

Fw: [Notes] Patrick Brown at the Burlington Chamber of Commerce - June 14, 2017

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Min wage Q was asked.

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MPP: Patrick Brown

Others: Ted Arnott, Lorne Coe

Intro:

- Brown will speak for 20 minutes, then Q and A
- Feel free to write on paper your questions
- Today brown's opportunity to hear your concerns
- Youth exec for PCs then councillor then MP, reelected twice and increased share of vote each time
- Became leader and promised to grow party
- Marathon runner, hockey player, made Ontario better place

Brown:

- Thank you Arnie
- Want to recognize our PC candidate Jane McKenna
- She's wearing red today but hope she comes around
- Thank you to Coe and Arnott for joining and former colleague in federal house of Commons, Mike Wallace
- Great to see you Michael
- Since 47 BCC has been voice of business
- Thank you for advocacy
- Wrapped up another session

- I understand why they are making these new promises every week or day
- Affordability crisis, they're struggling in the polls
- Taxpayers and families pay more after 14 years
- Ontario have not province receiving equalization payments
- Not the Ontario I know
- Want to talk about local issues
- First want to talk about Halton courthouse
- government needs to recognize growth with necessary infrastructure
- Court aging, crowding and access to justice
- Criminal cases being thrown out because of delays, potential criminals release
- Justice delayed is justice denied
- government said they would act for years, tired of it now
- Arnott been pushing for this
- It's on our agenda, it's part of the program we plan to bring to Ontario
- Other issue I wanted to mention is school closures
- Eg Lester B Pearson school here and Robert Bateman
- Bateman equipping kids with special needs, highest proportion in region
- Heartless closures
- Leaves families looking elsewhere
- government saying they close where population diminishes, but that's how they are paying for mismanagement
- Arguments there for small northern communities, but when it happens here too
- Legacy on schools is school closures
- Premier Kathleen Wynne said she got in politics to fight Harris on closures, but McGuinty and Wynne have closed more than any government in Ontario history
- 600 schools on chopping block
- PCs put forth moratorium on closures
- Disappointed your local MP voted against that
- Need to do better for children
- On provincial level goal is to make Ontario competitive
- Worry is over 14 years we have become less and less competitive
- First will talk about hydro
- Paying more and getting less
- We all see our hydro bills
- Ontario experienced fastest growing rates in North America
- Their plan is unfair, borrowing isn't a plan
- They aren't fixing structural problems
- Leaked cabinet document
- Borrowing 93B to get 21B in return, makes no sense
- Stanpac in Niagara, hydro cheaper in Texas, where do you think that expansion will happen?
- Temporary election time promises
- I want to address structural
- Since 2009 given away 6B in surplus electricity, giving away to Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, charge you for it in global adjustment
- I asked Wynne in legislature do you know you've become best minister of economic development for those states
- 20 year deals for energy we do not need
- In 2015 we generated 145 TWh of energy yet province only consumed 137 TWh
- Own water power in 2015 we could have generated
- We spill water in Merrickville, Manitou, Niagara
- We pay for bad contracts, of 30 mega ones, OLP got 1.3 in donations from them
- They're their friends
- We only have one copy of one, Samsung, accidentally given to us as part of FOI

