

RE: MEDIA EVENT: PC LEADER DOUG FORD AND MPP VIC FEDELI COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET

From: "Greenberg, Martha (CAB)" </o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=greenberg, martha (cab)3ff">
To: "McMichael, Rhonda (CAB)" <rhonda.mcmichael@ontario.ca>, "Scott, Adrienne (CAB)" <adrienne.scott@ontario.ca>, "Madhany, Shamira (CAB)" <shamira.madhany3@ontario.ca>, "Astill, Michelle (CAB)" <michelle.astill@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2018 09:02:09 -0400
Attachments: Draft chart (v7).docx (39.24 kB)

Thanks Rhonda! I made the edits to the chart based on the comments from Doug Ford and Andrew Horwath's that were in the transcript we got (questions they received after lock-up), I would imagine more will be coming out but made those at least.

I will stop playing with it for now!
Thanks!
Martha

From: McMichael, Rhonda (CAB)
Sent: March-29-18 8:38 AM
To: Greenberg, Martha (CAB); Scott, Adrienne (CAB); Madhany, Shamira (CAB); Astill, Michelle (CAB)
Subject: RE: MEDIA EVENT: PC LEADER DOUG FORD AND MPP VIC FEDELI COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET

Morning, all. Happy "Friday!"

The chart was well-received upstairs. A couple of requests:

- Could we move the fiscal pieces to the top. We may want to call that Fiscal/Economy vs Finance/Economy if that works, as Fiscal is a word the SoC uses a lot.
- Can we ensure we are highlighting program review – i.e., that should be included in the Fiscal section OR move whatever section it's in right under Fiscal.

This may be heading to the external advisory committee meeting on May 17, so if we can keep it updated as we move forward, that would be great. I will keep you posted on uses/trajectory.

Thanks very much,
Rhonda

From: Greenberg, Martha (CAB)
Sent: March 28, 2018 7:59 PM
To: Scott, Adrienne (CAB); McMichael, Rhonda (CAB)
Subject: FW: MEDIA EVENT: PC LEADER DOUG FORD AND MPP VIC FEDELI COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET

Hadn't read this when I updated the transportation section, think that can be for round 2!

From: Jonsson, Rachel (CAB)
Sent: March-28-18 4:49 PM
To: @CAB-QPscrums; @CAB-Budget Fin Team
Cc: @CAB-Issues
Subject: MEDIA EVENT: PC LEADER DOUG FORD AND MPP VIC FEDELI COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET

PC LEADER DOUG FORD AND MPP VIC FEDELI COMMENT ON THE 2018 BUDGET

March 28, 2018

Time / Location:

1:45pm / Ontario Room, MacDonald Block

Speakers:

PC Leader Doug Ford

MPP Vic Fedeli

Media Attendance:

More than 125 reporters

Media Outlets (who asked questions):

Jeffords – CP; Benzie – Star; Giovanetti – Globe; Reynolds – QP Briefing; Smith – QP Today; Crawley - CBC Radio/TV; Misener – 680 News; Qureshi – 680 News; Carter – Global; D'Mello – CTV Ontario; Nicole - CHCH Television; Mulligan – City; Morissette – TFO; Catherine – CBC

Statement:

