MOL Morning Issue: June 15

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Good Morning!

As discussed on the call, there was an editorial this morning in the Star from the owner of Fred's Not Here in Toronto about his concerns with the increase to minimum wage and how it will lead to restaurant closures. For this, we would stick to our minimum wage messaging below. I've also included the messaging that is more specific to small business that could be used.

Emily

Key Messages:

- Everyone should have the right to be able to provide their family with the necessities of daily life.
- A few years back, our government took a firm hold of this issue, ending the minimum wage freeze that the previous Progressive Conservative government had brought in.
- We put together a plan and a system that raised the minimum wage by more than 70%.
- But that was only the first step. This is the next step.
- This increase will ensure workers across the province are paid fairly for their work, helping them get ahead and share in Ontario's economic growth.
- Supporting workers alongside business has been our priority, and it will always be our priority.
- The people of Ontario have worked hard to build a province where workers and their families have the opportunity to prosper alongside business, and our actions will help to ensure a fairer future for everyone in our provinces

How the recent proposed response to Changing Workplaces Review will affect small business:

- We know that when businesses pay fairly, living standards rise and reliance on benefits falls.
- We also know that higher wages lead to greater job satisfaction and productivity, less turnover and more spending power for lower income earners.
- But we understand the importance of a competitive business environment, and knows that these changes are going to impact every business differently.
- That's why I'm listening to the concerns of small businesses and working with my colleagues to protect Ontario workers, while fostering conditions for businesses to grow and thrive.
- We want every family to benefit fairly from Ontario's growing economy. But while business is expanding and creating wealth, not everyone is feeling it. We need to address the concerns of those who worry about falling behind, even as they work so hard to get ahead.
- We are continuing to work together to find solutions that help them save time, money and cut red tape such as reducing fees, rewarding good actors and lowering administrative costs. I look forward to continuing these discussions.

Previous Actions to Cut Red Tape and Costs by Ontario Government

- Ontario passed the Burden Reduction Act, 2017 in March, which will save businesses up to $31 million while helping to avoid new costs to businesses of up to $200 million.
- Since 2011, Ontario has reduced costs for businesses by $122.3 million. Between 2008 – 2010, Ontario cut 80,000 unnecessary regulations.
- Ontario recently announced its intent to move forward with changes that would give employers greater flexibility in managing their pension contributions, allowing them to plan for their pension costs more easily.
- Ontario introduced the Fair Hydro Plan, which would lower electricity bills by 25 per cent for half a million small businesses across the province.
- The province is supporting small, independent grocers by reducing the regulatory fee required to sell beer, cider and wine by $2,000 per year, representing a 66 per cent savings for qualified businesses.

- Ontario is requiring all ministries to offset every dollar of new administrative costs to business by removing $1.25 of old and unnecessary costs.
- The province has introduced a number of reforms that have significantly enhanced Ontario’s tax competitiveness and business investment climate, saving businesses more than $10 billion per year. These reforms included implementing the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), maintaining low Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rates, eliminating the Capital Tax, and cutting Business Education Tax (BET) rates.