

February 21, 2013 10:53 AM

New FOI Request - PO 17-20 - Records from Ontario's Representative in Washington, D.C.

February-28-17 8:48 AM

Subject	New FOI Request - PO 17-20 - Records from Ontario's Representative in Washington, D.C.
From	Forrest, Jamie (CAB)
To	Bromm, William (CAB); Farrow, Alicia (CAB); Pontikis, Maria (CAB); Marsden, Katherine (CAB); Deschamps, Angèle (CAB); Sumi, Craig (CAB); Killorn, Bill (OPO); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Lazarus, Jordan (OPO); Appave, Priscilla (OPO)
Cc	Hwang, Wendy (CAB); Matela, Angelo (CAB); Cvjeticanin, Dan (CAB)
Sent	February-28-17 7:10 AM

FYI

A new request from a media outlet has been received. The requester is seeking access as follows:

For the period November 1, 2016 to February 10, 2017, all reports, memos, briefing materials, or other correspondence from Ontario's representative in Washington, D.C. to the Premier of Ontario.

Processing is underway.

Please let me know if you would like more information.

Thanks,
Jamie Forrest
Coordinator, FOI and Issues
Cabinet Office
(416) 326-2672

FW: Correspondence Copy

February-28-17 9:53 AM

Subject	FW: Correspondence Copy
From	Orsini, Steve (CAB)
To	Bromm, William (CAB); Corluka, Marijana (CAB); Matela, Angelo (CAB); Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)
Sent	February-28-17 9:51 AM
Attachments	 FW Letter to Minister Tracy MacCharles.msg  2017-61 Signed Letter.pdf

From: Soares, Michelle (MEDG/MRIS)

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:51:30 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Orsini, Steve (CAB)

Subject: Correspondence Copy

Good Morning,

Please find the attached correspondence copy, sent from Minister MacCharles,

Thank you,

Michelle Soares

Communications Officer

Communications Branch

Ministry of Economic Development and Growth

Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science

Ministry responsible for Accessibility

Phone: 416-325-6816

Websites: ontario.ca/economy and ontario.ca/innovation

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FW: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

March-01-17 8:11 AM

Subject	FW: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation
From	Orsini, Steve (CAB)
To	Corluka, Marijana (CAB); Matela, Angelo (CAB); Kwamena, Boafoa (CAB)
Sent	February-28-17 4:53 PM
Attachments	 Fraser Institute Report_ON_20170208 v2.docx

From: Bromm, William (CAB)

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:53:54 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Orsini, Steve (CAB)

Subject: FW: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

[Info attached further to your request below. Diane and Reg collaborated on this note.](#)

W

From: Orsini, Steve (CAB)

Sent: February 7, 2017 9:06 AM

To: McArthur, Diane (TBS)

Cc: Bromm, William (CAB)

Subject: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

Diane,

Can your folks provide comments on this report?

Thanks

Issue: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

♣ In a National Post guest column, Fraser Institute analysts Charles Lamman and Ben Eisen argue that the provincial government needs to better control spending to repair the province's finances. In particular, they urge the government to scrutinize the wages and benefits of government employees.

♣ Citing a new Fraser Institute study on the wage premium enjoyed by government employees in Ontario at all levels, Lamman and Eisen point out that government employees receive, on average, 13.4-per-cent higher wages than comparable workers in the private sector. On non-wage benefits, the study found that government employees also come out ahead.

♣ "In 2015, eight of 10 government workers in Ontario (79.7 per cent) were covered by a defined-benefit pension plan... compared to just one of 10 workers in the private sector (11.4 per

cent),” the columnists note. “Government-sector workers in Ontario also retire, on average, 1.4 years earlier than private-sector workers. Furthermore, they are away from their jobs for personal reasons 60-per-cent more days per year.”

♣ Lamman and Eisen argue that it is more than just a fiscal issue, but rather a question of fairness. “Why should government employees receive a premium paid for by private-sector workers who receive less for similar positions? Taking the politics out of the wage-setting process will help level the playing field between government and private-sector workers.”

♣ The columnists urge the province to enact measures that link the wages and benefits of government employees to similar positions in the private sector. “Doing so would allow all governments (including Ontario's) to better control spending, rein in debt, and maintain fairness for taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill.”

Newspapers: “The ballooning costs of Ontario’s government,” National Post, Charles Lamman and Ben Eisen, Fp7

Television: None

Radio: None

From: Covert, Leah (CAB)
Sent: February-07-17 9:00 AM
To: @CAB-Top Issues
Subject: Top Issues for February 7, 2017

Top Issues

February 7, 2017

[CALENDAR](#)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Column: Billions at Stake in Accounting Dispute

Issue: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

Issue: GO Train Passengers At Risk for Exposure to Diesel Exhaust

Issue: Probe Uncovers More Flawed Cases Involving Motherisk

Issue: Toronto Star Launches Legal Challenge Against Ontario’s Tribunals

Issue: OMA Executive Committee Resigns

Issue: Teachers in Thunder Bay and Southeastern Ontario Set to Strike Today

Issue: Police Boards Call for Unpaid Suspensions of Discredited Officers

Issue: Rally Outside Hamilton General Decries Funding Cuts

Issue: Toronto Mayor John Tory Halts Plans to Cut Child-Care Funding

Issue: Fairgrounds Site Sits Empty Due to Road Widening Delays

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

CALENDAR

February 7, 2017

MPPs to attend pre-budget consultation

9:00 a.m. / Unionville: MPPs Yvan Baker, Michael Chan, Helena Jaczek and Mike Colle will hold a pre-budget consultation. (Markham Pan Am Centre, 16 Main St.)