Doug Ford: Today my friends Kathleen Wynne continued the re-election spending spree with your money. The Liberals think they can buy your vote. Your vote is for sale. And this proves it in this budget, but the people know better, they deserve better and under my leadership we will do better. People know that Kathleen Wynne cannot be trusted. She has proved it year after year with her government. Kathleen Wynne cannot be trusted any longer. She will do anything, promise anything to cling to power. Kathleen Wynne is writing lots of cheques with your money. She's making big promises with your hard earned tax dollars. But my friends, I've looked at the finances and I can tell you one thing, her cheques are going to bounce. People know that if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. There is only one way for spending – the spending spree by taking more money out of your pockets, the Liberals will keep raising your taxes, keep hiking your hydro rates. You will be stuck with the bill for Kathleen's Wynne's election promises and it has already started. Today's budget include massive, I repeat, massive tax hikes. Tax hikes that will hit 1.8 million people and their families. New tax hikes to tens of thousands of businesses. This budget includes, are you ready for this this one, this budget includes \$2 billion of new taxes over the next three years. I'll repeat that, that's \$2 billion of taxes over the next three years. 1.8 million people will be stuck with a \$200 tax hike every single year. So just think a family of five will be paying \$1,000 more in new taxes. That's \$2 billion in new taxes in this election year, hitting businesses and families that are already struggling to put food on their tables, struggling to meet mortgages and they're going to be struggling even more. My friends just imagine what Kathleen Wynne will do if she's ever re-elected, god help us. We've seen this show before many a times, many a times they come out and they promise the world with your money, that's what's staggering, with your money they're trying to buy your votes. And then once they get elected all those promises go out the window. But there is some good news in this budget, there is some good news, the good news is this will be Kathleen Wynne's last budget. The party with the tax payer's money is over. The Liberals can pack up their loot bags, the party's over with the tax payer's money. To the people of Ontario I say relief is on its way, we will restore fiscal responsibility in Ontario. We will bring back manufacturing jobs. We will bring back businesses to this great province. And we will make sure life is more affordable in Ontario for families. Together we will usher in a new age of prosperity, prosperity this province has never seen before. We will attract business, we will make sure that we put money into your pocket, instead of the government's pocket. And I can tell you my friends in 71 days you will have a very clear choice. A very clear choice. Four more years of Kathleen Wynne wasting your money, raising your taxes, hiking your hydro rates and driving jobs out of Ontario. Just think, there's been over 300,000 manufacturing jobs that have left this province. That's 300,000 families that are struggling to put food on the table. Or, you have a choice of electing a government that respects you and will respect every bit of your hard earned dollars. A government that will focus on fundamentals and a government that will fight for you.

Vic Fedeli: Well, as you heard our leader say, life has become harder in Ontario under Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals and well everyday families are struggling to keep their heads above water, Liberal insiders and friends have gotten rich at their expense. Hydro rates have skyrocketed, taxes and fees have ballooned. In this budget the Liberals are promising new tax hikes, 1.8 million hardworking Ontarians will see their taxes go up and tens of thousands of struggling Ontario businesses will also see their taxes go up. This will raise billions of dollars in revenue that will be wasted on political self-interest and scandals. And that's just what they're saying right now. If the Liberals win the next election, we all know that taxes will be hiked even higher, our provincial debt is highest of any province or state on the planet, crowding out the services like healthcare and education that we all depend on. The Liberals have been in power for 15 years. For 15 long years they have ignored issues like healthcare, education and child care. They've

slashed frontline healthcare, cut doctors, fired nurses and froze hospital budgets. They've closed more than 600 schools, more than any government in the history of our province. They have ignored families. And now 71 days before an election they're throwing money at problems they created. Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals will promise the world if it means they can cling to power. But the people of Ontario know they can't be trusted to keep their word. They broke their promise to run a balanced budget and they're plunging Ontario into a massive \$6.7 billion deficit with no plans to return to balance for another six years. If the Liberals were to win the next election they would simply go back to their old ways. Everything promised in this budget will be added to an already exhaustive list of broken promises. It's time for change in Ontario. It's time for an Ontario PC budget that respects the taxpayer and puts the people first, not the insiders. Thank you.

Media Questions:

Q: Jeffords: Mr. Ford would a PC government table a balanced budget in its first year and if so, what would you do besides driving efficiencies to get there?

Ford: Well Sean, good question, our goal is always to have a balanced budget but we don't even know if this is a truthful budget. We have the Auditor General coming out saying that there's another \$1.3 billion. So I wanna get in there and take a look at the books and see how accurate this budget is because all we have seen is a tax and spend government. They're just – all they do is tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend. People are fed up. They've had it. They've absolutely had it, they've been taxed to death. So Sean I can assure when we go in there, we're going line item by line item, there's hundreds and hundreds of programs throughout this province and every single program will be reviewed.

Q: Mulligan: Hello, welcome to lock-up, I think it's your first, right?

Ford: Yeah, the only people that should be locked up are the Liberals for this budget, I'll tell ya.

Q: Mulligan: Oh, I handed you that on a silver platter –

Ford: No, I'm just telling you the truth.

Q: Mulligan: You've become really good at railing against this government, yet I'm not really hearing any substance from you on how you would, A, balance the books, and B make cuts without cutting jobs. How are you going to do that?

