

PO Afternoon Issues Scan

From: "Colford, Jonathan (CAB)" <jonathan.colford@ontario.ca>
To: "@CAB-Issues" <cab-issues@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "Lazarus, Jordan (OPO)" <jordan.lazarus@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 29 Sep 2016 15:45:04 -0400

Cabinet Office/Corporate Issues AFTERNOON ISSUES SCAN

Thu Sep 29, 2016 to Fri Sep 30, 2016

Minister Sandals Asked About Delay In Tabling Public Accounts – (TBS) In Question Period, MPP Steve Clark asked Minister Sandals why there is a delay in tabling Public Accounts (which were due on Tuesday) and what the government is “hiding.” Reporters scrummed the minister after Question Period, seeking the reason why the document is delayed, whether the government is questioning the Auditor General’s accounting; and about the deficit. Reporters scrummed MPPs Patrick Brown and Jagmeet Singh for their reactions; both MPPs wondered what the government is “hiding” and MPP Brown commented on the relationship between the A-G and the government, noting the government’s past challenges of the A-G’s analyses. MPP Singh criticized the government for not “respecting transparency.” **Media coverage** : CP reports that during question period today, the PCs said an “insider” told them that Treasury Board was challenging the Auditor General’s accounting. A-G Bonnie Lysyk’s office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Stroke Survivor Says Minister Damerla Misrepresented Post-Stroke Treatment – (OSS/HEA) At a news conference this afternoon, MPP Lorne Coe along with stroke survivor Jim McEwen, discussed Bill 9, which calls for ensuring that people between the ages of 19 and 64 also have access to OHIP-paid rehabilitative services for stroke recovery patients. The bill will be debated today. McEwen said that after receiving great initial acute care and physiotherapy, he (and others like him) learned they did not qualify for more assistance. He said the current laws are age-discriminatory, and not based upon need. McEwen added that the financial burden was particularly difficult as he was not working due to his condition, and yet having to pay for physiotherapy. He also cited Minister Damerla’s answer to MPP Coe’s question on this issue today, saying she provided a misrepresentation of the truth as she failed to mention the qualifiers for post stroke treatment – under 19, over 65 or on ODSP. MPP Coe’s bill would ensure that any treatment provided to a post stroke patient would be covered, regardless of age. **Media coverage** : none.

Minister Coteau Seeking Racial Data On Children And Youth In Care – (MCYS) The Toronto Star reports Minister Coteau says he will direct the province’s 47 children’s aid societies to collect race-based data as part of an effort to reduce the high number of black kids in care. Black community leaders have long called for the collection of race-based data, arguing that tackling the overrepresentation of black kids in foster and group homes begins with knowing the extent of the problem. Minister Coteau has for the first time committed the government to do so. At the conference, a report was released calling for sweeping anti-racism reforms. The report demands that every aspect of

child protection in Ontario be transformed by “anti-black racism” structures and practices. Minister Coteau, who is also responsible for anti-racism in Ontario, promised that his ministry would go much further than data collection. He said the government would soon amend the Child and Family Services Act to modernize children’s aid societies, which last year received \$1.5 billion in provincial funding. He promised to make them more accountable and transparent, and to improve the patchwork of services and care they now provide. After his speech, Minister Coteau refused to answer questions from the Star. He would not say whether his ministry was prepared to fund recommendations contained in the report calling for anti-racism reforms.

IPC Says Executives At TO2015 Didn't Get Rid Of Their Hard Drives In Order To Avoid Accountability – (MTCS) Information and Privacy Commissioner Brian Beamish announced in June that he would investigate TO2015 after Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk said the senior staff, including CEO Saad Rafi, had disposed of nine of 12 computer hard drives her office had requested. In a report released today, Beamish says he found “no intention by TO2015 to destroy records or withhold hard drives to mislead the auditor general or avoid accountability.” He says that even though some documents may not have been available to the Auditor General, it didn't impede Lysyk in completing her audit. Beamish says TO2015 had appropriate record-keeping and record-retention policies that “focused on preserving the content of business records in a cloud-based system, rather than on hard drives or other devices.”

Ontario To Change Law That Requires Same Sex Couples To Adopt Own Kids – (MAG) The government is introducing the All Families Are Equal Act today, which would ensure the legal status of parents is recognized clearly and equitably whether they are LGBTQ2+ or straight, and whether their children were conceived with or without assistance. Under the current parentage law, which has not been updated since 1978, parents who are not biologically related to their children often need to go to court to be legally recognized as their parents. **Reaction** : MPP Cheri Di Novo – who introduced a private member’s bill to this effect – applauded the bill but said it has been a long time coming, given that Ontario's Superior Court ruled 10 years ago that couples who use sperm donors and other reproductive technologies should enjoy the same parental rights as people who conceive naturally. **Media coverage** : CP, Toronto Star.

