

Top Issues for March 2, 2017

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TBS issues of interest:

Doctors Object to Province's Proposed Disciplinary Process Changes
Cap and Trade Auction Sees Scant Interest
Hydro Rates to be Cut by 25 Per Cent
Study Finds Current HST Hydro Rebate Only Benefits the Rich
North Bay Mayor Concerned By OPG Job Loss Rumours

From: Covert, Leah (CAB)
Sent: March-02-17 9:00 AM
To: @CAB-Top Issues
Subject: Top Issues for March 2, 2017

Top Issues

March 2, 2017

[CALENDAR](#)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Doctors Object to Province's Proposed Disciplinary Process Changes

Issue: Cap and Trade Auction Sees Scant Interest

Issue: Prime Minister Says Grassy Narrows Clean-Up "A Provincial Issue"

Issue: Cannery Money Remains a Mystery

Issue: Service Dog in Classroom Fight Heads to Tribunal

Issue: September Closure Of Six Ottawa Public Schools Now Final

Issue: NDP Proposes Bill That Could Redirect Child-Care Funding

Issue: Hydro Rates to be Cut by 25 Per Cent

Issue: Study Finds Current HST Hydro Rebate Only Benefits the Rich

Issue: North Bay Mayor Concerned By OPG Job Loss Rumours

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

CALENDAR

March 2, 2017

Premier Wynne to make an announcement about hydro bill reductions

9:30 a.m. / Toronto: Premier Wynne to make an announcement about hydro bill reductions, alongside Energy Minister Glen Thibeault. (8:15 a.m., technical briefing). Webcast available at www.youtube.com/user/premierofontario. Media (MacDonald Block, Ontario Room South, 2nd Floor, 900 Bay Street)

Ont. Lt.-Gov. Dowdeswell to host a reception after a meeting with Whitby Mayor Mitchell

11:00 a.m. / Whitby: Ont. Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell hosts a reception following her meeting with Whitby Mayor Don Mitchell, community leaders and business leaders to learn about how they are building downtown Whitby together to fuel its revitalization. (11 a.m. at Centennial Building, 416 Centre Street South, Regal Room (upstairs))

MPP Fife to introduce bill to ensure stable public funding for not-for-profit child care

12:30 p.m. / Toronto: Kitchener-Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife will introduce a bill Thursday that will ensure stable public funding for not-for-profit child care by ensuring provincial subsidies fund licenced, not-for-profit child care spaces. (Media Studio, Queen's Park)

Vigil to End Poverty-Wage Jobs on Campus—Unite Here Local 75 to hold a demonstration

1:30 p.m. / Toronto: Vigil to End Poverty-Wage Jobs on Campus – Unite Here Local 75 holds a demonstration “to raise awareness of strikes happening at York University and UTSC, where sub-contracted cafeteria workers are fighting to end poverty-wage jobs on campus”. (South Grounds, Queen’s Park)

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at tribute dinner for community activist Van Dette

7:20 p.m. / Toronto: Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at the tribute dinner for community activist Justin Van Dette. (UG3 Live, 77 Peter Street)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Doctors Object to Province’s Proposed Disciplinary Process Changes

☐ The Ontario Medical Association (OMA) which represents Ontario’s doctors, is fighting back against the government’s proposal to change the law around discipline for health professionals. The changes would see the Health Minister being granted a larger role in the process.

☐ Spokesperson Dr. Rachel Forman for the association said, “If the bill is passed in its current form, there is a very real risk that physicians could cease performing certain medical acts to avoid any potential they would be subjected to unjust processes.”

☐ Bill 87, which was presented to the legislature by Health Minister Hoskins in December, contains amendments to the Regulated Health Professions Act. The amendments stem from a Star investigation into doctors still practicing after being found to have sexually abused their patients.

☐ If passed it would grant the Minister the power to make regulations regarding college committees and panels meaning discipline panels could be made up of predominantly members from outside the health profession. As well, colleges would be required to provide the Minister with personal information about their members if deemed necessary.

With regards to the Minister's power over committee structuring Forman said, "Panels could be comprised of individuals without clinical judgment or medical expertise, both of which are critical to self-regulation. It is unclear what the Minister of Health wants to achieve with the power, but it raises serious questions about CPSO's impartiality." The OMA describes the proposal to provide personal information as a "serious breach of basic privacy rights."

