

PCs on AG's FHP Report

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Hey both,

List of all PC transcripts, and release.

Sebastian.

TRANSCRIPT – Todd Smith responds to Auditor General's Press Conference – October 17, 2017

MPP: Todd Smith

Media: CBC, Hains, Benzie, Lamoureux, Carter (Global), Smith Cross, Alison Smith, TFO, Toronto Sun, Crawley, CityNews, TFO, Rath, McGrath

[START TRANSCRIPT]

Smith

- --Auditor General what this is is a mission by the Ontario Liberal Party to try and hide this from tax payers, rate payers of Ontario
- This is an orchestrated and a very complex effort by the Liberals to hide the actual cost of electricity and what it's going to do is at the end of the day is drive up the cost of electricity to record highs after the next election
- So this was simply a ploy to hide the actual cost of this borrowing scheme
- Which is going to be 40 billion dollars
- And at the same time tell people in Ontario that you balanced the budget
- Which clearly the Auditor doesn't agree with

Media: Do you have a hydro plan yet?

Smith:

- Do I have a hydro plan? Absolutely

Media: are the Progressive Conservatives going to let the province know what your hydro plan is?

Smith:

- We have the resolutions that are up on our website

*Carter: *cross talk* I don't think there's a hydro plan*

Smith:

- *cross talk*
- That our members are going to be voting on
- And they'll be voting on that

*Carter: *cross talk* you have no plan?*

Smith:

- Oh no
- Absolutely the plan is there and its ready to go and we will be releasing that on our terms not Alan Carter's terms

Media: *inaudible*

Smith:

- Well, certainly we will be open and transparent about it
- Not mischievous and deceitful like this current government is going
- By hiding it
- And actually ending up costing tax payers, rate payers more at the end of the day
- This is an extra 4 billion dollars that's going to be added on to the borrowing cost because they wanted to hide it from Ontarians
- And you know I think the Auditor General went to great lengths today to point that out without actually calling the government shady or deceitful
- But I think that's what I heard loud and clear
- Is if this government doesn't want Ontarians to know the cost of this borrowing plan

Media: but that doesn't answer my question, what would you actually do about it?

Smith:

- Yeah so what we would do is actually deal with the underlying cost of electricity In Ontario
- There are a number of things that we've talked about including ending the Green Energy Act
- Going back and looking at contracts that are currently in place
- We know that a lot of those contracts could be cancelled without repercussion because they haven't met the terms of their contract
- There is some heavy lifting that needs to be done and I think even the energy industry even realizes that this was the quick fix by the government
- They were getting killed in the media

- They were getting killed in public opinion polls
- Because of these soaring costs of electricity
- News flash here – the government hasn't done anything actually to reduce the cost of electricity
- They're just hiding it
- And it's going to end up costing billions of dollars more

Media: But right now people are seeing, are starting to see some reduction on their bills, so as the prices go up in 10 years, right now it doesn't really affect them. So do you think that's going to – that going to have an impact in the next election.

Smith

- I think people who understand what's happened here, don't agree with what's happening here
- The government is not fixing the problems that they've created
- They know that after the next election, the price of electricity is going to soar to record high
- It's because the government isn't undertaking the heavy lifting necessary to remove costs out of the system
- They are just borrowing to try buy time
- And take electricity off the table as an issue
- We know that – and yesterday we had our manufacturing sector that was here
- We're losing tens of thousands of jobs as a result of the mistakes that the Liberals have made on the energy file
- And every day that goes by without actually dealing with underline cost of electricity is costing us jobs in Ontario

Crawley: So therefore you would not borrow the money?

Smith

- No I'm not saying that, but I'm saying that what we want to do is get into a position where we can actually see this situation that currently exists at the Ministry of Energy
- And what a mess that the Liberals have actually made
- We have a pretty good idea where we're sitting right now of – of the mistakes that have been made
- And what it's going to take to rectify those issues
- But the government isn't doing anything to tackle any of those issues
- They're just simply borrowing more money
- And driving up the cost of electricity higher

Crawley: But you'd still borrow the money then?

Smith

- At this point, we would borrow some money
- But we would be very transparent about the way that we're doing it
- What the government isn't doing is being honest about what they're doing
- And the Auditor certainly agrees with that
- That Auditor is – is very much taking issue with the accounting standards that the

- government is using right now
- And – and with good reason
- Because it is deceitful
- It's dishonest
- And it's shady

Media: Would PC government forbid Canadian Accounting standards?

Smith

- I'm sorry

Media: Would a PC government forbid Canadian accounting standards?

