

RE: Media Request: Brockville Recorder and Times

From: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
To: "Singh, Gurminder (OPO)" <gurminder.singh2@ontario.ca>, "Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO)" <kate.moseley-williams2@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Cc: "Auld, Brooke (MOL)" <brooke.auld@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 12 Oct 2016 18:10:59 -0400

Spokesperson is fine

From: Singh, Gurminder (OPO)
Sent: October-12-16 6:05 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Auld, Brooke (MOL)
Subject: Re: Media Request: Brockville Recorder and Times

Can we attribute to a spokesperson? Any issues with doing that?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 5:53 PM
To: Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Auld, Brooke (MOL)
Subject: RE: Media Request: Brockville Recorder and Times

See below.

Who is this attributable to? Spokesperson for the Premier?

Can have Labour/Energy quickly send along these statements if not

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: October-12-16 5:19 PM
To: Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: RE: Media Request: Brockville Recorder and Times

Thanks, on it

From: Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO)
Sent: October-12-16 5:14 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: Media Request: Brockville Recorder and Times

Following the premier's meeting today with the Eastern Ontario Wardens & Mayors, the Brockville Recorder and Times reached out to a few mayors who were in attendance for comment on how the meeting went. He has now reached out to our office. His questions are below:

1) Mayor Brett Todd of Prescott has expressed frustration at the lack of a concrete time frame for any reform of interest arbitration. Is the premier committed to reforming that process, and if so, under what timetable?

As outlined in the Minister of Labour's new mandate letter, we remain committed to developing an interest arbitration system that is fair and balanced. We continue to review the substantive aspects of interest arbitration and are identifying changes that will facilitate a more efficient process. The Minister has been actively engaged with leaders from both sides to encourage further dialogue and find common ground. We remain confident that a fair, balanced path forward can be found by continuing to work together.

2) Mayors interviewed also expressed frustration at the lack of any substantive answers to concerns about escalating Hydro costs. Does the premier have any remedial measures in mind for individuals and businesses facing escalating energy costs.

We're committed to ensuring that our clean, modern and reliable electricity system is also affordable. Despite consistent economic growth since the global recession, many families aren't feeling the impact of the recovery in their everyday lives. Recognizing this, we're taking the single largest action to reduce costs for electricity in Ontario's history, rebating the provincial portion of the HST to reduce bills by 8%, cutting delivery charges for the most rural customers by 20% and expanding eligibility for the Industrial Conservation Incentive, empowering businesses to reduce their costs by one-third. These permanent new measures build on existing programs, like the Ontario Electricity Support Program and the Rural and Remote Rate Protection program, providing assistance to consumers of all sizes and targeting support to those that need it most.

We're pleased that regular Ontarians as well as large advocacy groups, including local United Way chapters, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Housing Services Corporation, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, have stepped forward to recognize the important steps we're taking to help families and businesses with the cost of everyday living. We look forward to hearing more from Ontarians as Bill 13, the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, moves through committee.

He will be filing tonight. Deadline is 6:00 P.M.