Critics say that the proposed changes signal a lack of confidence in the college's ability to regulate their respective health professions. However, some support the bill like Irwin Fefergrad, Registrar of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, who said he "unequivocally" supports Bill 87. In a briefing note presented to council last week, the College of Physicians and Surgeons said it also "supports the intent and overall objectives of Bill 87" but raised concerns over the Minister's proposed power over the committee structuring.

Minister Hoskins told The Star that he looks forward to debating the bill in the legislature as well as public consultation to "ensure we get this important piece of legislation right."

Paul Harte, a medical malpractice lawyer, said "I have always said that the government is trying to have it both ways. The changes that they recommend would provide the option for them to become more involved in regulating the profession, but without taking over the responsibility of actual regulation. My guess is that the government simply wants the threat that they might get involved to change behaviour at the college. I would be surprised if they did actually implement any regulations."

Newspapers:

"Doctors push back against overhaul," Toronto Star, Jacques Gallant, A2

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Cap and Trade Auction Sees Scant Interest

The Ottawa Citizen reports that just three weeks before Ontario's first cap and trade auction on March 22, a joint cap and trade auction in California and Quebec has seen subpar results. Quebec and California, a market Ontario plans to join next year, saw just 18 per cent of their cap and trade allowances bought by businesses.

The previous auction saw 88 per cent of the available carbon credits sold, after results before that of 35 per cent and 11 per cent.

The Ontario government would like to raise \$1.9 billion per year from its cap and trade system, saying it will spend the money on programs that reduce emissions and help businesses and consumers transition into the low-carbon economy.

While Ontario's first auction has yet to take place, cap and trade has already contributed to an increase in the cost of gasoline by about 4.3 cents per litre and increased the cost of natural gas home heating by around \$6.70 per month.

Ontario has been optimistic that the cap and trade program will be good for both Ontarians and the environment; however, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk warned the province that Ontario's cap and trade program will not actually limit greenhouse gas emissions through to 2020 because it is often cheaper for Ontario's emitters to purchase California allowances.

Environment Minister Glen Murray said there will be give and take between jurisdictions in the linked California, Quebec and Ontario market. He said that Ontario will sometimes be a net seller of allowances and sometimes buy more of its reductions.

Newspapers: "Cap-trade auction sees scant interest," The Ottawa Citizen, Allison Jones,

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Prime Minister Says Grassy Narrows Clean-Up “A Provincial Issue”

During a media availability in Calgary, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was asked about any action the federal government will take to clean up mercury contamination at the Grassy Narrows First Nation.

Prime Minister Trudeau responded that “The Grassy Narrows issue is very much a provincial issue but the federal government under my leadership is certainly very engaged with the province to ensure that we're moving forward in the right direction.”

In a follow up question, he was asked how the workload of the clean-up should be split between the province and the federal government, to which he responded, “We've been engaged – I know our Minister Carolyn Bennett has been back and forth with her counterparts in the provincial government. We'll continue to impress upon everyone how important it is that we create a strong, clean and bright future for indigenous communities right across the country.”

Newspapers: None

Television: Power and Politics, CBCNW, 5:46 PM (7)

Radio: None

Issue: Cannery Money Remains a Mystery

The Windsor Star reports that Essex MPP Tara Natyshak said the Ontario government's reluctance to provide an explanation of what happened to the \$3 million they gave to a Maidstone tomato processor demonstrates that a more transparent and accountable grant system is needed.

Natyshak said on Wednesday that “it should be concerning to everyone that these programs are administered under a cloak of secrecy when in fact there should be transparency and accountability built in.”

Natyshak said he may file a Freedom of Information request to find out the details of the grant agreement that gave Thomas Canning \$3 million in provincial money.

In February of 2015, then-Windsor West MPP Teresa Piruzza announced the province would provide \$3 million to the Maidstone processing plant so it could construct a new facility.

However, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) said the money was to be used, not for a new building, but for equipment, marketing and consulting. The ministry has yet to explain the discrepancy or provided an outline of how much of the grant money was spent in each area.

Natyshak said, “The fact that we can't find out right now, other than launching an FOI, is clear enough. This isn't government money. It's people's money. These are taxpayers' dollars and they deserve transparency.”