Ontario Chamber of Commerce president to discuss the OCC's Ontario Economic Report

10:00 a.m. / Toronto: Ontario Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Allan O'Dette hosts a media conference to discuss the release of the OCC's Ontario Economic Report as well as new economic analyses that highlights the vulnerable fiscal environment faced by Ontario businesses and consumers. (Media Studio, Queen's Park)

Premier Wynne and Minister Hoskins to make an announcement

10:00 a.m. / Toronto: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne makes an announcement, alongside Ontario Health Minister Dr. Eric Hoskins. Media availability to follow. (Sunnybrook Hospital, 2075 Bayview Avenue, M6 Atrium)

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi to make announcement

2:30 p.m. / Kingston: Attorney General Yasir Naqvi and Sophie Kiwala, MPP for Kingston and the Islands, make an announcement about investments in Ontario's criminal justice system in Kingston and surrounding area. (Frontenac County Courthouse, 5 Court St.)

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at an Indigenous Women's Leadership Forum

4:00 p.m. / Toronto: Premier Kathleen Wynne delivers remarks at an Indigenous Women's Leadership Forum. (YMCA Toronto Central, 20 Grosvenor St.)

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at the Michael Chan 10th Anniversary Dinner

8:00 p.m. / Toronto: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne delivers remarks at the Michael Chan 10th Anniversary Dinner. (Premier Banquet and Convention Centre, 9019 Leslie Street)

TOP ISSUES

Issue: Column: Billions at Stake in Accounting Dispute

♣ Toronto Star columnist Martin Regg Cohn writes that not only are billions of dollars at stake, but political reputations too, as the province and Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk continue to

dispute over whether pension surplus is a legitimate asset on the province's books.

♣ According to Regg Cohn, neither side is showing signs of backing down over an accounting change that is worth \$1.5 billion.

♣ Last year, Auditor General Lysyk announced that she was overturning the rules that allowed governments to book billions of dollars in surpluses for jointly-run pensions deemed provincial assets.

♣ As a result of her decision, Regg Cohn writes that the government, and all Ontarians, will pay the price. This comes, he notes, as the Liberals plan to constrain its fiscal margin of manoeuvre through plans to reallocate funds for hydro relief or other spending. He adds that out of fear of another credit downgrade from outside rating agencies, Premier Kathleen Wynne has turned a balanced budget "into an article of faith."

♣ Although this can be seen as a simple political dispute between Liberal partisans and a politicized auditor, Regg Cohn writes that it's much more than that. He notes that it seems as if Auditor General Lysyk is as mistrustful of public servants as she is of their "political masters."

♣ In particular, Regg Cohn notes that Auditor General Lysyk recently challenged the senior civil servant in charge of the government's treasury board, Cindy Veinot, calling on her to provide additional evidence that the pension money should continue to be treated as an accounting surplus. When outside accounting consultant Deloitte LPP corroborated Veinot's position, the Auditor dismissed Deloitte's submission, arguing that it is biased as Veinot had previously been a partner at Deloitte.

♣ In response, the province announced an independent panel on Public Service Accounting Standards, who concluded that like deficits, a surplus belongs to employers provided they comply with basic rules.

♣ When asked about whether she would change her mind, Auditor General Lysyk told Regg Cohn that her mind is made up and that so far, noting she has heard has changed her view.

♣ Should both sides harden their position, Regg Cohn warns that the Auditor may refuse to fully endorse the treasury's public accounts and the government may opt to go its own way -- providing detailed explanations to credit rating agencies to disprove the auditor's stance.

♣ "There are political overtones to this dispute and economic consequences," writes Regg Cohn.

Newspapers: "Billions at stake in accounting dispute," Toronto Star, Martin Regg Cohn, A4

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Columnists Urge Province to Scrutinize Employee Compensation

♣ In a National Post guest column, Fraser Institute analysts Charles Lamman and Ben Eisen argue that the provincial government needs to better control spending to repair the province's finances. In particular, they urge the government to scrutinize the wages and benefits of government employees.

♣ Citing a new Fraser Institute study on the wage premium enjoyed by government employees in Ontario at all levels, Lamman and Eisen point out that government employees receive, on average, 13.4-per-cent higher wages than comparable workers in the private sector. On

non-wage benefits, the study found that government employees also come out ahead.

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Newspapers: “The ballooning costs of Ontario’s government,” National Post, Charles Lammam and Ben Eisen, Fp7

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: GO Train Passengers At Risk for Exposure to Diesel Exhaust

♣ Research from the University of Toronto’s Southern Ontario Centre for Atmospheric Aerosol Research has found that in some circumstances, GO Transit passengers on commuter trains are at risk for exposure to “markedly high levels” of carcinogenic diesel exhaust. It finds that passengers in the car directly behind the locomotive are at particular risk.

♣ The study, which is expected to be published this week by the journal Atmospheric Environment, recommends that “immediate steps be taken to evaluate and where needed mitigate exposure in all diesel powered passengers trains.”

