

Minister Naqvi QP Briefing Scrum

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Date: Mon, 20 Mar 2017 12:28:46 -0400

Hello all,

Below is a transcript of Minister Naqvi's scrum with QP Briefing reporter Sabrina Nanji. The questions were related to the contempt motion filed this morning by the PCs and government advertising of the Fair Hydro Plan.

Sabrina Nanji: Do you think it's fair that the government is putting forward these plans before the legislation is tabled?

YN: It's clear to me that the opposition and Patrick Brown don't have a plan. We have put forward as a government a very clear plan to cut hydro rates by 25% starting this summer. And I know the minister of energy is working very hard in implementing that plan. What we have seen from Patrick Brown and his party is nothing. Zero.

Nanji: Do you think it's fair that the public should know there is no legislation yet?

YN: What's important and what the public should know is that the largest hydro cut in hydro rates is coming. It's important that they have that information available for them so that they can plan for it. This is a big province, it's a diverse province. We need to make sure Ontarians know their hydro rates are going to be cut. Similarly for small businesses. Over March break I had many constituents asking for information, including businesses who want to know how their hydro rates will be reduced as a result of the plan. It is only appropriate for the government to present that and we will be implementing that plan over the next coming weeks.

Nanji: Is there a date for that? I know the NDP have wanted ample time to debate that in the House.

YN: Well the minister of energy will be able to tell you exactly because they're the ones working on the plan, but it's very clear to me that Patrick Brown and the conservatives have no plan whatsoever when it comes to cutting hydro rates.

Nanji: Are you still going to be running the same ads you guys have been running?

YN: Again, our ads are according to the law. We brought one of the most transparent laws when it comes to making sure there is no partisan advertising and we will continue to comply with the legislation.

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