☐ OMAFRA spokesperson Kristy Dennette wrote an email to the Star after the paper requested to see the grant agreement at issue. The spokesperson said the “ministry will not be providing contract details at this as the grant agreement is still in process with Thomas Canning Ltd., with the term ending on Dec. 31, 2017.

☐ The email continued, “The agreed to terms and conditions within the agreement allows the Government of Ontario to hold Thomas Canning accountable for fulfilling the terms and conditions of the agreement.”

Newspapers: “Cannery money remains a mystery,” The Windsor Star, Sharon Hill, A4

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Service Dog in Classroom Fight Heads to Tribunal

☐ A family from Ontario has decided to go to the province’s human rights tribunal to fight for their autistic son’s right to bring his service dog into his Waterloo Catholic District School Board classroom.

☐ The family said the board told them that 8-year-old Kenner’s service dog places undue hardship on school staff when brought into the classroom. However, Kenner’s father Craig Fee said the board has ignored evidence from his son’s doctors of the benefits of the service animal.

☐ Fee said the dog has significant calming effects on his son, who is prone to anxiety and meltdowns. He said that having the dog in class would mitigate these behaviours and make life easier for Kenner’s teachers and peers.

☐ The board has said there are two reasons they do not want to allow the service dog to enter the classroom. First, the board said since the school door tends to be locked when lessons are in session, the building is then private property and, therefore, gives the board the right to dictate whether or not the dog is allowed inside.

☐ The second argument the board made was that Kenner could not handle the dog himself due to his lack of fine motor skills, which required a staff member to take control of her leash at times.

☐ Fee said his family decided to go to Ontario’s human rights tribunal after nearly three years of struggle with the board.

Newspapers: “Service dog in classroom fight heads to tribunal,” The Toronto Star, Michelle McQuigge, A8
“Family fights to have autistic son’s service dog in class,” The National Post, A9
“Waterloo trustee’s family fighting school board,” The Hamilton Spectator, Michelle McQuigge, A9

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: September Closure Of Six Ottawa Public Schools Now Final

☐ On Wednesday, following six months of debate and save-our-schools campaigns, Ottawa's largest school board voted to close six schools in the west end of the city.

Five schools will close in September, including Leslie Park and Century, both English-only elementary schools with declining enrolment; Grant Alternative School; and D. Aubrey Moodie and Greenbank Middle Schools, targeted because the board has decided to get rid of that grade configuration. J.H. Putman Middle School will close in about two years, after the province provides money to build an addition to house intermediate students at Agincourt Road PS.

One school from the original staff closure list of seven was spared. Regina Street PS will become an alternative school with a specialty in outdoor education.

Over the course of the closure debate, it was made clear most trustees felt they had little choice but to close schools, due to the board's financial problems and pressure from the province, which is anxious to stop paying for empty pupil spaces.

The board also voted to alter the grade structure of three high schools - Bell, Merivale and Sir Robert Borden - to include grades 7 to 12.

On March 7, trustees will hold a final vote on whether to close Rideau High School. That debate has been divisive and emotional, with supporters warning that the closure would hurt vulnerable kids from low-income, refugee, aboriginal, Inuit and Metis backgrounds.

Over the next five years, trustees will conduct accommodation reviews in other areas across the district, with the Alta Vista area up next.

Newspapers: "September closure of six public schools now final," The Ottawa Citizen, Jacquie Miller, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: NDP Proposes Bill That Could Redirect Child-Care Funding

The NDP has introduced a private member's bill that would direct new provincial funding to not-profit child-care programs only. This comes as advocates have been pushing Queen's Park to ensure 100,000 promised child-care spaces are affordable for families.

Kitchener-Waterloo MPP Catherine Fife said "We have 30 years of evidence and research which documents the direct link between not-for-profit centres and quality early learning and care."

The government's five-year child-care expansion plan would provide licenced space for 40 per cent of kids under age 4, double the amount available today. The government is expected to spend up to \$3.75 billion to build and operate the new spots in schools, workplaces and other community settings.

Currently about 24 per cent of Ontario's 350,000 licenced spaces for children from birth to age 12 are in for-profit centres. Fife and other advocates fear that percentage will grow if no limits are placed on the new provincial funding. BrightPath Early Learning Inc., an Alberta-based child-care company, recently purchased one of the GTA's largest child-care chains and it is alarming, says Fife.