♣ The research found that concentrations of pollutants were not high when trains were in “push mode,” with the locomotive at the back of the train. However, when the trains were in “pull mode,” with the locomotive at the front, concentrations were four to five times higher than in air sampled on the streets of downtown Toronto.

♣ The study recommends that “passengers with existing cardiac or respiratory conditions may as a precaution want to travel near the rear” of trains being pulled by a locomotive.

♣ The findings have been shared with Metrolinx over the past year, and officials say they have already taken steps to reduce pollution. “We welcome any findings that can help us run a healthier, safer transit service,” said Greg Percy, Metrolinx’s chief operating officer.

♣ Percy said Metrolinx has been working with the researchers and has already put some safety measures in place. Metrolinx is on track to have new high efficiency filters on all of its coaches by the end of March.

♣ According to Percy, the new Union Pearson Express fleet is made up entirely of Tier 4

locomotives, and by the end of 2018 the agency expects to have 17 of the cleaner engines as part of its GO fleet. "Going forward, any new diesel locomotives we add to our fleet will be Tier 4," he said.

♣ NDP MPP Cheri Di Novo said the study is proof that the effects of diesel trains are "worse than we ever imagined." She said Metrolinx should have been more aggressive in electrifying its lines. "It's alarming, and it's more alarming than we thought," she said. "(Electrification) has got to be a priority."

♣ Metrolinx plans to electrify about 80 per cent of the GO network. However, the project is not scheduled to be complete until 2024. Percy said the \$2-billion electrification plan involves a lengthy study and design process, and is complicated by the fact that it will have to be implemented on active rail corridors. "We're going as fast as all of that can come together."

♣ Study co-author Dr. Greg Evans said that the findings should not discourage people from using public transit. He also pointed out that pollution inside coaches is likely not a problem isolated to GO. The study found that 18 of 26 public transit agencies in Canada and the U.S. that operate commuter trains exclusively use diesel locomotives.

Newspapers: "Carcinogenic GO fumes cause concern," Toronto Star, Ben Spurr, GT1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Probe Uncovers More Flawed Cases Involving Motherisk

♣ An investigation of child protection files involving flawed drug and alcohol hair tests performed by the Hospital for Sick Children's Motherisk lab has now identified 24 cases in which the results were a key factor in removing children from their families.

♣ The update, provided by commissioner Judith Beaman on Monday, comes at the halfway point of the commission's two-year mandate. "A lot of harm was created by the... misuse of these tests, and this fiasco didn't only affect children, but families and siblings and communities," she said.

♣ AIA While the number of cases is a fraction of the 577 high-priority cases the Motherisk commission has so far examined, the number is set to rise in the coming months as an additional 1,200 cases are targeted for review. The latest figure adds seven new cases to the total since the commission gave its last update, in November.

♣ A Toronto Star investigation exposed questions about the reliability of Motherisk's hair tests in 2014, after an Appeal Court decision cast doubt on the use of the results in a 2009 case. The province established the commission on the recommendation of an independent review, led by retired judge Susan Lang, who found the tests were "unreliable" and "inadequate."

♣ The commission is now identifying cases in which Motherisk tests played a significant role. It is working with affected families and children's aid societies to provide counselling and legal funding and, in some instances, facilitate reunification. However, the commission had problems tracking down affected parents.

♣ The commission's work relies heavily on children's aid societies. It identified 1,200 cases for the next phase by cross-referencing child protection cases in Ontario's court filing system with a case list provided by the hospital. The commission has said it will also review any other case

involving Motherisk testing at the request of affected parties.

♣ In December, the head of the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), which has received \$1.5 million in funding from the province to assist with the review, called on the hospital to commit further financial assistance.

♣ On Monday, OACAS spokesperson Caroline Newton said, "We have not heard anything from (Sick Kids)... We remain open and would like to work with them on accountability to family and children affected."

♣ The Hospital for Sick Children, which initially defended the reliability of the tests, shuttered the lab in 2015 amid an internal review, and issued a public apology. Spokesperson Matet Nebres said the hospital "continues to co-operate with Justice Beaman's ongoing review, and to provide support if and when requested."

Newspapers: "Probe uncovers more flawed cases in Motherisk 'fiasco'," Toronto Star, Rachel Mendleson, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Toronto Star Launches Legal Challenge Against Ontario's Tribunals

♣ On Monday, the Toronto Star launched a legal challenge against the use of freedom of information legislation by the provincial tribunal system.

♣ According to the paper, the use of the legislation by the province's tribunals is "unconstitutional as an unjustifiable infringement on ... the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

♣ In its notice of application, the Star claims that the "[Freedom of information law] was designed to allow access to information from government agencies, not adjudicative documents from tribunals exercising judicial functions." It adds that tribunal records "are public in the same way as court records are public."

♣ In an editor's note, the Star writes that its journalists, along with the general public, are frequently denied "timely, meaningful access" to tribunal records. As a result, this has affected the tribunals' transparency and shrouded it with secrecy instead. This, the paper notes, is why it has launched the legal challenge.

♣ In a survey of nine key Ontario tribunals, the paper's journalists found that in seeking basic hearing records, there was a patchwork of "disparate rules that reveal a system without a common standard or legal foundation."

