

FW: Transcript: CP24 interview with Patrick Brown

From: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>
To: "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
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* As requested by Jennifer Beaudry and Priscilla Appave

LeDrew interview with PC Leader Patrick Brown
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LeDrew: Patrick Brown is the leader of the PC in Ontario. He joins me right now because we always have stuff to talk about. So let's just start and get through all these issues. First of all, you're 19-year-old candidate in Niagra. Safe Tory seat, but some people are saying he's so socially conservative that he'll be a problem in your caucus when he wins or assuming he'll win.

Patrick Brown, PC Leader: A giant nomination there. The beautiful thing about democracy is this 19-year-old hustled. He worked hard and he won against some very formidable candidates.

LeDrew: He knocked out your Party president who was a former MP.

PC Leader Brown: A regional councillor, the former publisher of a paper.

LeDrew: So unlike Donald Trump, you aren't going to say that these things are fixed. This is a very open nomination.

PC Leader Brown: No. It was a fair, transparent nomination. And, you know, Sam has told me he supports the direction I'm taking, the Party. We talk a lot in politics about young people not being engaged, about there being apathy amongst young people. If he is elected he'll be the youngest member of provincial parliament in Ontario history.

LeDrew: Is he going to be a poster boy in your campaign? Really, I mean 19-years-old, an MPP.

PC Leader Brown: Last month, we had a by-election in Scarborough where we elected a 79-year-old or 80-year-old MPP Raymond Cho.

LeDrew: No one believes that he is 80-years-old because he runs so fast.

PC Leader Brown: Well, you know what...

LeDrew: So you are going from start to finish: 19 to 80.

PC Leader Brown: There is no ageism in our Party.

LeDrew: No, not at all. Let's just talk about news yesterday that Joe Oliver, speaking of ageism, how old is Joe? He is seventy-something. Is he 75?

PC Leader Brown: I think so, yeah.

LeDrew: He wants the nomination in York Centre. Monte Kwinter has had that seat for the Liberals for about 30-some years. He's in a...not a nursing home, but he has been ill for the last little while. Still probably wants the riding. A lot of people contesting it. What do you think about someone going from the federal sphere into provincial? Speaking of (inaudible).

PC Leader Brown: What we are seeing is there's a lot of excitement...municipal, federal and provincial. There's a lot of excitement right now running for our Party. And so what we are finding is that nominations which previously might have been acclaimed, now there's five, six, seven people running. I think it speaks to the fact there's a lot of momentum and magnetism around the push for change in Ontario.

LeDrew: Are you feeling -- I hear your point about that. When you have so many candidates running for nomination, they want to be there because they think you'll form the government. Let's just talk about the reasons why you may form the government. Yesterday, your Party was just peppering the poor Minister of Energy, he was up and down like a ping pong ball, up and down with these question the \$80 million that they lost. And hydro prices; people still are very, very concerned about hydro prices. Can you win on that platform?

PC Leader Brown: The biggest issue in Ontario right now is the hydro mess that the Wynne and McGuinty legacy has created. So today we were up about a \$95-million lawsuit on a hydro scandal that the government lost. Yesterday it was an \$80-million accounting error that the government had. Just in the last seven days alone, it's 215 million that we've been able to discover of more hydro mismanagement. You know who's not paying for it? The Premier is not paying for it. The Minister of Energy is not paying for it. That 200 million is going on your bill, they'll throw it in with the global adjustment like they do for every scandal they have, and I'm sick and tired of it. Ontarians are sick and tired of it. This is the most incompetent government that we've ever seen on hydro. They've given away, let me say this, they've given away since 2009 \$6 billion in surplus electricity. They are giving it to Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania.

LeDrew: Just last week they signed a deal to buy electricity from hydro. Why are they buying it when they're giving it away?

PC Leader Brown: They are just trying to confuse the public, so they are buying hydro for 200,000 homes to blur the conversation. They're giving away 6 billion since 2009.

LeDrew: Okay, hydro has been, we have many people talking about hydro – they say it has been a mess with this Party, with this government, with the previous government, and the previous government, the previous government, and the Conservatives, it's been NDP, it's been Liberals. They say it's just been a mess through almost a generation. So if you're premier, what will you do to solve it?

PC Leader Brown: First I want to correct the assertion. It hasn't always been this way. We used to have competitive energy prices.

LeDrew: No, no. Not in the fifties and sixties.

PC Leader Brown: No but ten years ago we had hydro prices that were competitive with other provinces.

LeDrew: Yes, but from a corporate point of view, it was like something on Halloween; it had so many heads, so many arms.

PC Leader Brown: The average family's bill has gone up 1,000 bucks. Ten years ago we weren't uncompetitive with other provinces. That's changed. That's new. What I would do differently, stop signing contracts for surplus energy we don't need.

LeDrew: Why are they doing that?

PC Leader Brown: The companies that got the contracts for the \$9.2 billion we overpaid according to the auditor general, surprise, surprise, this is going to shock you: the companies that got those contracts donated \$1.3 million to the Ontario Liberal Party.

LeDrew: Sounds like pay for pay. Except they get the benefits.

PC Leader Brown: Everyone in Ontario pays more. It's on everyone's bill. This surplus electricity...I actually said in the legislature, everyone is talking about Donald Trump wanting to make America great. Donald Trump isn't making America great. Kathleen Wynne is making America great. She is the one giving free electricity to Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. She is charging you to subsidize our competitors. That's Liberal hydro policy.

LeDrew: There's a line to this whole interview: Kathleen Wynne, making America great again, making Michigan great. Patrick Brown, always good words out of you. Thanks very much.

Transcript captured directly from source. Some typographical errors or omissions are to be expected.