"It's time for the government to acknowledge that child care is a public good and therefore should be delivered in a sustainable, not-for-profit model with a focus on quality," said Fife.

Over the winter, Minister of Early Learning and Child-Care Indira Naidoo-Harris, met with more than 2,000 parents, child-care operators, advocates and experts and received about 6,000 submissions on how to build an accessible, affordable and high quality system for families. But in rural and northern communities for-profit care was the only option. "With this private member's bill, MPP Fife is putting ideology ahead of access and affordability for Ontario families," she said.

Carolyn Ferns, of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care said the province should create non-profit options in areas where it is scarce. Limiting for-profit care is one of the three "big ideas" that will bring transformative change to the current patchwork of services available to families she added. The other two ideas are affordable parent fees and supporting the workforce.

Fife said she hopes to "make a compelling case that the Minister cannot ignore." "For us this really is a turning point and it would also signal to the large, big-box child-care operators that Ontario is serious about investing in quality care not just any care."

Newspapers:

"Bill could redirect child-care cash;" Toronto Star, Laurie Monsebraaten, GT1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Hydro Rates to be Cut by 25 Per Cent

The Toronto Star reports that the Ontario government plans to cut electricity prices this summer. Premier Kathleen Wynne is set to unveil a plan for an additional 17-per-cent reduction in hydro rates Thursday at Queen's Park.

The 17 per cent is in addition to the 8-per-cent rebate on the provincial sales tax portion of Ontarians hydro bills, which the province removed two months ago.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said, "When we're making significant changes to the electricity sector ... people are expecting us to do this right. I'm making sure that we don't have to ever do this again."

The province's "25-per-cent solution" is designed to ease the political heat on the government for making decisions that led to skyrocketing hydro rates.

A Martin Regg Cohn column in the Star said that the Ontario government's 25-per-cent plan is a sign the "Liberals are dipping into the well again, buying off voters with their own money ... But lower prices, as we learned long ago, come at a cost."

Regg Cohn said the province plans to stretch out the amortization of our electricity assets further into the future so that "ratepayers don't have to bear as much of the burden upfront."

Regg Cohn added that the province is also "shifting an electricity subsidy for low-income ratepayers onto the tax base, on the grounds that (hydro rates are) a social problem, not a hydro program."

However, opposition parties have been critical of the province's most recent solution for high hydro costs. Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown said, "The money needs to come from somewhere. Will this government come clean and acknowledge that? They have created a mess."

Deputy NDP leader Jagmeet Singh also criticized the province. "What they're

proposing are short-term, stopgap measures,” he said. “The interest payments are going to put more money in the hands of bankers.”

□ In response, Minister Thibeault criticized the NDP’s recent plan to cut hydro rates between 17 per cent and 30 per cent, saying the plan is unrealistic. The energy minister also criticized the PCs for not having put forward a plan at all.

□ A Star editorial argued that Premier Kathleen Wynne’s move to cut hydro bills in Ontario by 25 per cent “should offer welcome relief both for ratepayers and for a provincial government that has been wearing this issue like a millstone.” The editorial adds, “While the cut is far too long in coming, Wynne deserves credit for acting decisively after she took personal responsibility last fall for rising public anger over hydro rates, calling it her ‘own mistake.’”

□ In response the province’s move toward amortization, researchers from the Globe and Mail wrote, “The quid pro quo is that consumers would pay more for electricity in the future to reflect the longer amortization period ... specifically during the years beyond the end of the original contract and up to the useful life of the generation assets.”

□ A column in the National Post said that if the provincial election were tomorrow, the Ontario government’s move would “all be fair enough: it’s a policy debate on an important issue. But the Liberals will want to be able to point to cheaper hydro bills, not just promise them, and they have time to make that happen.”

□ The Post adds, “Knowing what the Liberals specifically capable of” with an election looming, “one worries short-term (hydro) relief might come at even greater long-term cost.”

□ In an op-ed by PC leader Patrick Brown published in the Toronto Sun, Brown argues that the Ontario government’s latest move on the hydro file will end up raising taxes and that “electricity rates will increase again the moment they have the chance.”

□ Brown also argues that “the Liberals don’t have a history of listening to ratepayers, or our auditor general on this (hydro) issue.” He says the province “snubbed the auditor general in 2011 who warned that bad (renewable energy) contracts would rapidly escalate electricity rates ... The Liberals are only concerned about this crisis because they want to get re-elected in 2018.”

