

ENERGY Media Calls | Monday, July 17

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Date: Mon, 17 Jul 2017 17:04:42 -0400

Hi all – below see one media inquiry for the ministry and responses from Minister Thibeault to the Sun and QP Gallery and Gallery extra list on Patrick Brown's [guest column](#).

Ministry: 1 inquiry

Topic: rumours regarding Siemens facility in Tillsonburg (southwestern Ontario)

Reporter & Outlet: Megan Stacey

Response Type: E-mail via Ministry spokesperson

Reporter's Question: Looking to connect with the Minister for a very brief interview about a looming shutdown/closure at Siemens in Tillsonburg. We understand workers there are bracing for an official announcement at tomorrow morning's meeting.

Obviously this would take a big bite out of the region's green energy manufacturing... Would like to discuss the implications for province etc.

Response: The province has no comment on what is only speculation at this time.

Minister's Office:

Following Patrick Brown's guest column in today's Sun, the following was sent to:

The Sun

Patrick Brown's op-ed in this morning's Toronto Sun is further proof that he has no real plan for Ontario's electricity sector. Ontarians deserve better than someone who opposes everything without offering a credible plan of their own. Patrick Brown is doubling down on this approach, peddling misleading claims while refusing to offer anything close to a real plan.

It's also no surprise that Patrick Brown is opposed to green energy, as he was at pains to point out in his op-ed. After all, the Conservatives have always opposed our efforts to move our province away from dirty coal towards cleaner sources of energy. In 2014, we closed our last coal plant in Ontario, marking the completion of the biggest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America. And yet despite the air we breathe now being cleaner and our electricity system being more reliable than ever, Patrick Brown continues to treat green energy as a boogeyman.

The sad part is that while the Conservatives continue making these wild claims about the electricity sector, they have no plan of their own. Worse, they voted against Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. This plan is reducing bills by 25 per cent on average, in part by spreading our investments over a longer time period, more fairly sharing the costs among all those who will benefit. Yet the Conservatives opposed this plan as well, going so far as to vote against this relief for Ontarians. That means they voted "no" to a 25 per cent on average reduction on bills for every household in the province, along with as many as half a million small businesses and farms, "no" to savings of up to 40-50 per cent for rural, remote, or low-income families, and "no" to our plan to hold rates to inflation for four years.

Given Patrick Brown's track record, it should come as no surprise that he repeatedly refuses to offer anything of substance as he did in his op-ed. Nonetheless, it's disappointing – Ontarians deserve better.

Gallery and gallery extra list

Patrick Brown has proven again that he has no plan.

Brown's misleading claims about Ontario's electricity sector miss the mark by a wide margin, failing to understand the value of energy exports to ratepayers, the value of clean energy, or the need to secure our future with an adequate supply of energy.

The sad part is that while the Conservatives continue making these wild claims about the electricity sector, they have no plan of their own. Worse, they voted against Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. That means they said "no" to a 25 per cent average reduction on bills for every household in the province, along with as many as half a million small businesses and farms, "no" to savings of up to 40-50 per cent for rural, remote or low-income families in communities like those around Thunder Bay, and "no" to holding rates to inflation for the four years.

In voting against helping families and small businesses, the Conservatives are now left making outlandish claims to try to justify their opposition. But this isn't the first time the Conservatives have put their foot in their mouths on these issues. Back in March on TVO's Agenda, Conservative Energy Critic Todd Smith was forced to admit they had been misleading Ontarians about energy contracts. Here's the exchange:

Steve Paikin: "But they're not signing any new contracts. So the tweet [from Patrick Brown] that says she signs the next round of bad energy contracts tomorrow is inaccurate, right?"

Todd Smith: "Yeah, Okay. I'll say that's inaccurate."

Patrick Brown's latest claims are just as misleading. Ontarians deserve better than someone who opposes everything without offering a credible plan of his own. Brown's misleading distractions need to stop.