

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queens Park Today - March 22

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Attachments: March 22, 2017 — Daily Report.pdf (151.14 kB); Briefing for March 22.pdf (366.33 kB)

Good Morning,

Please find attached the March 22, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing

Headlines

- o (P.2) Today is significant in another way for Ontario: It's the first cap-and-trade auction day. The [Canadian Press reports other provinces will be keeping an eye glued](#) to the outcomes for Ontario as it embarks on an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- o (P.2) Though Environment and Climate Change Minister Glen Murray isn't

saying much until the results of the auction are made public on April 3, PC Leader Patrick Brown has changed his tune somewhat, and is talking about a "revenue negative" carbon tax. [QP Briefing has the story](#).

. In the opinion pages:

o (P.3) Cap and trade? [More like cash grab](#), writes [Lorrie Goldstein](#).

. Article

o (P.6) Liberals hit voters with double-barrelled advertising blitz for hydro plan

Queens Park Today

. PC lead off
Hydro ads

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o (P.5) PC leader Patrick Brown began by telling the government to stop funding advertising for its hydro plan until the Speaker rules on the case of contempt.

o (P.5) Brown said Liberals are "making a mockery of this Legislature and its members" by continuing to run self-congratulatory ads, paid for by taxpayers.

o (P.5) Attorney General Yasir Naqvi said Ontarians deserve to know what will happen to their electricity bills.

o (P.5) Naqvi said the only reason the opposition is so worked up about the advertising is because it has no plan of its own.

Hydro rates

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o (P.5) Brown read a quote from the CEO of the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association who said the Ontario government appears "to do nothing to address a climate of investment uncertainty" related to "electricity rates that can be two to three times higher in Ontario than in competing auto jurisdictions."

o (P.5) Premier Kathleen Wynne said Ontario has seen a record amount of

investment in the auto sector over the past six months.

- o (P.5) PC MPP Todd Smith was removed from the chamber during question period for unparliamentarily behaviour and defying the Speaker.

NDP lead off
Hydro costs

- o (P.5) NDP leader Andrea Horwath began by discussing how high hydro rates are affecting the province's hospitals. She said Sault Ste. Marie Hospital's hydro bills increased by \$1 million and it is now being forced to cut front-line health care.
- o (P.5) Horwath said Toronto's University Health Network has seen its bills increase by \$6 million, or 39 per cent, over the past six years; Hamilton's St. Joseph's Healthcare's hydro costs have increased by \$4.16 million, or 105 per cent, over the same period.
- o (P.5) Health and Long-Term Care Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins said the head of the Sault Hospital told him "they have not made decisions directly tied to increases in electricity rates and that increases have not resulted in layoffs."
- o (P.5) Hoskins said in all his almost three years as health minister he has never had a hospital CEO say the one per cent of their budget that goes towards electricity has been a burden to them.
 - o (P.5) This was later disputed by an NDP "Reality Check" citing committee testimonials from hospital CEOs complaining about electricity bill increases.