Ford: You know something – and first of all, I'll start out, the only person whose going to cut their job, I'm going to cut Kathleen Wynne's job. That's very simple. You were actually down at City Hall, with myself and budget chief Mike Del Grande and Deputy Mayor Doug Halladay and everyone knows in this room, not one single person lost their job. Not one single person. We saved the taxpayers over a billion dollars, we drove efficiencies. And when the Auditor General – the Auditor General comes up and says she found a billion dollars and then within this budget right here, this budget in small type, even the Liberals are saying they can find \$1.4 billion of efficiencies. I can assure we will find the efficiencies. Our platform – and I've been talking about our platform for the last couple months – about making sure we're reducing the size and cost of the government, making sure that we reduce hydro rates, making sure we get rid of the carbon tax to attract businesses here. To generate an economy that these businesses are able to thrive, the entrepreneurs are able to thrive in this province and create revenues up to provincial coffers. But taxing people to death, like the \$2 billion of taxes and the tens of thousands of businesses that are going to be hit with these taxes, that's not being business friendly. That's killing jobs. When we get elected, as I've been saying over and over again, we're going down to the border and we're putting up a big neon sign saying 'Ontario is open for business.' That's how we're going to attract jobs.

Q: Benzie: Yesterday you said that the new child care program was unaffordable and indicated that you would have to scrap it if you were elected on June 7th?

Ford: I don't think I said those words, but go ahead.

Q: Benzie: Are you going to keep the program?

Ford: No, what I said and what I'll say today until I'm very clear. It's amazing how they promise billions of dollars for children that haven't even been born. They're promising people who haven't even been born. I'm surprised that the finance minister and the premier aren't up here saying 'we're giving away free cars,' 'we're going to pay your mortgage', 'you get a free car, you get a free car, you get a free car' – that's next on their agenda. You know, I think it's very important, child care is essential. I am visiting homes every day that are struggling for child care. I'm passionate about helping people. I'm passionate about helping families that are struggling. I'm passionate about helping single family homes, parents, that are struggling

to go to work, getting taxed to death by this government, and then coming home and having to pay exorbitant child care fees. But in our plan, we're going to have a very clear plan moving forward. And once our plan comes out you'll be able to see it. But to just correct, I never said I was going to scrap it.

Q: Benzie: Ok, well, it certainly sounded like that. But anyway, what I would ask, of all the goodies that are announced in today's budget, how many of them are on the chopping block?

Ford: Well, again, you're putting a fictitious budget – I'm going to tell you what I'm not going to do. I'm not going to increase taxes by \$2 billion. I'm not going to target tens of thousands of businesses and go after them on new taxes. I'm not going to go after 1.8 million people and increase their taxes and charge them \$200 more when they're already struggling with the highest hydro rates in North America. They're struggling to find a job. That's what people are struggling. I've crisscrossed this province, I've hit every single town and every single city, I'm going to continue doing this. Their number one issue is I can't afford my hydro bills. We have a choice between heating and eating. I need a job. That's what people are talking about. We're going to create jobs, we're going to lower hydro rates. And the way we're going to create jobs is by getting rid of the carbon tax and making sure we have a friendly environment to create businesses. As I've always said, my friends, government doesn't create businesses, that's the Liberal mentality, poor money of your hard earned dollars and try to come up with fictitious businesses. I believe we have to create the environment to create businesses and help them create jobs.

Q: Nicole - CHCH: Is daycare not the easiest program to cut, cause we know its \$2.2 billion and it won't start until 2020?

Ford: Yeah, but again, they're promising a ton of money for children that aren't born. I'm passionate about helping families that are struggling. The difference between Kathleen Wynne and Doug Ford, I don't remember Kathleen Wynne ever going into a Toronto Community Housing building to actually see how people are struggling. Doug Ford has been in hundreds of them, and met with thousands of people in Toronto community housing. I see first-hand how these families are struggling. I'm the first to make sure I help families. But we have a very simple philosophy, you can't take care of the most vulnerable people in society when you have billions of dollars in debts – its 311 billion as of today and by the end of the year it will be jumping up to \$350 billion. We're paying a billion dollars a month in servicing that debt. Do you know how many families we could help with a billion dollars a month? That's what we have to start focusing on, we have to take care of our finances. Once we take care of our finances, we'll be able to help the most vulnerable people in society.

Q: Carter: I appreciate that this is not your budget- I am not going to ask you to come up with a budget. But you don't have a platform, so for a lot of people what is coming out of here, they are going to have to decide if they want Kathleen Wynne or ...they don't know. So, let me run through a couple of the things in here, and you tell me whether a Doug Ford Ontario, would people over the age of 65 have free prescriptions?