Newspapers: “Cuts will help beat the heat,” The Toronto Star, Rob Ferguson and Robert Benzie, A9

“Lower hydro bills will cost you in the long run,” The Toronto Star, Martin Regg Cohn, A1

“A real response to real pain,” The Toronto Star, A12

“Hydro fix, or fiasco,” The Globe and Mail, Adam Radwanski, A7

“Cheaper hydro now electoral chip,” The National Post, Chris Selley, A9

“Just Hot Air?” The Toronto Sun, Shawn Jeffords, A4

“Liberals will raise your taxes to offset hydro costs,” The Toronto Sun, Patrick Brown, A5

“Hydro relief: Wynne, lose or draw,” The Ottawa Citizen, David Reevely, A1

“Grit power cut ‘too little, too late,’” London Free Press, Hank Daniszewski, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Study Finds Current HST Hydro Rebate Only Benefits the Rich

□ A study conducted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives says Ontario’s 8 per cent HST hydro rebate is only benefitting the rich. The study looked at the discount that came into effect in January and found that the richest 10 percent of Ontario households were enjoying

two-and-a-half times more in savings than the poorest 10 per cent.

☐ "Since rich people use more hydro than those who are poor, there was a lot more benefit for high income households than low income households," said Sheila Block, senior economist at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and one of the study's authors.

☐ The study proposes instead of having a uniform deduction of 8 per cent, creating a savings scheme based on people's income would be a lot more effective. Under the scheme, those earning less than \$35, 000 would save 25 per cent and that percentage would decrease as earnings go up. Those earning more than \$176, 000 a year would get no rebate.

☐ Toronto resident Kenza Dine saves about \$13 a month on her \$52, 000 annual salary. With the study's proposed rates her income would qualify for 21 per cent in savings equalling about \$36 a month off her bill.

☐ "We think that if the residential part of this rebate is going to cost the government \$520 million a year, there's a better way to apply it," said Block.

☐ The government will make an announcement about more hydro cuts Thursday, which could be as high as an additional 17 per cent.

☐ Block says the plan the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is proposing could work within the current HST rebate structure and would make a great addition to any new cuts. "It's a fairer way of distributing the savings," said Block.

Newspapers:

"Current HST hydro rebate only good for the rich, study finds," CBC News, Natalie Nanowski, Online

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: North Bay Mayor Concerned By OPG Job Loss Rumours

☐ North Bay Mayor Al McDonald has been trying to confirm if employees at Ontario Power Generation's North Bay operation are to be transferred to other operations in Ontario.

☐ McDonald said he has been working on this for four weeks and is not able to confirm the rumour. "We need the province to do the right thing and keep the jobs in North Bay," he said.

☐ McDonald contacted OPG's Director of Corporate Relations and said they would not tell him any information. He also contacted Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault. "He had not heard anything either, but he was going to check and get back to me," said McDonald.

☐ OPG's Central Hydro Plant Group is headquartered in North Bay with a number of facilities around the region according to its website. It employs about 60 people at the North Bay operations and has been a part of the community for more than 100 years.

Newspapers:

"OPG job losses rumoured;" North Bay Nugget, Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

March 2, 2017

TORONTO STAR

- * Trump's immigration stance raises alarm
- * From gutter ball to gold
- * Lower hydro bills will cost you in the long run
- * Accountants banned from the Oscars

TORONTO SUN

- * Trust me!
- * Wizards poke raptors in the eye

GLOBE AND MAIL

- * Alberta prosecutors denounce province's 'triage' court system
- * Back on the range
- * Sessions didn't disclose Russia contact in confirmation hearing
- * B.C. grants final approval for Beijing conglomerate's health-care deal
- * Canadian rollout of abortion pill stalls amid distribution confusion, lack of drug coverage

NATIONAL POST

- * A legacy of toxic lead
- * The Liberal 'chosen ones'
- * Judges blasts RCMP for "outrageous" conduct
- * Gas sniffing in 1970s may still be taking toll on First Nations
- * Quebec hospital restores crucifix after public outcry
- * Canada: Journey inside a Tory leadership debate party
- * 'The sweetest kid'

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

Stations surveyed: Global, CFTO, City TV, CJOH, CHCH, CFPL

Disclaimer

March 1, 2017

GLOBAL – 5:30 PM (Toronto)

- 1) Toronto police are investigating after swastika symbols and an anti-Semitic statement were found in a York University classroom.
- 2) Montreal police are investigating after a bomb threat targeting Muslims at Concordia University led to the evacuation of numerous buildings.
- 3) A Tuesday night fire at an Islamic information centre and mosque on Weston Road is being

investigated as arson.