Smith

- Well it's not something that I've talked about
- But certainly we would be open and honest about – about what's happening
- And we would reply on – on the independent officers of the legislature, like our Auditor General
- Instead of removing powers from the Auditor General, we would – we would encourage the Auditor General to have more oversight on – on our energy sector
- Because it's clearly needed
- And what we're seeing now is the Liberal government is playing funny games with – with the energy sector
- And it's not very funny for electricity customers out there
- At the end of day, are not seeing the true costs of electricity reflected on their bills
- Because the government is hiding it over at OPG

[END TRANSCRIPT]

TRANSCRIPT – Patrick Brown Post Question Period Scrum – October 17, 2017

MPP: Patrick Brown

Media: CP24, Reynolds, Global, Haines, Fairchild, Rath

[START TRANSCRIPT]

[In progress]

Cindy Wu (Fairchild): --the 26 billion dollars that doesn't show on the governments book, so what's your take on that?

Brown:

- Well I think this shows once again you can't trust anything Kathleen Wynne says
- The Auditor General in the report – it's scathing
- It says that the government is making up their own rules for accounting
- Like when you read that in an official Auditor General's document that the government is making up their own rules for accounting to hide deficit and debt

- It's wrong
- Kathleen Wynne should come clean
- And tell the people that for political purposes she's wasting 4 billion dollars
- The way they're doing this is going to blow 4 billion dollars
- And that's – that's uh- I can't – I can't even imagine she's putting this weight on Ontario families

Lagogianes (CP24): Do you think this is going to be the key issue out on the stump as we go forward?

Brown:

- Well there is a lot of areas where I think the government has really let down the public
- But I have to say on hydro
- The fact they've seen these sky rocketed hydro rates
- And now we find out that hydro rates are going to sky rocket after the election
- And everyone is going to pay more
- And the government is making up their own rules for accounting
- Yeah this is absolutely a serious election issue
- Their incompetence, their untrustworthiness on hydro
- Has meant every Ontario family is paying more
- What Kathleen Wynne has done is give every Ontarian another Mortgage payment
- And that's her governments conduct on hydro
- And frankly
- The reason we got into this mess is they were taking care of their own
- They were helping Liberal insiders
- You look at the Auditor General's previous report that we've over paid by 9.2 billion dollars on hydro
- For these contracts that Kathleen Wynne and Dalton McGuinty signed
- Of the 30 mega deals those companies donated 1.3 million dollars to the Ontario Liberal Party

- Now they're trying to borrow money to hide it but they're doing it in a fashion that wastes billions more
- This is well beyond the size of the gas plant scandal
- This is an astonishing number
- \$4-billion dollars that Ontario families are going to have to struggle to pay because of the dishonesty of Kathleen Wynne

Lagogianes (CP24): What about the Fraser Institute report that came out today as well talking about uh – hundreds of thousands of jobs lost as well between 08 and 15 directly tied to energy, electricity

Brown:

- Everywhere I go in Ontario, I hear examples in every community of a business that did their expansion elsewhere or couldn't afford to – to keep the doors open
- We have lost tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of jobs in Ontario because of hydro prices
- The fact the Fraser Institute report uh – makes the factual case for how that's been, it – it puts an end to the fake spin we've been hearing from this government saying that everything is rosy
- They're trying to say that everything is great in Ontario and that you know – businesses have not lost jobs because of their hydro negligence
- The reality is, very different
- And I'm proud to be a leader of the only party at Queen's Park that has said from the beginning
- That the Green Energy Act has been an unmitigated disaster
- It was used to support Liberal friends
- Uh you know the NDP and the Liberals supported all along, they haven't come clean, they haven't told Ontarians they apologize for their support for that
- Those bad contracts, we're still paying for today
- And the Fraser Institute report makes that very clear

Cindy Wu (Fairchild): So you figure election next year, as the Premier will you scrap the Fair Hydro Plan?

Brown:

- The Fair Hydro Plan is an unmitigated disaster
- I voted against it
- We're going to have to see um – the obligations that are now put on Ontario

- On the Green Energy Act, I've made it abundantly clear that we are going to end the Green Energy Act
- That's uh – they they've created a – a monster here in hydro policy
- Uh And uh you know frankly we're going to have to clean up their mess

[END TRANSCRIPT]

TRANSCRIPT – Vic Fedeli on CP24 – October 17, 2017

MPP: Vic Fedeli

Media: CP24 (Stephen LeDrew)

[START TRANSCRIPT]

LeDrew: -- joined now by Vic Fedeli. He's the Progressive Conservative critic in the house. Where do you hear anybody use the language that she has, I mean she's a straight shooter – she's known as that. She reports to legislature. She's the independent person, if you will, but tell me what your take is from this.