♣ In a minority of cases, records were handed over without question. These include the Environmental Review Tribunal and the Ontario Energy Board.

♣ In other cases, the paper's staff were denied records outright without explanation or any references to policies justifying the denials.

♣ In a particular case, one of the Star's researchers, Maham Shakeel, was hung up on by the registrar of the Ontario Mining and Lands Commissioner when she asked for a list of ongoing

matters.

♣ In another case, Star reporter, Jackie Hong, was met with resistance when trying to access records and attend a hearing at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal. According to her affidavit, Hong said that she was told she had to submit a request to attend a week in advance of a hearing, and that generally people are not allowed to attend. In addition, she was also told that for “confidentiality reasons” no one is allowed to access case documents.

♣ Hong also faced some obstacles when trying to access documents from the Ontario Civilian Police Commission, who told her that there was no process for accessing records, but that “something could be arranged.”

♣ In the editor’s note, the paper quotes one of its lawyers, Paul Schabas, who said that the application of the Freedom of Information Act to tribunals “severely hinders public scrutiny, putting roadblocks in the way of getting information and, when information is disclosed, important information is deleted.” “This is inconsistent with the public’s right to know about and scrutinize our justice system and is, we think, unconstitutional,” he added.

♣ “We believe tribunal rules need to be clear and consistent: they must all operate with the same openness and transparency that Canadians have come to expect,” reads the editor’s note.

Newspapers: “The war on secrecy,” Toronto Star, Editor’s note, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: OMA Executive Committee Resigns

♣ On Monday, Ontario Medical Association (OMA) released a statement saying that all six members of the executive resigned, one week after a non-confidence vote by its members.

♣ “After careful consideration of the sentiment of the OMA’s elected representative body, and discussion with the Board, the Executive Committee determined that it was in the best interest of the OMA for the Executive Committee to resign from their offices and from the Executive Committee, effective immediately,” the statement said.

♣ Some say the move leaves a vacuum that will be filled by more militant doctors who are angry with the provincial government. Many also see the move as bringing the profession one step closer to job action.

♣ Some physicians, such as Dr. Nadia Alam, have criticized the OMA for not taking a harder line when negotiating contracts with the province. Alam said, “Our health-care system is in crisis and without a collaborative effort between all stakeholders, the prognosis looks grim. Let the renewal of the OMA board be the spark that leads to a better working relationship between government and physicians.”

♣ “The board believed that the OMA can now refocus on mounting a strong and united front against a government that is intransigent in its approach to health care and disrespectful of

physicians and the role we need to play in health-care reform,” the statement said.

♣ The statement added, “The executive committee is making this choice (to resign) in the hope that this will help unify doctors and advance the interests of the profession at this critical juncture.”

♣ Health Minister Eric Hoskins said in a statement that he remains hopeful an agreement can be reached within the OMA but did not comment on the turmoil within the organization.

♣ The minister said, “Once again, I invite the OMA, without any preconditions on either side, to work with us towards an agreement for the physician services budget.”

Newspapers: “OMA executive committee resigns,” The Toronto Star, Theresa Boyle, A2
“OMA executive committee members resign following no-confidence vote,” The Globe and Mail, Eric Andrew-Gee, A7
“OMA executive resigns,” The Toronto Sun, Maryam Shah, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Teachers in Thunder Bay and Southeastern Ontario Set to Strike Today

♣ The Chronicle Journal reports that the Thunder Bay Catholic school board said that some of its elementary teachers from Bishop Gallagher, Bishop E.Q. Jennings and Pope John Paul II are set to strike today in response to a labour negotiations dispute.

♣ The board said that in the event of strikes “it may have no choice but to lock out teachers (and) instructions will be provided to parents in advance of the event of a lockout.”

♣ There was no word late yesterday regarding the possibility of a new round of negotiations that might avoid any strikes or lockouts.

♣ The teachers chose to strike last week after two days of talks with a provincial mediator failed to produce a tentative new contract. The disagreement came when the board refused a union demand for written assurances that consideration be given to experienced teachers when internal job postings become available.

♣ On Monday, the board said it continued to oppose binding arbitration, one of the options to settle the dispute that was “encouraged” by Education Minister Mitzi Hunter. An education ministry spokesperson said on Monday that it is possible for binding arbitration to be imposed on the two parties if new legislation is introduced, but also noted that, right now, the “government has no involvement in local negotiations and respects the labour relations process.”

♣ The board said, “We do not agree to let an arbitrator substitute his or her judgment about the importance of these criteria to the children in our system.” The union said it is willing to submit to arbitration, calling it “a risk both sides take.”

♣ The Cornwall Standard Freeholder reports that teachers in French Catholic schools in the Cornwall area might also strike on Tuesday. The Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 4155 asked the Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l’Est Ontarien (CSDCEO) to meet on Monday to

avoid strike action, but the board said it could not meet until Tuesday.

♣ A press release issued by the union said, “Despite the board’s claims of wanting to return to the bargaining table, it says to be unable to meet the union today. The board also insists that tomorrow (Tuesday) is the earliest that it can make the meeting, after the strike has begun.”

♣ The CSDCEO said in its own press release that it was the union who decided to leave the negotiating table and said the board and the union are continuing to negotiate.

