

QP Newsletter: QP Briefing and Queens Park Today - May 18

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Date: Thu, 18 May 2017 08:52:12 -0400
Attachments: Briefing for May 18.pdf (385.13 kB); May 18, 2017 — Daily Report.pdf (158.36 kB)

Good Morning,

Please find attached the May 18, 2017 issues of QP Briefing and Queens Park Today.

QP Briefing

- **(P.2)** PC Leader Patrick Brown has bid *bon voyage* to the \$1 billion or so it cost to cancel and relocate those troublesome gas plants, [the Toronto Sun reports](#). It's gone up in a cloud of fossil-fuel-smelling smoke.

Bills

- **(P.3)** Second Reading of Bill 132, An Act to enact the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017 and to make amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998 and the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998.

Queens Park Today

On the schedule

- **(P.1)** Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act, will be voted on a second reading after question period.

Wednesday's debates and proceedings

- **(P.2)** NDP leader Andrea Horwath put forward a motion calling for a one-week extension to the legislative session so MPPs could have more time to study the Fair Hydro Bill. Her motion was denied by the legislature.

Topics of conversation

- **(P.3)** Plug'n Drive officially opened its Electric Vehicle Discovery Centre in North York on Wednesday. This is the first facility of its kind and is jointly sponsored by Plug'n Drive, TD Bank, OPG, Power Workers' Union, Toronto Hydro and Bruce Power. The facility also received \$1 million from the provincial government.
 - o The facility is open to the public six days a week to allow "consumers to explore and test-drive the latest EV models."
- **(P.3)** The 11th Québec-California carbon market auction was held on Tuesday. The results, which come as the California State Senate is considering to "repealing and replacing" the state's cap-and-trade system, will be released on May 24.

News briefs — Governmental Ministry of Finance

- **(P.4)** The ministry announced it **raised \$2.8 billion** from the final Hydro One share offering, which sold off 120 million shares, or approximately 20 per cent of the utility. The province has now raised over \$9 billion for 51.1 per cent of the utility.
- **(P.4)** The banks involved in the sale have 30 days to sell an additional 12 million shares, thanks to the government's over-allotment option. However, the *Globe and Mail* reported earlier this week that the sale's underwriters are **having trouble** getting rid of the shares.
- **(P.4)** Hydro One shares were trading at \$22.97 on Wednesday afternoon, down

from a high of \$26.59 in July 2016.

Question period

PC lead off

Partisan government advertising

- **(P.5)** Brown asked about hydro bills that were distributed with advertising on the envelopes about the eight per cent HST reduction.
 - He asked, “how much did this partisan Liberal advertising cost that you’ve stuffed in hydro bills?”
- **(P.6)** Brown also mentioned a letter from Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk to PC MPP Todd Smith in which she told him the Liberal government also advertised its Clean Energy Plan on hydro bills in 2011.
 - Brown said the Liberals have no shame and “will continue to cross lines to try to pitch this alternate reality of their farce of a hydro plan.”
- **(P.6)** Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** reiterated the merits of the Fair Hydro Plan and said the PCs are voting against bringing hydro rates down by 50 per cent for people living in northern and rural areas.

Hydro rates

- **(P.6)** PC MPP **Randy Hillier** delivered hundreds of letters to Thibeault from constituents who are angry about their hydro bills. Hillier said people suffering from energy poverty deserve the truth — not the Liberal spin on its hydro plan.
- **(P.6)** Thibeault responded that the PCs have no plan to help Ontarians.
 - “I hope that he’s telling the constituents in his riding that they have no plan that they have no idea on what to do,” Thibeault said.

NDP lead off

Time allocation

- **(P.6)** NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** said the Liberal government is rushing through Legislation that will cost people more money in a couple years’ time when it comes to their electricity bills.
 - Horwath asked why the government is holding all of the public committee hearings on **Bill 132** in Toronto instead of giving people around the province a say on this important legislation.
- **(P.6)** Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** said the government is moving quickly on its plan so it can lower hydro rates by summer. Naqvi said the full hydro cut will come 15 days after the **Bill 132** receives royal assent.