4) The Toronto Star has reported the Ontario government will cut Hydro bills by 25 per cent. The official announcement will be tomorrow morning at Queen's Park.

5) The owner of Belly Ice Cream Company in Huntsville has been forced to reduce production days this winter to save on her Hydro bills.

6) Weather.

7) Planned changes to a North York golf course that include removing dozens of trees have raised concerns for some neighbourhood residents.

8) Global News features a specialized dance program in Toronto that helps people living with Parkinson's disease in its 'Making A Difference' segment.

9) An 18-year-old is back in police custody after a dramatic chase and crash during which a pickup truck went airborne and landed in a ditch in Louisiana.

10) Entertainment.

11) Update: Global News interviews York University and students about their reaction to the discovery of swastika symbols in a classroom.

14) Update: Global News explains how the Ontario government will refinance the global adjustment fee to lower Hydro rates. The NDP says the government should renegotiate energy contracts instead.

16) Mississauga has approved a motion that would see displaced residents of the Hickory Drive house explosion receive relief on their property tax bills. A Mississauga councillor plans to approach the province to ask the same grant be offered on their cut of the property tax.

GLOBAL – 6:30 PM (National)

1) Montreal police are investigating after a bomb threat targeting Muslims at Concordia University led to the evacuation of numerous buildings.

2) Toronto police are investigating after a suspicious overnight fire at an Islamic centre in the city's west end.

3) Global News examines U.S. President Donald Trump's address to Congress last night and the new moderate tone he used.

4) Global News contrasts U.S. President Trump's optimistic speech last night to his pessimistic inaugural speech.

5) U.S. President Trump invoked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Keystone XL Pipeline and Canada's immigration policy in his speech last night.

6) U.S. President Trump's unconventional election campaign and victory has prompted Oprah Winfrey to consider running for president.

7) Prime Minister Trudeau will begin a two-day visit to British Columbia tomorrow. He will receive a first-hand look at the opioid epidemic that has caused a state of emergency.

8) Canada's Transport Minister is calling for new nationwide penalties for people who use their cell phones while driving.

9) Road safety advocates in the U.K. want the government to take further action to prevent distracted driving.

10) Uber CEO Travis Kalanick has apologized to one of his drivers after a hostile conversation was recorded on camera and leaked online.

CFTO – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

1) Toronto police are investigating anti-Semitic graffiti found in a York University lecture hall.

2) Ryerson University fired a teaching assistant after he made anti-Semitic comments during a sermon last year.

3) Toronto Police have said that a fire at an Islamic centre in the city was set deliberately.

4) The Premier will be presenting her plan to cut 25 per cent off Hydro bills tomorrow.

5) The TTC 501 Queen Street streetcar route will be replaced by buses this summer for construction.

6) Weather.

7) Mississauga city council has voted to not make residents who were displaced 8 months ago pay property taxes.

8) Toronto City Council has admitted to accidentally debiting their pre-authorized property tax payments twice. 44,000 accounts were affected.

9) A memorial service will be held for Markham's former mayor tomorrow.

10) St. Joseph's Health Centre is launching a review after a patient complained about the state of an examination room.

City TV – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

1) As many as 44,000 residents who subscribe to Toronto's pre-authorized payment program for property tax payments were improperly double-billed due to a banking error.

2) CityNews continues its investigation into GTHA police officers who have kept their jobs despite being convicted of serious crimes and the lack of transparency.

3) A Tuesday night fire at an Islamic information centre and mosque on Weston Road is being investigated as arson. Mayor John Tory said this type of behaviour will not be tolerated.

4) Toronto police are investigating an act of mischief after the discovery of swastikas etched into a classroom wall at York University.

5) The GO Transit campaign to promote safety at rail crossings is receiving some backlash with many calling the slogan and posters insensitive.