♣ CUPE said CSDCEO is the only school board in the province that has yet to reach a collective agreement with its education workers. CUPE 4155 president Raymond Giroux said, “Education workers, students and parents deserve more urgent action. We are demanding that the board’s negotiators stop worrying about the union’s representation and share more of the union’s concerns about the quality of services in schools.”

Newspapers: “Strike set for today,” The Chronicle Journal
“CUPE strike likely at French-Catholic schools,” The Cornwall Standard Freeholder, Lois Ann Baker, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Police Boards Call for Unpaid Suspensions of Discredited Officers

♣ In a report released Monday, the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB) laid out the degree of support among local police boards for 56 proposed police reforms. A significant number call for changes aimed at making policing less costly. The boards also want the province to allow them to outsource “non-core police duties.”

♣ The province has promised a bill this spring to modernize the Police Services Act, and the reforms are expected to touch on nearly every aspect of policing. The reforms will be spearheaded by Marie-France Lalonde, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

♣ OAPSB executive director Fred Kaustinen says police officers keep getting pay increases that are “out of whack” with the rest of the public sector. “Labour settlements have been double the cost of inflation on average for a decade and a half,” he said Monday. The association wants to slow down constables’ automatic progression up the pay grades and rein in arbitration decisions.

♣ A policy proposal that gets 100 per cent agreement among the police boards surveyed is to give police chiefs the power to suspend officers without pay when they are charged with serious misconduct. Currently, Ontario only allows suspension without pay once an officer is sentenced to a jail term; so police forces have had to keep paying some discredited officers for years while their appeals dragged on.

♣ The OAPSB survey was administered online between September 6 and October 10 of last year, with 107 of the association’s 138 member agencies taking part.

♣ However, Bruce Chapman, president of the Police Association of Ontario, rejects the proposals, particularly around outsourcing. He also questions the push to suspend officers without pay from the time they are charged with misconduct. “Police officers are subject to a number of vexatious and false complaints because of the duties that we do,” he noted.

Newspapers: “Policing in Ontario faces its biggest reform in a generation,” CBC News (online), Mike Crawley

"Police boards call for unpaid suspensions," Toronto Star, Paola Lorriggio, The Canadian Press, GT2

"Boards back more power for police chiefs," National Post, Paola Lorriggio, The Canadian Press, A5

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Rally Outside Hamilton General Decries Funding Cuts

♣ Close to 1,000 hospital and nursing home workers from across Ontario rallied outside Hamilton's General Hospital on Monday, calling for the province to provide better funding for patient care and safe workplaces.

♣ The rally is part of several planned across Ontario through to the fall.

♣ CUPE Ontario President, Fred Hahn, spoke at the rally on Monday, and said that "All are suffering from the cuts of this Liberal government. We're here to say enough is enough." "We stand together to defend our health care system," he added. Hahn proceeded to call on the province to step up its funding.

♣ Lou Iannone, from Joseph Brant Hospital, said that because of funding cuts, patients are being pushed out of hospitals before they're ready and those needing to go to a nursing home are having trouble finding a bed. "The best advocacy we can do for our patients and residents is to push hard for the resources to care for them properly," said Iannone. She added that the layoff have staff has just added to the problem. "This is all impacting on patient care," she said.

♣ Meanwhile, Domenic Di Pasquale, CUPE 786 President at St. Joseph's Health Centre, mentioned the wage freeze lift for hospital executives and expressed concern over whether money that should be allocated for hospitals goes into the pockets of executives.

♣ CUPE 1404 President, Heather Neiser, said that as a result of all the funding cuts, hospitals are operating without adequate funding or staff. "We have an aging and growing population that needs more care than we are able to provide," said Neiser. She also noted that Ontario has the fewest long-term care beds for its population than any province in Canada. "Shame on us," said Neiser. "This is the result of eight years of budget cuts from the Ontario government."

Newspapers: "Rally decries hospital, nursing home cuts," The Hamilton Spectator, Carmela Fragomeni, A3

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Toronto Mayor John Tory Halts Plans to Cut Child-Care Funding

♣ The Toronto Star reports that Toronto Mayor John Tory has agreed to give child care centres in school a one-year reprieve from a cut that would have meant a fee increase for thousands of families in the city. While many parents have celebrated the move, some have said it is "exhausting" to have to debate the fee increases again next year.

♣ Toronto mother Alejandra Lara said Mayor Tory's move "is a great first step. But we may be fighting this all over again next year. It's exhausting ... Instead of constantly talking about

cuts, we have to be talking about how we can build child care in this city. Families can't live in this city without it."

♣ Mayor Tory's move means that 4,000 Toronto parents will not face day-care cost increases of at least \$350 a year per child. The mayor originally proposed the cuts as a way to fill a \$91-million budget gap.

♣ The mayor said he reconsidered the cuts after day-care advocates and city councillors complained. "Asking people to pay more for child care right now is not reasonable, and it's not right," he said.

♣ Councillor Janet Davis said she hopes the City of Toronto "will continue to fund child care in schools until we get additional funding from the provincial government." She added, "The parents of Toronto had a real impact on the mayor. What we saw today was a very significant reversal ... I think the mayor clearly felt the pressure from parents across the city."

♣ David also noted that the city needs to continue pressuring the province to provide funding for child care.

