

RE: Hamilton Ed Board

From: "Ernesaks, Andrea (OPO)" <andrea.ernesaks3@ontario.ca>
To: "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Thu, 10 Aug 2017 15:03:47 -0400
Attachments: April 24, 2017 - New Notes - Basic Income Pilot Project.docx (15.29 kB); June 27, 2017 - New Notes - Healthcare Funding.docx (17.7 kB)

Sure thing – here is MTO's messaging on the LRT/HSR issue:

Key Messaging – Hamilton LRT and HSR:

- The Hamilton LRT is an important project for the City of Hamilton that will drive economic growth and improve connectivity across local communities.
- Metrolinx will need to carefully consider the motion approved by Council. We are interested in ensuring the project continues to progress and remains on schedule for major construction in 2019.

Basic income HBN is attached here – I have an overall health care note (attached here) but have asked Health for Hamilton-specific info and will send over once I receive it.

Andrea

From: Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)
Sent: August 10, 2017 11:00 AM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: Hamilton Ed Board

Hey guys – The Premier is doing an ed board with the Hamilton Spectator on Monday. They have given me a heads-up on some of the topics they plan to ask about. This interview is going to be very wide-ranging, so we will be provided the general fairness messaging as a base. I have included that below, as well as Hydro and Minimum Wage messaging – Can you guys take a look at that and make sure you are comfortable?

Andrea, do we have messaging on the council vote to consider allowing Hamilton Street Railway to operate the LRT? If so, can you please share that?

I'm wondering if I could get the Premier's HBN's on the following topics:

Hydro

Basic Income

Minimum Wage – Fair Workplaces

NAFTA/US Engagement (I have some of this that I can pull from other sources if there is no note available)

General Healthcare Investments in Hamilton

She will also get asked to look ahead to the election – So, her poll numbers and new Hamilton area candidate will come up.

Ted McMeekin will be joining the Premier for this 1 hour interview.

Thanks guys,
Jenn

Fairness Messaging

You've heard a lot from us over the past several months. I've been talking about different elements of our plan to build a better Ontario and the thread that connects all of these pieces is fairness.

What I hear – no matter where I am in the province is that people are feeling uncertain about the future. They are anxious about their own jobs and about what the future holds for their kids.

Ontario's economy is in a good place – outperforming every other province in Canada. Our unemployment rate is at its lowest point in 16 years.

But there is also a lot of change and uncertainty – about the nature of work, about what's happening in the U.S. with Trump and trade, about the cost of living rising faster than people's paycheques.

It is tough for people to feel like they're getting ahead right now – and even those who do feel like they're doing OK still worry about staying ahead.

With this uncertainty, we have to protect our people as best we can.

We need to make sure that people across the province feel like they are benefitting from the strength in our economy.

We need to address the concerns of those who worry about falling behind, even as they work so hard to get ahead. To make life in Ontario fairer for everyone.

You've heard me say it before. I believe government must be a force for good. That's not a slogan – it's what drives me every single day.

We worked very hard to bring the budget to balance this year – people across the public service, across the province worked hard together to do that.

And what that balance has allowed us to do is invest in the areas that will have the biggest impact for people across the province

Free tuition for more than 200,000 students

Getting 100,000 more kids into childcare so their parents can work

Free prescription drugs for everyone under the age of 25

A pilot project to test whether a Basic Income is a fairer, more effective way of helping people get ahead

A Fair Hydro Plan that takes 25 per cent off people's bills

A Fair Housing Plan to make buying or renting a home in Ontario more affordable

And a plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs that includes raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour

All of these things are connected. The motivation behind each of them is the same.

We can do better in Ontario. We can build a province where people do feel optimistic about the future because there is security and there is opportunity.

I've just come back from a mission to Washington so that is also top of mind because our economies are so closely linked and I know our businesses and workers in Ontario are worried about free and fair trade and the renegotiation of NAFTA.

I will stand up for the people of Ontario and defend free and fair trade at every opportunity because we all know that it is good for both economies and for workers and businesses on both sides of the border.

I have had conversations now with XX U.S. governors who do a high volume of trade with Ontario

We successfully convinced New York State not to proceed with discriminatory Buy American legislation

It has been a team effort and I am confident that our state partners are hearing us

No one has any illusions that the NAFTA negotiations will be easy

But I do believe we have an opportunity at this moment to defend the free trade that benefits both of our economies and also find ways to make that agreement even better for Ontario – so we will be actively engaged in that process

CWR – \$15 Minimum Wage

We want everyone to benefit from Ontario's growing economy.

But workers in Ontario are finding it almost impossible to support their families on a minimum wage that just doesn't go far enough.

We need to address the concerns of those who worry about falling behind, even as they work so hard to get ahead.

Phasing in a \$15 minimum wage over the next 18 months ensures more workers are benefitting from Ontario's economic growth.

It can also be good for business too.

When businesses pay fairly, living standards rise and reliance on benefits falls.

Higher wages also lead to greater job satisfaction and productivity, less turnover and more spending power for lower income earners.

This is especially true in Ontario where household spending drives more than 50 percent of GDP.

Raising the minimum wage boosts the economy and triggers more business by improving the purchasing power of those who spend every penny.

A higher, fairer minimum wage also says a lot about our values.

It's about equal opportunity – ensuring those who work hard and play by the rules are rewarded.

It's our job as government to make sure our society reflects these values.

Whether it's child care or health care, rent control or workplace fairness, the motivation behind each of them is the same.

They all help build an Ontario where greater opportunity is available for everyone and greater security is achievable for everyone.

Minimum Wage Impact on Small Business

We know that despite our economy expanding and creating more wealth, not everyone is sharing in the benefits.

Many workers are feeling as though they are not able to get ahead and some are struggling to support their families on part-time, contract or minimum-wage work.

Given this uncertainty, government has a responsibility to protect workers and create opportunities so people feel confident about the future.

Phasing in a \$15 minimum wage over the next 18 months will ensure workers are paid fairly for their work and are given the chance to share in Ontario's economic growth.

I've been clear that we're going to work with small businesses throughout this process.

This includes bringing forward some initiatives this fall to help business with the transition.

But it's also important to remember that paying a higher wage can also be good for business, helping

pushing living standards up and reliance on benefits down.

Higher wages also lead to greater job satisfaction and productivity, less turnover and more spending power for lower income earners.

Combined with other initiatives like child care, expanded pharmacare, and rent control, a higher minimum wage will help build an Ontario where greater opportunity and security is available for everyone.

Key Messages Electricity Costs

Helping Ontarians with the cost of everyday living is a top priority for our government.

Recently our government has refocused on that goal.

That's why we've acted by putting into action our *Fair Hydro Plan*, which will give families, small businesses, and farmers an average 25 percent reduction off their month electricity bills as of July.

We have also doubled the rural and remote rate protection program which provides a reduction on the delivery line of most rural households' bills, and we have moved the costs of social programs like the Rural or Remote Rate Protection and the Ontario Electricity Support Program from the rate base to the tax base, further reducing electricity bills.

We have heard the frustration of rural Ontarians when it comes to energy rates loud and clear and we have taken action to make everyday life easier for people living in rural communities across the province.