- Could have used 1.5B exit clause but they didn't want to appear like they were walking away from green energy act
- Still signing new bad deals
- Unfair hydro act, you'd think they'd stop signing new ones with this massive overgeneration
- The next day they proceeded with 1000 new energy applications
- Spilling water power but they still are signing these new ones
- Insanity
- Also wanted to address labor reforms
- Carefully reviewing
- Read Manley article
- He wrote we aren't an island, need a competitive lens
- Senior Liberal saying that, former finance minister!
- We are in a competition with other countries and states
- What I think is missing is the cost benefit analysis
- Chamber took leadership on this and I applaud it, asking for economic analysis
- Can't overhaul labor law without knowing impacts
- Best protections for workers are pointless if they do not have a job in the morning
- 32 percent wage hike in an extremely short period of time should be a concern
- I've asked government to consider the pace
- Already not competitive in so many areas, I worry
- I don't want businesses going to Quebec or Texas
- Other thing I want to say is you pay a lot of taxes, you know that, you pay your fair share
- I want to change culture and bring in value for money
- You work hard to save dollars, government should do same thing
- Auditor General said we don't measure outcomes
- Indications it's not happening, not just the headlines like the giant duck or Canada goose jackets
- Auditor General said we could see cost overruns
- Pickering bridge part of it was built upside down
- 403 being repaved every two years
- I've been a little pessimistic on hydro, labour, value for money, but I am optimistic about our province
- I know given right circumstances Ontario can be home for good paying jobs that businesses will stay
- We need change at Queen's Park
- Only Ontario PC party represents change for the better
- NDP voted for liberal budget, green energy act
- I believe Ontario can get ahead
- That's our goal
- Working 24-7
- Grateful you came
- Q and A and fireside chat without fire
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Host: touched on fair workplaces better jobs, has your party done any calculation on economic benefits of plan?

Most bills have cost benefit analysis, government skipped it
 Government duty to do that
 government probably knew it wouldn't paint a positive picture

Host: chamber would argue? Compassionate?

I think everyone would agree if we see job losses, that's worrisome
 Should be more gradual implementation
 Partisan politics they're playing

Host: gap between business confidence in own prospects vs that of province? Only 24 percent confident in OCC

government running massive deficit and pretending they don't
Independent officers saying numbers don't add up
Highest subnational jurisdiction debt
Be honest with people of Ontario

Host: cap and trade? Generated confusion and some have encouraged suspension of it, what would you propose?

All want low carbon economy
All need to do our part
Cap and trade hurts us, less competitive
I would dismantle and withdraw from western climate initiative
Why business in Burlington would subsidize Beverly Hills makes no sense
Wealth transfer outside Ontario
National framework saying we need carbon price, but why make it revenue grab?
Give every cent back

Host: skills and workforce development. What is your plan to strengthen workforce? Only 4 percent of occ did not encounter challenges in recruiting

Link education to employment
Last year we generated 9000 teachers for 5000 positions
Germany does these things well
Coding seemed to be last to arrive
A lot of schools don't seem to have shop class
Chamber did pretty impressive report about jobs advertised here we can't fill, government losing 3B in revenue on that

Host: from audience, conservative stance on long term care with aging population?

Challenge
Need to care for people at right point in journey
Some communities 5 year wait
I've gone to communities with ALC rates of 20 percent waiting for long term care
Being left to families

Host: what will you do to address cost of electricity?

Over generation
Some costs I can't back eg gas plants, hopefully some accountability there in the fall criminal trials
Share the contracts, government keeping secrets doesn't pass the smell test
First thing I want to see is the contracts
6B we have given away, spilling our own water power

Host: PC plan on agriculture?

Obvious we want homegrown access
15 minimum wage will hit sector very hard
Hydro prices, minimum wage, red tape, all alarm bells being raised

Host: commit to repeal minimum wage increase?

Goal is to get there but pace is the problem
Look at timelines other jurisdictions are taking that are also getting to 15
Need to give proper notice to job creators, pace is the issue

Host: environment?

Everyone wants to protect environment, I want to make sure every cent collected stays in Ontario
Let's have an Ontario solution, not sending 300M to California and Quebec, which will grow to 2B
BC keeping everything, I want to transition to that model

Host: supports for small businesses, loans, r and d?

Lots of way to help, infrastructure, red tape, etc
R and d I support Canada's efforts and certainly we should do more

Host: infrastructure requires all levels to cooperate, how to improve collaboration?

Only one taxpayer
Collaborative approach
I've been elected at all 3 levels
Infrastructure commitment, going to allow local city council to decide what priorities are

Host: why not raise personal exemption for income tax higher instead of minimum wage?

One approach that some have suggested, government didn't do it