Tomorrow: City of Toronto Affordable Housing Summit – (MHO) The city of Toronto says in a release that the summit will bring together Toronto housing providers and mayors from across the country to draw attention to the affordable and social housing crisis in Canadian cities, and urge both the federal and provincial governments to take a greater role in addressing the crisis. Location: Daniels Spectrum, Regent Park, 585 Dundas St. E. **FYI**: media availability with Big City Mayors’ Caucus is at 11:10 a.m.

MEDIA CALLS

Toronto Star On Math Resources – (EDU) Reporter is looking to find out whether there is anything about "Jump Math" in the Ontario curriculum. He is writing a story about John Mighton, who recently received an award for advancement in education for this type of teaching.

CBC TV Toronto On Concussion Clinics – (HEA) Producer is researching a story about the large number of concussion clinics that seem to be operating across the province. She says these clinics are offering baseline testing, treatment, etc... some are even promising 24 hotlines with access to neurosurgeons. Some seem to be run by medical doctors others are operated by chiropractors,

physiotherapists, etc. She wants to know: Who is allowed to open a concussion clinic? What are the requirements? Is a medical degree necessary? Are chiropractors allowed to treat brain injuries? Are physiotherapists allowed to treat brain injuries? Are there any restrictions on who can sell their services to treat brain injuries? Who is overseeing these concussion clinics? How are they being monitored? Who is making sure these clinics are safe and offering sound advice? There seems to be 30 hour online course where people can get certified to treat concussions. Is there any oversight about credentials? Some doctors at these clinics are offering a private 1-800 hotline with immediate access to a neurosurgeons. Does that comply with provincial regulations?

London Free Press On EMDC Regional Intermittent Centre – (MCSCS) Reporter's request: I heard that on the weekend the staffing numbers were roughly: Friday night, one inmate and 16 COs. Saturday night, six inmates, 16 COs. Meanwhile the main facility was locked down over the weekend because of staff shortages. Can you confirm the numbers? Can you confirm that the main facility underwent lockdowns and the RIC was open and staffed? Can you provide a comment about the transition stage? Is there enough staff to run both places on the weekends?

Kenora Daily Miner And News On Rural Rate Relief – (ENERGY) Reporter's Questions: I am hoping to learn if any details are yet available on the additional rural relief --- who would be "eligible" and how would this decrease total bills an average \$540 a year or \$45 each month?

Metrolinx Media Call: Train Crash in NJ – (MTO) Media are calling for comment from Metrolinx following the commuter train crash in Hoboken, New Jersey which has one confirmed fatality and dozens seriously injured. There is increasing speculation that the cause was speeding and that the crew didn't apply the brakes for some reason. He survived so more info may come out very soon. They are also speculating the accident was caused by the train NOT having positive train control (PTC). Some media are asking only very high level questions about safety. However, some are asking about PTC - we're looking into it. One call from the Daily Planet (daily news science show) was referred to Bombardier as it was about crew training. On September 29, a commuter train crashed into N.J. train station, killing 1, injuring 108. Officials in New York and New Jersey are trying to determine what caused a commuter train to plow into a rail station at a high rate of speed. The train was not equipped with a technology that is designed to slow speeding trains.

FYI

MPP Singh Introduces PMB For Sikh Motorcycle Helmet Exemption – (MTO) MPP Jagmeet Singh introduced a bill today calling for an exemption to motorcycle helmet laws for turbaned Sikhs, and issued a news release. "The Wynne government has an opportunity to recognize the civil rights of Sikhs in Ontario, rights that are recognized elsewhere in the country, and around the world," MPP Singh said. "Granting an exemption to motorcycle helmet laws for turbaned Sikhs already exist in the United Kingdom, Manitoba and British Columbia, and here in Ontario the idea is supported by members from all three parties." MPP Singh has tabled this same bill twice previously, as Bill 196 on May 12, 2016, and as Bill 145 on December 3, 2013.

150 People Granted Standing In Court Case Against Raw Milk Farmer Michael Schmidt – (OMAFRA/HEA) CP reports Durham area farmer Michael Schmidt is getting a lot of support in his courtroom battle against an injunction sought by York Region and the Agriculture Ministry over the distribution of raw milk. At a hearing in Newmarket, the judge has given standing to 150 people who Schmidt says own the cows and milking equipment in his farming collective while he manages the

production of milk. Schmidt maintains the collective, which produces raw milk products distributed to its members, is within the law. A conference call is now planned for tomorrow where the Crown will decide how to proceed in the case. The Ontario government maintains unprocessed milk poses a significant health risk but Schmidt insists there's no evidence to back that up.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton: Release Of External Peer Review – (HEA/MOL) St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) has released its External Peer Review on staff safety. St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) requested an external peer review in the spring of 2016 after a series of incidents of aggression and violence against staff in its mental health program and psychiatric emergency services. The reviewers were asked to look at policies and practices, training and education, models of care and best practices to care for patients with a history of violence, and the impact that has on staff and client safety. The reviewers reported that St. Joseph's "has taken strong and effective action to enhance safety for staff and patients" and "responded to the recent cluster of incidents swiftly and effectively." SJHH recognizes that ongoing continuous improvement will be required in their efforts to enhance safety for staff and patients. Their report has six categories of recommendations, St. Joseph's accepts all of these recommendations and has already implemented many of them, and is well underway in planning or implementing others. Media coverage : CBC Hamilton.

