

Chinese press summary

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Hi folks,

It wasn't a monologue. The outlets gave a balanced view in regards to AG's accusation of "unnecessary complicated accounting and of hiding actual costs" in government's Fair Hydro Plan. The stories led off with her attack while the latter parts covered the defence from Premier Wynne. Opposition leader Brown's stomping was placed by the end.

Today Commercial ran the news as its front page lead. It was highlighted in the heading AG criticized the Premier of playing games hiding the huge costs and interests involved.

Sing Tao had the story as its number 3 in the A1 section with a mixed messages heading – AG warns the interest accrued could be an additional \$4 billion, and Ontarians will pay much more down the road as government defended it had consulted experts for the plan's go-ahead. The story itself was a translation of Star files.

With files from CP, Ming Pao headlined in its Canadian section the Fair Hydro Plan is expected to cost \$39.4 billion in 30 years as AG slammed government for using complex accounting to hide deficits. The use of OPG to borrow to pay for the plan will cost \$4 billion in interest.

As its second half hour broadcast lead, Fairchild played up the \$18.4 billion loan through OPG that will cost \$7.8 billion interest. This roundabout way to hide the actual costs involved will not show up in the Liberal's budget deficits, said the anchor. This was immediately followed with visuals of PC leader Brown and NDP critic Peter Tabuns pointing their accusing fingers in the legislature yesterday. The Premier's reply to their questions was given two lines.

There weren't any other echoes so far.

The Toronto waterfront high-tech development, a joint announcement by the three levels of government was widely covered. It was seen as the future home of a second Silicon Valley with Google to first invest US\$50 million for its development. Pictures showed Prime Minister Trudeau, Premier Wynne, mayor Tory and other dignitaries in group photo ops.

For the 3rd consecutive day, the outlets reported prominently the strike by faculty and admin staff of 24 colleges. It was hoped the strike will not last long as it entered the second day of action. Even though some 70,000 signatures for school fee refund have been collected online, the principal of Humber College Jen McMillen told the press it is too early to discuss the refund issue as the school is working to help students get past the transition period.

The Premier's statement on NAFTA and supply management, a PO news release was well used in the front sections of the prints and onlines.

That's it for this morning. Thanks.

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