

Unedited Transcript: Patrick Brown and Todd Smith Presser on the AG Report this Morning

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CP24 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - PC Leader Brown - AG Report

>>> Live to queen's park where Progressive conservative leader Patrick brown is making an announcement.

>> -- For gas plants and I think of how hard my community fund raised and worked to get new hvh in the cancer centre, that's twelve regional cancer centres. That's 13,000 new hospital beds. That's 240 new schools. This is a terrible day because this is a loss, this is a tangible loss for the people of Ontario.

10:04:08 AM

[Speaking French]

>> She concluded, auditor general concluded senior government officials knowingly ignored the government's own policy for preparing financial statements to create an unnecessary, complex financing structure. This was designed to keep the true financial impact of its rate reduction scheme off the province's books. More damningly the you had a you tore general said the Canadian public sector accountable standards are the standard for all federal and provincial governments of Canada and that the liberal government has brushed aside these standards. It's unbelievable when you read the auditor general's he report and says they made up their own accounting rules. It's unbelievable. The unavoidable and strong suggestion that something highly imyou proper has transpired. In the real world of ordinary people, when you break the rules there are consequences.

10:05:10 AM

[Speaking French] If a publicly owned company attempt today deceive shareholders in the same way the perpetrators would face prosecution. What's further in her report the auditor general confirmed still has not received all the documents that she has requested dating back to may 31st, 2017. Those responsible should be held accountable. I am therefore calling on the information and privacy commissioner to investigate the apparent misconduct. The Ontario PC caucus will be calling for the ieso to appear before the standing committee on justice policy. And finally instructed my chief of staff to write the secretary of the cabinet to ensure that a all correspondence pertaining to this matter is preserved a necessary precaution in view of past liberal behaviour in similar circumstances. [Speaking French]

10:06:14 AM

We do not have to accept political corruption as a matter of course in Ontario. It's time someone took a stand, drew a line in the sand and said enough. Kathleen Wynne and the liberal party of Ontario and insider friends have to know the days to which they can break the rules to their own benefit are coming to an end. [Speaking French] Thank you. I'm happy to take any of your questions. [Speaking French] (Inaudible) [Speaking French]

10:07:22 AM

>> This is an officer of the legislature. You have this -- you have this role so that we can know the facts, and when you have an officer of the parliament saying that the government is making up their own rules, that they are not being transparent, they are being secretive, it's obviously a very worrisome.

>> (Inaudible).

>> I don't think we have to accept political corruption as a standard in Ontario. The fact that there is complete lack of transparency leaves a strong impression that something improper has transpired and that's why I'm supporting the auditor general's request that we have the full disclosure and that -- that's why I'm asking the proper precautions be taken so that missing correspondence doesn't go missing permanently.

10:08:27 AM

(Inaudible).

>> Our finance critic has pointed this out there ISES no balanced budget right now in Ontario and independent legislative officers are all saying that. The numbers don't add up. And these new terms they are making up, the off budget debtor new accounting rules that it doesn't wash in the real world. It's one of the reasons I have been pushing across the province for value for money audit. I don't believe taxpayers are getting good value for money from this government. If you look at the past auditor general recommendations leaves tremendous opportunity where tax dollars could be spend more effectively. And give you an example on infrastructure, remember that report last year where they said the overspend

10:09:27 AM

could be 25%, don't measure performance, don't measure outcomes and the case that all of you covered about part of a truss on a bridge being upside down and give a bigger contract, 403 and repaving happened every two years instead of 15 years. A lot of waste at queen's park and I would adopt the recommendations of the auditor general. Want to make sure every dollar we spend is spent in a manner that is transparent and effective.

>> (Inaudible).

>> I wasn't aware of that request but certainly it's the auditor general's responsibility to expose the facts, to expose the truth and where a government has been misleading I think that's their responsibility. Whether there should be e-mails disclosed from the

10:10:28 AM

you had a core general. I would suggest whatever is the standard in other provinces would be a standard we should follow here.

>> Do you mind if you I add to that. When Kathleen win came on the scene back in 2013, she promised that we were going to have a more open and transparent government here. She claimed things would be different. Here we are we are in the same mess we are in. So the auditor general is still waiting to get all of the documents. We heard yesterday, two days ago actually in the auditor general's report that 2 million e-mails are out there on this issue, on the fair hydro plan. She has 13,000 of them. She is still waiting. She is still waiting for boxes full of e-mails to be turned over and we are waiting too and that's why Patrick brought in these initiatives today to try to get to the bottom of the truth on this scandal.

>> All right, just listening in to PC leader Patrick brown.