

Re: Issues for Pre-Avail Brief

From: "Ernesaks, Andrea (OPO)" <andrea.ernesaks3@ontario.ca>
To: "Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO)" <kate.moseley-williams2@ontario.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Fri, 20 Oct 2017 09:57:48 -0400

Minister Naidoo-Harris was asked to interview on the same topic as this FYI. They are working with Claudine to arrange a time and are putting KMs together

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: "Moseley-Williams, Kate (OPO)" <Kate.Moseley-Williams2@ontario.ca>
Sent: Oct 20, 2017 9:55 AM
To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <Andrew.Forgione@ontario.ca>; "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <Jennifer.Beaudry@ontario.ca>; "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <OPO-MediaRelationsandIssuesMgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Subject: RE: Issues for Pre-Avail Brief

Just flagging that Claudine wants to ask the P about the #MeToo campaign and if we plan to relaunch the #ItsNeverOkay ads from a while back or plan to introduce something similar.

From: Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: October-20-17 9:21 AM
To: Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: RE: Issues for Pre-Avail Brief

Morning – here you are. Let me know if you need us to call in.

NAFTA

- TBD Michael Coe to provide

Auditor General's Special Report – General

Motivation

- Families in the province asked for real and immediate relief on their electricity bills - and that's what we delivered.
- Electricity rates had risen too much, and too fast, as a result of investments we made in a badly neglected electricity system.
- Our Fair Hydro Plan is providing an average 25% rate cut to residential ratepayers, and guarantees that electricity rates will not rise beyond the rate of inflation for 4 years.
- We've been clear from the start that our plan does this by smoothing out the cost of our investments over a longer period of time.

Financing + Accounting

- We've been clear that the Fair Hydro Plan keeps the cost of borrowing within the rate-base, not the tax-base, because that's the logical thing to do.
- Electricity financing should remain within the electricity system.

- We adhered to Canadian Public Service Accounting Standards, and worked closely with some of Canada's top accounting firms - including Ernst and Young, KPMG and Deloitte.
- Many entities in Canada, including Ontario Power Generation, Toronto Hydro, Fortis, and Hydro One use rate-regulated accounting, as it is well understood in the electricity sector.
- Also, the AESO in Alberta, ISO in New England, NYISO in New York, MISO in Michigan, PJM in the Midwest and Eastern Seaboard, and ERCOT in Texas all use rate regulated accounting.
- Now, we are focused on our Long-Term Energy Plan, which will lay out our plan to continue to keep costs down over the long run.

Auditor General's Special Report – Emails

- I know that the Minister of Energy has answered a number of questions on this.
- **His Ministry officials are working diligently with the Auditor General's office to provide records.**
- **I also know they've been providing the auditor with almost weekly updates on their progress – we're talking about millions of records here.**
- **I'll allow them to continue doing that important work.**

Bill 62 – Niqab Ban

- **We have a very close working relationship with Quebec.**
- **But on this issue, we fundamentally do not agree.**
- **This legislation would disproportionately affect women, who are sometimes already at the margins, and push them into further isolation.**
- **To understand, to respect and to celebrate our differences is the foundation of our inclusive society and all the values we share.**
- **But it is not enough to just say it. We all have to make decisions with that belief in our hearts and in our minds.**
- **Sometimes life in a diverse society is uncomfortable, and that is exactly when it is even more important that we work to understand each other.**
- **Religious freedom is part of our identity. Forcing people to show their faces when they ride the bus, banning women from wearing a niqab when they pick up a book from the library will only divide us.**
- **It is not acceptable to me and it should not be acceptable to any of us.**

College Strike

- **I've been clear that I am very concerned about students not being affected negatively by this situation.**
- **Of course I don't want students to lose this semester.**
- **I want to see them in class, but I do believe that the collective bargaining process is one that has to be respected.**
- **We need to have the parties back at the table.**
- **That is where the agreement is going to be finalized, and so both the Minister and I have encouraged both sides to get back to the table.**
- **We need to make sure that the conversation is fruitful and that they can come to an agreement.**
- **That's where the agreement has to take place. I am very concerned about it.**
- **We are paying very close attention, and I hope that in the very short future, we will see that the parties are at the table.**

Sarnia Chemical Valley

- **Each and every action we've taken – from eliminating dirty coal to moving forward with our Climate Change Action Plan – reflects the belief that every Ontarian deserves to breathe clean air.**
- **However we know that at times, the balance between the different needs of business and the environment has tilted one way or another.**
- **Communities like Sarnia have been directly impacted by this.**
- **I know the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change will have more to say on this in**

the coming days but I can assure that we're taking action.

- Building on previous regulations to lower air pollution, we are committed to funding a health study of local Sarnia residents.
- This study will help us determine the impact air pollution has had.
- This work will build on previous research showing that air quality there has been steadily improving over the years.
- It also shows the levels of various pollutants to be far less than what they were 25 years ago.
- Despite some challenges, Ontario is rightly recognized as a green leader.
 - o Under our watch, we have eliminated dirty coal, brought in 68 new or updated air standards and are constantly reviewing drinking water standards.
 - o We've also created the world's largest permanent greenbelt, virtually eliminated smog days and are now moving forward with our Climate Change Action Plan.

FAO

- The FAO is correct in recognizing that changing demographics will have an impact on the economy
- But this is a reality that is faced by jurisdictions across the globe, including most OECD countries - Ontario is no different.
- That's why we took a leadership role during the Canadian Health Accord negotiations
- And we were successful in negotiating with the federal government to provide an additional \$2.3 billion for home care
 - o And \$1.9 billion more for mental health initiatives over the next decade.
- We have always taken a steady, prudent approach to fiscal management.
- And have invested in progressive policies like full-day kindergarten and investments in education that will improve labour force participation in the long term
- Our plan is working - last year our GDP grew by 2.7 % —better than all the G7 countries
- The unemployment rate is at the lowest rate in 17 years and has been below the national average for 30 straight months.
- Balancing the budget has added stability to Ontario's finances.
- And positions the government to better respond to demographic challenges and unexpected global economic shocks that the province may face in the future.
- We will continue to manage the inevitable global economic challenges that arise along the way.

FYI - Ad Actor (Bliss story)

- I'm glad the PC's are giving our ads such a close watch
- My hope would be that repeat viewing may change their minds about support for a \$15 minimum wage.
- Look – what's important here is the message that the ad portrays to the public.
- It's about creating fairness across the province and that's exactly what we're focussed on doing.