Ford: Well, list off the questions, I will give the answers then.

Q: Carter: Okay. Over 65, and 25 and under: do they get free prescriptions, do we get money for mental health, will there be money for free daycare for two and a half year olds, will there be an expansion of free tuition?

Ford: Well, good questions. We have 71 days left in this election. That is more than enough time to unveil our new platform, and we have a new platform that is fully costed. That is the difference. Ours will be fully costed, theirs is not fully costs. And again, we are going to make sure that we put money inside the taxpayers' pockets, instead of the government's pockets.

Q: Carter: Mr. Ford, would you keep anything in here, does anything catch your fancy?

Ford: Alan, I don't believe any of their promises-they are broken promises. Let's go back to some of their promises. The Liberals said they were going to balance the budget-they did not balance the budget. To the contrary, if you add up what the Auditor General said, it is \$8 billion. You take that out of the people's pockets. They said they were going to lower insurance rates –remember that big scam they said in the last election, they were going to lower insurance rates by 15%. They haven't lowered insurance rates. Insurance rates for vehicles are going skyrocketing. I was speaking with my friends out in Brampton that are calling day in day out, on how their insurance rate have gone skyrocketing. I was up by Sault Ste. Marie, up in the North, and we had the Premier saying she was going to build a road of a billion dollars to the ring of Fire-that never happened. So it's just broken promises and broken promises. I have a track record of doing what we say we are going to do. So when we have our budget out, when we make sure we are going to be helping families with daycare, helping the healthcare industry, and by the way, we have

compiled the best healthcare team this province has ever seen, led by Dr. Rubin Bevelin. Dr. Bevelin was instrumental in the design and the building of the first digital hospital North America, driving efficiencies. We are going to be supporting the doctors and nurses that have been under attack by this government for years and years. This government has been attacking doctors and nurses. I have one message for our doctors, nurse and frontline workers; help is on its way, resources are on its way, but most importantly this government is going to listen to you. We are going to make sure that the doctors and nurses tell us the best way to deliver healthcare.

Q: Giovanetti: Mr. Ford, you have rejected Carbon Price, yet the Cap and Trade plan in this province pours billions of dollars of revenue into this budget. How would you fill that hole?

Ford: Again, you don't help businesses by making them uncompetitive, and that is what we are doing. The carbon tax it is hard enough to compete against the world market right now, it is hard enough to compete against our neighbors down south when they have the lowest unemployment in 20 years, trillions of dollars coming back in to their economy, and manufacturing jobs are coming back. And we look at Ontario, come to Ontario un this Liberal government, we have more rules and regulations than you have ever seen in your entire life. I was up at a recycling landfill site a couple of years ago, and he said "Doug, this took seven years to put together." They were trying to fight though the red tape and bureaucracy. It cost him \$750,000. These folks up there are working all about being environmentally friendly. Recycling products, it was a phenomenal facility. And he said that he had another piece of property but he was not going to attempt to do anything. Our goal is to make sure we are competitive on a world market. And right now, under this Liberal regime, we are not competitive. We have to start being competitive.

Q: Crawley: Can you do the math for me on what you said at the beginning of your speech, where you said a family of five is going to face a \$1,000 tax increase?

Ford: So, what it is, \$200 times 5 is \$1,000.

Q: Crawley: So, the kids are having a tax increase?

Ford: I am not saying kids. If you have people living in your house, and there are five people in your house, and those people are paying taxes, there is going to be five people paying \$200 more in taxes. It works out to be \$200 a person.

Q: Crawley: If every single one of them earns over \$90,000?

Ford: Its \$71,000. Not \$90,000. But anyways. \$71,000, you can check your figures.

Q: D'Mello: Actually, just to add to that. If it is over \$71,000, it is actually much less than that, it is only \$200 over-but that is not the question I wanted to ask you. This budget talks about opening the door to uploading TTC subway lines to the province, and actually owning those TTC subways lines. Are you going to make the same commitment? Would you upload the costs of the TTC to the province?

