

Summary of Question Period for Tues. Feb. 27/18

From: "Flowers, Robert (TBS)" <robert.flowers@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 27 Feb 2018 11:59:41 -0500
Attachments: Q.P.SummaryFeb27-18v1.docx (18 kB); 20180227 - Provincial Legislature Question Period Transcript.doc (105.98 kB)

The session was dominated by questions to the new Minister of Health re: long term care beds.

MPP Tabuns (NDP) to Minister McGarry (Transportation) re: Metrolinx and proposed new GO stations

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. My question's to the acting **Premier**. Yesterday we received further confirmation that Ontario's \$23.1 billion go expansion programme has been reduced to little more than a Liberal re-election scheme. We already have evidence that the former Minister of transportation intervened after metrolinx rejected a proposed new station in his riding. Yesterday. We found out there was another, this time in the riding in the Minister of housing, is suddenly back on the table. Meanwhile, go riders -- From Toronto who use existing patients are getting their. Why is the **Premier** putting regional express rail at risk just to serve the short term political interests of the Liberal party?

>>Minister McGarry: Thank you very much, Speaker and thank you to the member opposite for the question, but metrolinx's board of directors approved the addition of 12 new GO stations in June 2016. As they've stated, this decision comes as a result of initial business case analysis, extensive consultation with municipal and regional representatives, community engagement and collaboration between the ministry of transportation and metrolinx on wider regional transit and transportation plans. All proposed new stations require additional technical and planning analysis which has been made very clear. Metrolinx has done substantial work on their business case analysis methodology. They've now committed to posting business cases prior to board decisions for all new go stations. The business cases and recommendations still need to be approved by metrolinx -- For its directors on March he will. I look forward to -- March 8th. I look forward to seeing the results. Thank you.

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker, again to the acting **Premier** the estimated cost of new go stations have skyrocketed. Coincidence with the decision to procure R.E.R. Via public private partnership. Not only is the **Premier** using metrolinx to help reelect her Minister, she's also offering up billions in public dollars to private investors while delivering less service to riders. Toronto area transit has been in a permanent state of chaos since the **Premier**, when she was transportation Minister, agreed to rip up transit city and the big move, and this **Premier** has aloud her Minister s to rewrite evidence-based transit plans to suit their own political needs. How can the **Premier** expect the public to trust the government to invest transit dollars wisely when she keeps putting her political ambitions ahead of the public interest.

>>Minister McGarry: Thank you very much, Speaker. I want to express that our government's making the single largest investment in Ontario's history, much of which the NDP party has voted against. As parts of this investment, we're continuing to move forward with one of the largest transit builds in the world today, through our 31.5 billion moving Ontario forward plan, we're investing \$13.5 billion in go, regional express rail, to increase the transit ridership, reduce travel times, manage congestion, connect people to jobs and improve the economy, all of which the people across the way have voted against. This is part of our \$21.3 billion transformation of the go rail network. Making it the largest commuter rail programme in Canada. We continue to work closely with metrolinx to bring regional express you rail to got network. We hope to have support of the opposition members in order to provide transit to the people of Ontario.