6) The TTC has announced there will be no streetcar service on the 501 Queen route this summer due to a number of construction projects. They will be replaced with buses.

7) Weather.

8) The Ministry of Health has issued a warning after three cases of Seoul virus, which is linked to exposure to rats, have been confirmed.

9) Update: CityNews examines the role of media coverage in determining the punishment for police officers who have committed crimes.

10) Update: CityNews examines the stress that police officers face on a daily basis and what the service is doing to help them cope.

11) Mississauga has approved a motion that would see displaced residents of the Hickory Drive house explosion receive relief on their property tax bills. A Mississauga councillor plans to approach the province to ask the same grant be offered on their cut of the property tax.

CJOH – 6:00 PM (Ottawa)

1) CTV News has discovered that the first responders who found 14-year-old Chloe Kotval overdosing did not have naloxone on hand.

2) Gatineau Police have identified the couple who overdosed and left behind a 3-year-old boy.

3) The Ontario government will be unveiling their plan to cut hydro bills tomorrow.

4) Ottawa police were called to St. Francis Xavier School because of a possible threat from another student.

5) Ottawa will be holding a public meeting about stage 2 of Ottawa's light rail transit plan.

6) LRT construction on Queen Street at Kent is on-going.

7) The Ministry of Transportation has proposed closing a ramp on Queensway.

8) The Ottawa District School Board will be having its final vote on the closure of six west-end schools tonight.

9) Weather.

10) An Ottawa man has been charged in relation to a suspected meth lab discovered in lower town.

23) A southern Ontario man was denied his jackpot winnings because he self-excluded himself from gaming facilities 17 years ago.

CHCH – 6:00 PM (Hamilton)

1) The Liberal government is promising to cut hydro bills by 25 per cent, but some Hamilton businesses say the reduction isn't enough. The opposition parties calls the move a shell game, while a political science professor suggests the plan may not help the Liberal Party gain popularity.

2) A Niagara family is speaking out after their daughter was killed by an alleged impaired driver.

3) Weather

4) The recent warm weather could impact the maple syrup season.

5) Three cats died in a house fire.

6) The Tyler Johnson murder trial continued tonight.

7) A Fort Erie man was arrested on drug-related charges.

- 8) The Ontario government released a progress report on its long-term strategy to end violence against indigenous women.
- 9) The city of Hamilton is considering asking the province for the right to levy property taxes against local hospitals and universities .
- 10) Hamilton police are looking for a bank robber.

CFPL – 6:00 PM (London)

- 1) A London man was sentenced today to seven years in prison for the stabbing of his close friend.
- 2) The federal government made a funding announcement in Tillsonburg today that will create over 100 jobs and position manufacturing plants to compete against the best companies in the world.
- 3) Weather
- 4) The London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership held an event today to discuss how to build a better welcoming community for refugees.
- 5) Toronto police are looking into whether a fire at an Islamic information centre last night was deliberately set.
- 6) Not everyone is happy with the plan to install protected bike lanes.
- 7) The SIU is looking into an incident yesterday on Highway 401 near London that injured a 38 year old man.
- 8) Imperial Oil is advising the public that visible flaring is expected to continue over the next several days at its facility in Sarnia.
- 9) A team of Western graduate students has created a program to combat fake news.
- 10) Several reports indicate the province will announce a plan tomorrow to slash hydro bills by another 17 per cent.
- 11) NDP Leader Andrea Horwath was in Chatham-Kent today to promote her party's hydro cost reduction plan.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

March 2, 2017

CBC Radio (Toronto)

- 1) Premier Kathleen Wynne is set to make be an announcement at 9:30 a.m. at Queen's Park. She's revealing the Liberal government's plan for cutting hydro rates.
- 2) According to a new study, high-earners are getting a bigger benefit from the 8-per-cent rebate that started on hydro bills in January.
- 3) There has been a fatal shooting near Mississauga's city centre. It was one of three reports of gunfire in Peel last night.

4) Mayor John Tory says Toronto is a magnet for refugees and he is asking the federal government for help as more asylum-seekers arrive.

5) The city has issued an apology to home owners who discovered they had been double charged on property taxes.

6) Toronto is proposing a new by-law to crackdown on bad landlords. A new set of rules and regulations will be up for review by the city's Licensing and Standards Committee next week.