Ford: (inaudible) I think I've been pretty clear in my whole life in city politics is fighting for rapid transit in the city of Toronto. But as I visited Ottawa and visited London and talked to other areas that need transit, I am fully committed on making sure that we take care of the subway system, upload the subway system and build proper rapid transit. And let's talk about the Toronto and GTA area. I've always said - I've always said for the last ten years we should have a regional transportation system that runs from one end of the GTA through Toronto to the other end of the GTA. When I was in London they were talking about rapid transit there. I'm 100 per cent committed to the people in London, the people in Hamilton about their rapid transit system as well, so transit, it's my specialty. I love transit. But in the Toronto area, we're going to commit to making sure we close the loop (inaudible) the Sheppard line; we're going to make sure that we have a three-stop, fully-funded Scarborough subway that was fully funded under the federal, provincial, and municipal governments. So we're going to build rapid underground transit. We will have a world-class city with a world-class transit system.

Q: D'Mello: And just to follow up on that, the LRTs that have been costed in this Budget, would you stick with those or would you cancel LRTs (inaudible)? I know you're not a fan of them.

Ford: Well when we – when we put out our platform, you're going – it's going to be very clear, and I think that, Colin, you covering me for a number of years, you know I believe in subways. I believe in rapid underground transit. As our city is growing up, we have to go under, and you wonder about congestion, you just have to look at St. Clair Avenue, which is an absolute disaster with those LRTs along St. Clair. We have to start building underground transit. Where it's feasible in smaller areas of this province, smaller population, LRT works. If the council approves LRTs, then we're going with LRTs. But in large regions like Toronto that have six million people in the Greater GTA and Toronto area, you have to build rapid

underground transit. Similar to the subway that I build up to Highway 7, build it, they will come, and we're going to do the same thing. But we will have a world-class subway system in the city of Toronto and the GTA.

Q: Smith: In an interview during the leadership campaign, you told a social conservative website that you would consider changing abortion laws to require teenagers to have parental permission to get an abortion. Is that something you would look at as Premier?

Ford: I've never – you know something, I've never heard that at the door. I've been in thousands and thousands of doors, and I've never heard that question outside of the CBC reporter trying to get you the gotcha question, so you know, I'm focused – I am focused on – my priority is lowering taxes, putting money back in the taxpayer's pocket; building infrastructure and proper transit; getting rid of the high hydro rates; making sure we get rid of the carbon tax. But I can tell you my friends, I have visited not thousands, tens of thousands of people and not one single person mentioned that except the CBC reporter during the nomination. I think that I answered that question at that time. Next question.

Q: Catherine – CBC: Hi Mr. Ford.

Ford: My pals at the CBC. I know a way to cut some money. Anyways, go ahead. Sorry. Go ahead.

Q: Catherine – CBC: Okay, you say this Budget is making promises to children that aren't even born yet. It is surprising to me in the fact that we have heard politicians talk about future generations many times, so would the PC bring only initiatives that are geared toward born people or people that are of age of voting?

Ford: You know, I can answer. But to be fair, my friend's been standing up here like a loyal soldier. I'm going to let you take the last question Vic.

Fedeli: All right. Thank you Doug. Look, when it comes to all of these issues that you see in this Budget, they're all as a result of a made-in-Ontario mess and these are issues that have been ignored for 15 years. (Inaudible) a lot of last-minute planning and last-minute announcements, and I think that's what people have to come to expect from Kathleen Wynne. So if you look specifically at some of these issues, just think about this, why we don't believe anything we see in this document. Just last week, and a big announcement was made about a huge investment in horse racing. It was made, it's not in the Budget. It – you have to ask yourself why did they make an announcement over a hundred million dollars – significant – and it's not in the Budget? Was it to appease a cabinet minister to get them to run again? How can you believe anything that's in this document when an announcement wasn't included in it? You can also look – for instance, in the handout from the government, number four in their top-ten highlights, the seniors Healthy Home program. So they're offering a billion dollars quote to help them live independently. But in the 2016 Budget, they had the Healthy Homes program for seniors that was same thing, the basically exactly the same words to help seniors live independently in their homes, but they cancelled the program in 2017 because it had significantly lower take up than projected and provides little support to low-income seniors. So you've got a program they put in, then cancelled and put back in. And that's the whole point of this. This is just an election document. It's not a document that anybody should be taking seriously that any of these are real promises.

Q: Catherine – CBC: Thank you. It's just to clarify the question then. What kind of initiatives would the PC bring in for whom?

Fedeli: Well I think you've heard our leader say you're going to be reading about that long before the election to be able to base your decision, but I can tell you one thing. This Budget document is nothing more than an election document. It's certainly not a plan for Ontario's future.

N.B.: Comments captured are not verbatim quotes

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