Fedeli

- It's shocking that the breadth and depth of the deceit that the Liberal government had undertaken

*LeDrew: Yeah, this is not an accident. I mean she is saying that she said they changed the rules. There's not one professional body or one Auditor General across Canada – she said she consulted with many of them, every one of them agrees that this is wrong. And she said it was wrong in order to hide the debt. And she gave a ****inaudible**** report in 2015 where she said, Ontario hydro has – has built \$37-billion more than it should have, because it's paying higher than market prices. So, I mean it's ****inaudible**** overall then about Ontario and its hydro and responsibility to the taxpayers*

Fedeli

- Bonnie Lysyk our AG, back in 2015 did say we've spent \$37-billion more than we ought to have ****inaudible**** the same amount of power
- And she said we have a \$133-billion still to pay under those contracts
- Which means we're going to have soaring hydro rates for as long as you and I are both alive
- What the government did was try to bring out the so called Fair Hydro Plan to mask this
- But not tell us the cost
- Both the Auditor General and our other legislature officer told us this could be up to \$93-billion to pay for that 25% reduction

LeDrew: So we have a lot of mismanagement. We have a lot of – it's not just – it's a lot to go around – it's not just hydro officials, it's the government. But tell me – see the government brought this into play, as you well know, very cynical to lower bills so it's in a better position. They said – in their tax paid radio ads – they're saying, 'we heard you, we're listening to you, Ontarians, we're lowering the bills'. But it's also work to a degree. They've gone up in the polls. People are saying, hydro bills are less.

Fideli:

- Well, this most certainly – uh – clarify any misgivings people may have had or

misunderstanding

- They are temporarily reducing your bill, but it will now skyrocket afterwards

LeDrew: Well, is this going to work politically?

Fideli:

- Not now
- I think they're – this is being laid out by the Auditor General that they were deceitful
- That this was done on purpose
- They changed the law to be – the rules to be able to do this
- But they knew that – uh – they knew that do what they want to do was going to cost \$4 billion dollars more to do
- Yet they did it anyway in order to hide what they were doing

LeDrew: And \$4 billion dollars is one of the smallest amounts of money that we're losing.

Fideli:

- Yeah
- This was a \$40 million dollar issue of which – \$40 billion dollar issue of which \$4 billion is just to hide what they were doing

LeDrew: So, what's the government going to do? They have a press conference this afternoon; Minister Reza is going to come out. Is he going to lie? Is he going to say, well she's wrong? They're going to say that she's cooked? Or what's going to happen?

Fideli:

- They've always blamed the messenger
- So, we'll have to see what they're going to be able to say
- They've always said – uh – when Bonnie Lysyk brought out the last report
- They basically said, well she doesn't know what she's talking about
- When she brought out the pension report only a year ago that showed they were wrong by billions about the debt and deficit
- They said, she doesn't know what she's talking about
- And so we'll see this time
- She is one of the very few people in that building that truly understands that breadth and depth of the deceit of this government has undertaken

LeDrew: Wow. Boy, this is going to be something else this afternoon and the next few days on this one. Vic Fideli -- Yes?

Fideli:

- She said you can no longer trust any of the numbers from the government
- When they use the words “deficit” or “debt” you cannot believe them
- Or balanced budget
- You cannot believe them

LeDrew: Something else. Vic Fideli, thanks very much. Provincially and federally, those Liberals are something else.

[END TRANSCRIPT]

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Sent: October 17, 2017 1:00 PM

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Subject: [PC Release] Statement from Patrick Brown, Ontario PC Leader, on the Auditor General's report on the “Unfair” Hydro Plan

https://www.ontariopc.ca/statement_from_patrick_brown_ontario_pc_leader_on_the_auditor_general_s_report_on_the_unfair_hydro_plan

Statement from Patrick Brown, Ontario PC Leader, on the Auditor General's report on the “Unfair” Hydro Plan

POSTED ON OCTOBER 17, 2017

“Today, the Auditor General released a damning report on the Wynne Liberals’ ‘Unfair’ hydro scheme.

“As a result of their shady accounting methods, and cooking the books for politically-motivated reasons, Ontarians are on the hook for \$4 billion more than necessary.

“This ‘Unfair’ Hydro Plan was a re-election ploy. After years of energy mismanagement, this plan was too little, too late. We have seen hydro rates skyrocket

to the highest across Canada, and if the Wynne Liberals are re-elected rates will only continue to soar.

"This report comes on the heels of a secret leaked Wynne Liberal cabinet document that showed hydro rates will rise to the highest levels we've ever seen, and the Financial Accountability Officer's report which shows future generations could be on the hook for up to \$93 billion.

"This hydro scheme is a sham drafted to benefit the Wynne Liberals, not the people of Ontario. It proves yet again that the Liberals are only in it for themselves.

"Everything the Liberals have touched in the electricity sector has made life harder and more unaffordable, including:

- Overpaying \$9.2 billion for green energy contracts which were awarded to energy companies who donated \$1.3 million in donations to the Ontario Liberal Party.
- Creating a secret millionaires club at Hydro One, including paying the CEO \$4.5 million
- Hiding the egregious cost of the global adjustment on hydro bills
- Shelling out \$7 billion to purchase an American coal-burning utility , instead of cutting hydro rates
- Wasting nearly a billion of surplus electricity last year alone.
- Using \$5.5 million of taxpayer funds to run political self-congratulatory ads promoting the hydro plan, instead of cutting hydro rates

"Premier Kathleen Wynne is untrustworthy – especially when it comes to your hydro bills. Life is already harder under the Wynne Liberals – Ontario families are paying more, and getting less. Cynical Wynne Liberal re-election schemes are only going to make it worse."