friday will follow.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached on my mobile: 647-299-5435.

Jenn

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

5:00 - 5:05PM Briefing – We will update you on the media coverage following Minister Sousa's Budget Speech and what reporters are focusing on.

5:05 – 5:15 PM – CBC Toronto – Live – QP Press Gallery Studio, Outside of Mike Crawley's Office on the 3rd Floor
Host: Dwight Drummond

Dwight Drummond is the host of CBC Toronto News at 6:00 PM. Dwight has been covering news in Toronto for over 25 years. CBC has been closely following the housing market in Toronto and may ask some follow-up questions about the Fair Housing Plan.

Dwight really enjoyed interviewing you after the Fair Hydro Plan announcement. This interview will be in that 3 camera shoot style.

5:20 –5:30 PM - CTV Toronto – Pre-Taped – Paul Bliss' Office

Anchor: Ken Shaw

Your first CTV interview will be with Ken Shaw from CTV Toronto and will take place in Paul Bliss' office. Ken is the co-anchor of CTV News at noon and 6:00 PM. He considers himself a bit of a Queen's Park insider and often reaches out to confirm scoops or get background information.

5:35 -5:45 – CTV Ottawa – Pre-Taped – Paul Bliss' Office**Anchor: Graham Richardson**

Graham Richardson is Chief News Anchor for CTV News Ottawa at 6:00 PM. and afternoon news anchor on Newstalk 580 CFRA. You last spoke with Graham at your media availability at CHEO in Ottawa. He took the opportunity to talk to you about your future and the public opinion polls. Graham was once a QP Gallery member and has covered several budgets.

5:40 – 5:50 PM – Global – Live –QP Press Gallery 3rd Floor Live Location**Host: Alan Carter**

Alan is the anchor and Queen's Park Bureau Chief for Global News at 5:30 & 6:00 PM. Global has been relentless in their coverage of the electricity file this year. You last spoke to Alan after the Fair Hydro Plan was announced.

They continue to follow-up even after the Fair Hydro Plan was announced. Their current focus is Toronto Hydro and Hydro One's disconnection policy, which the Energy Minister has been very clear on.

Your interview with Alan will be a two camera shoot from Global's live location at QP. Alan will be anchoring live from Queen's Park.

6:05 – 6:10 PM –CityNews – Live – QP Press Gallery Studio**Reporter: Cynthia Mulligan**

Cynthia Mulligan is a reporter for CityNews who frequently reports on provincial politics. Cynthia is occasionally at Queen's Park for scrums and special announcements.

You last spoke to Cynthia after the Fair Hydro Plan was announced. She is a very tough interview.

Cynthia recent received an RTDNA award for her series on gender reassignment surgery. It is a very prestigious award.

MESSAGING

- What we are trying to do with this budget and as a government is speak to the very real concerns that people in Ontario have right now
- Yes, our economy is in a strong position and our budget is balanced—these are good things and I'd like to thank Minister Sousa for his hard work getting us here

- But the reality is that we both know people are anxious about their jobs and their futures
- They worry about the soaring cost of housing, the rise in part-time work and decline in benefits
- So what you're seeing today is the foundation of our plan to address these anxieties
- There's no better place to start than investing in health care—and we've invested deeply
- OHIP+ will give everyone 24 years old and under free access to prescription drugs, filling a serious gap that's been created because so many jobs no longer provide this coverage for families—it's the biggest change to Medicare in Ontario in a generation
- We are investing in major capital hospital projects around the province and giving a big boost to hospital operating budgets which is going to mean lower wait times
- We're investing in education—right through the system, starting with more child care spaces
- And we're making university and college tuition absolutely free for 210,000 students, while others from middle-class homes will have much lower levels of student debt
- We are also focusing on those areas that will help make life more affordable through initiatives like our Fair Housing Plan and Fair Hydro Plan
- With this balanced budget we have the freedom and flexibility to respond to the new challenges people are facing in this new world
- We must make the right choices now to support the people of Ontario as we all navigate this turbulence and set our province on a course toward long-term success and I see this budget as the foundation for that
- There are some who look at this new world and say that government should just step back and stay out of it—let the market sort itself out—but those are not my values
- I believe there is a need for government to stand up and play an active role in building a fair society where there is more opportunity for everyone and more security too

- We cannot be idle or complacent where it comes to our economy and to trade
- We cannot simply assume that the jobs of tomorrow will be available to Ontarians
- This is the time for us to be focused, fair, and bold—to not simply describe and reassert our values, but to defend them and act on them
- That's what we've done with this budget and what you will continue to see us do over the days and months ahead