Ottawa Man Found Not Criminally Responsible For A Serious Crime For The Fourth Time, Believed To Be A Canadian Legal Record – (MAG) CBC Ottawa reports Jeff Weber, 32, has been found not criminally responsible for a violent hammer attack in Ottawa's Centretown neighbourhood in December 2014. It's the fourth time Weber has been found not criminally responsible for serious crimes. In 2006, he was accused of threatening a mother and daughter as they walked beside the Ottawa River. He was Tasered and arrested by tactical officers, who found a knife on him. In 2007, he was charged with attempting to abduct a 10-year-old girl from the lobby of a Toronto hotel. In 2011, he left Ottawa for British Columbia without the permission of authorities. Outside a fast food restaurant in Kamloops, he forced his way into a car driven by a young woman, then assaulted and terrorized her. He was found not criminally responsible in all three cases, raising questions about whether the defence, regarded as a "third option" for prosecuting the mentally ill, is placing the public at risk and failing those it's meant to help reintegrate into society.

Flooding In Tecumseh Area – (MCSCS) The Windsor region was pummeled by up to 65 millimetres of rain in about 12 hours, according to officials from the Essex Region Conservation Authority. Windsor and Tecumseh were hit particularly hard as people are experiencing severe flooding. More rain is expected for the region with another 20-40 millimeters expected today. The heavy rains have forced the cancellation of some afternoon school buses.

Report Of Falling Glass From Sick Kids Research Building – (MMA) Glass has fallen from the Sick Kids Research Building for a second time. The building code was modified following a number of incidents of falling glass from tall buildings. The City of Toronto is investigating.

MPP Kiwala Wants To Ban Scalper Bots That Buy Concert Tickets Before Consumers – (MAG) CP reports MPP Sophie Kiwala is trying to outlaw "scalper bots," computer software that scoops up huge numbers of tickets to concerts and sporting events and forces customers to the expensive resale market. She says more often than not, tickets to popular music, sport and theatrical events are unavailable within moments of being placed for sale online. MPP Kiwala says the use of security bypass software, or "scalper bots," allows resellers to override the feature that limits the number of tickets that can be bought in one transaction, and then put them online for resale at exorbitant prices. Her private

member's bill would also require that the original face value of a ticket be disclosed when it is resold. Minister Naqvi recommended that government MPPs support the legislation on second reading, which suggests it has a better chance than most of becoming law.

Parents Of Baby With Rare Disorder Seek Ontario's Help For Round-The-Clock Care – (HEA)

CTV News reports a couple from eastern Ontario is desperate to find round-the-clock care to keep their baby daughter alive and out of the hospital. The eight-month-old baby suffers from congenital central hypoventilation syndrome, a rare disorder that causes her to stop breathing up to 14 times a day. It can happen when she's asleep, sick or when she cries. The disorder affects only 1,000 people worldwide. The baby's parents say she can be at home, rather than in a hospital, but she needs constant care. She doesn't have the ability to make sounds on her own, so if she is crying, no one can hear her. Neither parent can work because of their daughter's needs. But that is costly. In less than one month, the couple has spent \$10,000 for overnight nurses. The money is a combination of the couple's own funds, and money raised in their eastern Ontario community of Lombardy. Now the parents have appealed to the Ontario government for help keeping their daughter at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, where she has spent most of her life. The parents have applied for funding under the Community Care Access Centre, but what's being offered to them isn't enough, they say. MPP Steve Clark called on Minister Hoskins to take action. He raised the matter in the House yesterday.

Tomorrow: CUPE/OCHU Release Report On Hospital Underfunding In Durham Region – (HEA) In a release, CUPE and the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions say they will release a report at 10:00 a.m., at Alexander Park across from Lakeridge Health, 1 Hospital Court, in Oshawa that will indicate how many hospital workers and nurses are missing for the care of the people of Durham.

Tomorrow 2 p.m.: OPSEU To Hold Information Picket Outside LCBO Store In Ottawa – (FIN) OPSEU says in a release that the government "has embarked on liberalization and privatization of alcohol sales with minimal public consultation." Location of picket: Outside LCBO Store #38, 275 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

FEDERAL EVENTS IN ONTARIO

9:30 a.m.: New Federal Affordable Housing Initiative . Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos announces details for a new federal affordable rental housing initiative. Location: Toronto Housing Summit, Daniels Spectrum, Regent Park, Ada Slaight Hall, 585 Dundas St. E.

10:00 a.m.: Post-Secondary Infrastructure Announcement . London North Centre MP Peter Fragiskatos and Deb Matthews, Deputy Premier of Ontario and minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, announce infrastructure funding and highlight the benefits of the new Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund. Location: Faculty of Engineering, Western University, Richard Dillon Atrium, Main Floor, Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion, London.