♣ Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam is supporting a "play-in" outside Mayor Tory's office at noon on Tuesday in order to protest the child-care funding cuts. Wong-Tam said that the mayor's funding cuts are a "value statement." She continued, "This budget does not value working families in Toronto that are struggling, especially those with kids. We want the mayor to make a long-time commitment to Toronto families."

♣ Mayor Tory sent a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne on Sunday that called on the Ontario government to significantly increase funding for child care in the city. The letter said, "I firmly believe that when it comes to issues like child care and housing, it can no longer be business as usual because the status quo leaves Toronto taxpayers footing the bills that the province should be paying."

♣ Premier Wynne responded to the letter, saying that the province has committed to creating 100,000 new child-care spaces for children under the age of four within the next five years.

♣ Also, the minister responsible for child care and early years, Indira Naidoo-Harris, said in a letter to Mayor Tory that the province has just completed a series of consultations on a roll-out strategy for the initiative.

Newspapers: "Parents cheer mayor's delay of daycare cut," The Toronto Star, Laurie Mondebraaten, GT1

Television: None

Radio: None

Issue: Fairgrounds Site Sits Empty Due to Road Widening Delays

♣ In a letter to Barrie's city officials, Essa Rd. fairgrounds owner Brad Keast said the delays in widening Essa Road from Anne St. to Bryne Dr. make it difficult, if not impossible, for Osmington Inc. to attract major tenants.

♣ According to Keast, the widening of Essa Rd. has been delayed eight times in the last six years, and is now scheduled for 2019-2021.

♣ In his letter, Keast writes that there are concerns that Osmington's efforts have not materialized and that it has been "consistently misled." "The property has been primarily vacant

for over 10 years in anticipation of redevelopment,” wrote Keast. “However, until Essa Rd. is widened, the property remains indefinitely stalled.”

♣ In 2011, city council approved the widening Essa Rd -- which is estimated to now cost almost \$10.1 million.

♣ At one point, Osmington was planning 425,000 square feet of commercial development for the Essa Rd. property and there was a site plan approval for the project. The piece of property was also included in the site for a proposed university campus two years ago, that is until the province decided that the York, Peel and Halton regions would be the locations for new post-secondary school locations.

♣ In his letter, Keast notes that Osmington is having discussions with potential anchor tenants, but without Essa’s widening, it will not be more than just talks.

♣ In response to Keast’s letter, Councillor Arif Khan said he’s aware of Osmington’s concerns. “Osmington has advised me that ... the timing of Essa Rd. improvements weighs on their ability to execute a plan,” said Khan. He added that the city has made substantial progress in the overall scope of widening the Essa Rd. corridor. However, he noted that just as with any city street which bisects a 400-series highway, the city is required to include the province’s Ministry of Transportation on planning and engineering matters.

♣ Regardless of development on the Osmington site, Khan said council intends to move forward with improving the Essa Rd. corridor and that Fairview Rd. will also be reconstructed. “Traffic flow, traffic volume, safe movement continues to be a priority,” he said. Khan added, “That said, the city is at the mercy of the MTO’s own timeline. The MTO does not have the interchange/bridgeworks in their five-year capital plan.”

♣ The paper notes that the design is underway and that the city is co-ordinating with MTO to approve the design.

Newspapers: “Fairgrounds sit empty,” The Barrie Examiner, Bob Bruton, A1

Television: None

Radio: None

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES (GTA NEWSPAPERS)

February 7, 2017

TORONTO STAR

- * The war on secrecy
- * Probe uncovers more flawed cases in Motherisk ‘fiasco’
- * Fumbling about the West Wing for tactics – and light switches (with photo)
- * A Hail Mary wager lands fan a date with Bouchard

TORONTO SUN

- * Can Wynne pull a Brady? (with photo)
- * Leafs fall in OT (with photo)

GLOBE AND MAIL

- * Police unite to reform sex-assault probes
- * With Trump in White House, the Balkans whisper of war (with photo)
- * Encourage seniors to delay retirement, growth council tells Morneau

NATIONAL POST

- * How welcoming to refugees are we really? (with photo)
- * Canadians 'not exceptionally tolerant': study
- * Morneau must find new revenue
- * Glory comes with a catch
- * This danse is definitely macabre
- * Is a prime minister as powerful as a president?

TV NEWS SUMMARY (6:00 P.M. EDITION)

Stations surveyed: Global, CFTO, City TV, CJOH, CHCH, CFPL

Disclaimer

February 6, 2017

GLOBAL – 5:30 PM (Toronto)

- 1) Toronto Police are searching for an armed suspect after a shooting at Yorkgate Mall sent a 14-year-old to the hospital with serious injuries.
- 2) All westbound lanes of the Queen Elizabeth Way have been closed in Burlington due to a serious collision that left one woman in critical condition.
- 3) Update: Toronto Police have identified the search for an armed suspect as “a public safety issue” and say the suspect may have fled in a red or black car.
- 4) Mayor Tory has reversed proposed cuts to daycare occupancy grants that would have seen fee increases for parents of over 8,000 kids. In a letter to Premier Wynne, the Mayor asked the province to take over occupancy grant funding in 2018.
- 5) Weather.
- 6) Global News interviews pedestrians about the merit of preserving Honest Ed's at Bathurst and Bloor, which is set to be demolished in the summer.
- 7) Ryerson University's request to restore the “Sam the Record Man” sign at Yonge-Dundas Square remains on an uncertain timeline as they search for willing vendors.
- 8) Researchers have discovered patients with misophonia experience changes in their brain activity when they hear trigger sounds. Global News interviews pedestrians about sounds that irritate them.
- 9) The American Humane Association has found footage of alleged animal abuse on the set of “A Dog's Purpose” was tampered with.

