

MOL- Bill 148 and Municipalities, Horwath Press Conference- Nov 8

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Good Morning!

BILL 148 – The Ottawa Citizen reported that the Canadian capital may have to spend \$13.3 million more each year on firefighters due to the scheduling clauses in the legislation, that includes a requirement to pay on call workers three hours a wage whether or not they work. The article said the bill requires material changes to the way on-call workers are paid, which includes volunteer firefighters. According to the story, the bill also would ensure the amount paid to volunteer firefighters would equal the amount paid to full-time firefighters. The president of the AMO mentioned that “we’re taking the position that this was unintentional. Minister Flynn has met with us multiple times saying that municipal governments were employers of choice, we were not the intended targets of this bill. We truly believe that they threw their nets wide and captured us, even though we weren’t meant to be captured.” The article also noted that a spokesman for the MOL, said “the ministry is well aware of the concerns that have been raised by municipalities, however he would not comment on what steps the ministry may take in order to address those concerns.”

Key Messages:

- We want everyone to benefit fairly from Ontario's growing economy. But while business is expanding and creating wealth, not everyone is feeling it.
- We need to address the concerns of those who worry about falling behind, even as they work so hard to get ahead. I truly believe that that is our role- to be a force for good.
- Because we balanced our budget, we have the ability to do so. That means free tuition, expanded childcare, and free prescription drugs for anyone under 25. And a basic income pilot as well as Fair Hydro and Fair Housing Plans.
- Building on these initiatives, we’re moving forward with our plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs.
- This includes:
 - o Hiking the minimum wage
 - o Ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers for doing the same job,
 - o Introducing Personal Emergency Leave days for all workers, two of which are paid.
 - o And stepping up enforcement of employment laws.
- With these changes, every worker in Ontario will be treated fairly, paid a living wage and have the opportunities they deserve.
- Whether it's childcare or healthcare, rent control or workplace fairness, the motivation behind each of them are the same.
- They will help build an Ontario where greater opportunity is available for everyone and greater security is achievable for everyone.

Key Messages: Status of Bill

- When the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act was tabled, we knew we needed to take it to Ontarians for their input.
- Over the summer, the committee travelled to 10 cities across the province.
- The committee heard almost 200 presentations and received approximately 1000 written submissions from those representing families, workers, employers, labour unions, and health professionals.
- Following the public hearings, amendments were made to reflect what committee members heard
- The amendments addressed some of the concerns of small businesses, while maintaining protections for workers.
- Bold steps are needed to support Ontario workers and their families, and Bill 148 is now stronger

and fairer.

- **But, we recognize that there is always more that we could do.**
- **Therefore, Bill 148 is back at committee.** It underwent a second round of Public Hearings, which will help inform the second round of amendments.
- **Among those who presented this round was the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, who raised concerns specific to volunteer firefighters. The impact of equal pay for equal work and scheduling provisions on municipal budgets is something we are aware of and are working on.**
- **We have listened, and we continue to listen to all parties.**
- **We have made the commitment to stand up for Ontarians, to make this Province a better and fairer place to work, and we will not back down from that commitment.**

2. NDP Leader Horwath Press Conference: will discuss comprehensive labour reforms to ensure fairness for all Ontario workers, followed by media availability. (Media Studio, Queen's Park). MPP Forster said last week that they would be re-submitting their amendment package from the first round of clause-by-clause, so we are not expecting any large departures from that package. They will say that we did not go far enough with Bill 148 and their changes need to be implemented in order to make it truly fair for workers.

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- **The amendments addressed some of the concerns of small businesses, while maintaining protections for workers.**
- **Bold steps are needed to support Ontario workers and their families, and Bill 148 is now stronger and fairer.**
- **But, we recognize that there is always more that we could do.**
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