10) Entertainment.

14) The Ontario Energy Board is investigating a case where a Hydro customer's electricity was threatened to be shut off after paying his bill a few days late.

16) Global News interviews a daycare owner about the challenges of opening a daycare centre in Toronto due to numerous regulations and a lack of property space.

GLOBAL – 6:30 PM (National)

1) The federal government's economic advisory council has warned up to 40 per cent of existing Canadian jobs will disappear over the next decade because of automation. It also recommends raising the eligibility age for CPP and Old Age Security from 65 to 67.

2) A mother has been found guilty of disposing the remains of six of her infants in Winnipeg.

3) Health Canada has approved three safe consumption sites for drug users in Montreal.

4) President Trump's suggestion that Russia and the U.S. are similar in regards to murdering political opponents, journalists and human rights activists has angered many Americans.

5) President Trump has discredited negative media coverage and opinion polls on Twitter.

6) Americans are waiting for an appeals court to decide whether a temporary stay on a travel ban that affects immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries will be upheld.

7) Canadian Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan held first meeting with his American counterpart James Mattis at the Pentagon today.

8) Residents in British Columbia are dealing with the fallout of record snowfall.

9) Commuters in Calgary are coping with poor road conditions after more than 15 centimetres of snowfall over the weekend.

10) Queen Elizabeth II is marking 65 years on the British throne with her Sapphire Jubilee.

CFTO – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

1) A teenager has been rushed to hospital after he was shot at Yorkgate Mall.

2) Environment Canada has issued a freezing rain warning for the Toronto area.

3) Pearson International Airport is warning travellers to check their flight status as the weather may impact flights.

4) Weather update.

5) A closure on the Niagara-bound QEW is having an impact on commuters.

6) An 18-year-old boy was sent to hospital with serious injuries after he was stabbed outside a community centre near Jane St. and Eglinton Ave.

- 7) Oshawa Police are searching for a missing 14-year-old girl. She was last seen on Wednesday.
- 8) The family of a man killed in a hit and run last year is speaking out for the first time since the incident. The widow of the victim is calling the SIU's investigation process "frustrating."
- 9) The Ontario Medical Association's entire executive committee has just resigned.
- 10) Mayor John Tory announced today that the city will not discontinue the occupancy grants that child care centres inside public schools receive. The City of Toronto will be calling on the province to provide funding options for childcare.
- 13) Premier Kathleen Wynne spent the day in Durham Region today, meeting with local community members.
- 18) The provincial government is expanding the sale of beer and cider to 80 more grocery stores on top of the 130 that currently sell the beverages. Starting today, grocers can bid for approvals.

City TV – 6:00 PM (Toronto)

- 1) A teenager is in life-threatening condition after being shot in the parking lot of a strip mall in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood.
- 2) Weather.
- 3) Mayor John Tory has reversed a city proposal to end a subsidy to school boards that helps fund rent for daycares based in schools. He wants the province to commit to funding almost 5,000 more subsidized daycare spaces.
- 4) President Donald Trump repeated calls for extreme vetting of immigrants during an address to troops at U.S. Central Command. His comments come as a legal battle over his travel ban targeting seven Muslim-majority countries continues.
- 5) CityNews interviews a Haitian refugee at a shelter for asylum seekers in Buffalo, New York who is seeking entry to Canada.
- 6) Supporters rallied around Vice Media journalist Ben Makuch as he continues to fight a RCMP demand to turn over his background materials related to Farah Shirdon.
- 7) HMV customers are frustrated their reward cards will not be honoured as stores continue to liquidate and close across Canada.
- 8) Canadian tennis player Eugenie Bouchard is set for a blind date with a Twitter fan after losing a Super Bowl bet.
- 9) Update: Child care advocates are calling for Ontario to follow Quebec's affordable child care model because it benefits both parents and the economy.
- 10) Toronto Councillor Joe Cressy says housing construction should not come at the expense of struggling live music venues and culture.
- 13) The 85-year-old man who was assaulted by a fellow nursing home resident last week resided in a home that has been cited seven times for abuse-related violations over the past three years

without being fined.

CJOH – 6:00 PM (Ottawa)

- 1) Concerns have been raised regarding the privacy and security of both passengers and drivers in ride sharing vehicles after videos emerged depicting “bad passenger behaviour.”
- 2) Ottawa Police are investigating after a woman was struck by a car in Orleans.
- 3) Environment Canada has issued a freezing rain warning for eastern Ontario.
- 4) Weather update.
- 5) Winterlude is underway in Ottawa.
- 6) Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson is looking to move one of three main homeless shelters located downtown to another location.
- 7) One man was taken to hospital with serious injuries after he was stabbed in the city’s west end.
- 8) Legal battles continue over US President Donald Trump’s immigration ban.
- 9) Lawyers across North America are mobilizing to help those might be stranded as a result of Trump’s immigration and travel ban.
- 10) A Winnipeg woman was found guilty of concealing the bodies of six babies in a storage locker.

CHCH – 6:00 PM (Hamilton)

- 1) Police are investigating a downtown Hamilton stabbing.
- 2) A serious accident on the QEW snarls traffic throughout the afternoon.
- 3) Animal cruelty charges against a Fort Erie couple has drawn harsh social media criticism, especially after the dog was returned to its owners shortly after the incident.
- 4) Police have laid five additional sexual assault related charges against a Hamilton doctor.
- 5) Police are looking for a federal offender wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for allegedly breaching his parole.
- 6) A man convicted of murdering his three sisters and another woman is taking his case to the Supreme Court.
- 7) A Winnipeg judge found a woman guilty of disposing the remains of 6 infants in a storage locker.
- 8) City crews will begin removing dozens of infested Ash trees from Hamilton’s Confederation Park this month.
- 9) More than a thousand health care workers marched in Hamilton to protest government spending cuts in health care.

10) The Federal government economic advisory council released recommendations on how to deliver a participation boost to the country's workforce. They include raising the age of retirement eligibility and deploying a national child care program.

CFPL – 6:00 PM (London)

1) Agencies advocating on behalf of sexual assault victims say that London police have a higher than average number of assault cases that go into “investigative limbo.”

2) Both taxi drivers and Uber are threatening to withdraw their services depending on city council’s decision on licensing rules.

3) Weather.

4) US Democrats are working to stop one of President Trump’s cabinet nominees.

5) Dozens of Canadian lawyers volunteered at airports across the country to help travellers affected by the US travel ban.

6) A youth has been charged after police say a man was violently assaulted in Glencoe.

7) Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault was in London today to tour the site where the West Five community will be built on the edge of west London.

8) A 55-year-old woman is in serious condition following a snowmobile crash in Lucknow.

9) Collingwood police are investigating two deaths. One happened on a snowmobile trail and the other at the Blue Mountain resort.

10) Lambton OPP have arrested a man for possessing counterfeit cash for the second time.

22) 80 more grocery stores in Ontario will be allowed to sell beer and ciders this summer.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in these summaries are those of the media cited and do not reflect the views and opinions of the Ontario Public Service.

RADIO NEWS SUMMARY (6:30 A.M. EDITION)

February 7, 2017

CBC Radio (Toronto)

1) Southern Ontario is under a freezing rain warning this morning.

2) Police services boards in this province want chiefs to be able to suspend officers without pay if they are accused of serious misconduct. That's one of a series of recommendations to the government by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards. Ontario is the only province where officers must be kept on the payroll unless they have been sentenced to jail time.

3) Police are investigating after a body was found in the city's west end.

4) The federal government has approved three supervised injection sites for drug users in Montreal. The proposed Toronto locations could be next.

5) With supply in the ultra-tight housing market at a record low, many GTA realtors are being forced to find creative ways to secure precious listings, including free services, advertising blitzes and joint ventures between homeowners and developers.

6) The Toronto Public Library has launched a pilot program that will give people free access to light therapy lamps.

RE: Search Request - FOI Request - CO 17/17 - Artificial Intelligence

March-01-17 8:11 AM

Subject	RE: Search Request - FOI Request - CO 17/17 - Artificial Intelligence
From	Forrest, Jamie (CAB)
To	Veerman, Alan (CAB); Bromm, William (CAB); Matela, Angelo (CAB)
Cc	Williams, Nadia (MOF); Skoberne, Vivienne (MOF); Castillo, Mardy (CAB); Hwang, Wendy (CAB)
Sent	February-28-17 2:07 PM

Update:

I just spoke to the requester about the large volume of records expected to result from this search. For now, the request has been placed ON HOLD until the requester gets back to us. The requester may narrow the focus of the request. If that is the case, I will get back to you with new search terms or a new approach to fulfilling this request.

Thanks very much,
Jamie Forrest
Coordinator, FOI and Issues
Cabinet Office
(416) 326-2672

From: Veerman, Alan (CAB)
Sent: February 21, 2017 6:26 PM
To: Forrest, Jamie (CAB)
Cc: Williams, Nadia (MOF); Skoberne, Vivienne (MOF); Castillo, Mardy (CAB)
Subject: RE: Search Request - FOI Request - CO 17/17 - Artificial Intelligence

Hi Jamie,

As a proxy for Ed, I have ~3,800 e-mails with the term "AI" over that time period.

Many of these are either to or cc Ed Clark.

Ed will have additional e-mails sent to and from him over that time period.

Let me know if you want me to start printing them – I expect it would take quite some time and would need to be done outside of normal business hours.

Thanks,

Alan

From: Forrest, Jamie (CAB)
Sent: February-21-17 9:43 AM
To: Veerman, Alan (CAB); Bromm, William (CAB)
Cc: Kennedy, Nancy (MOF); Williams, Nadia (MOF); Matela, Angelo (CAB); Hwang, Wendy (CAB)

Subject: Search Request - FOI Request - CO 17/17 - Artificial Intelligence

Hi Alan and William:

With reference to the new FOI request outlined below, kindly undertake a search for records that respond to this request.

I think it is reasonable to use “artificial intelligence” and “AI” as key words to assist in the search for electronic records.

If possible, please supply any responsive records to our office by end of day **March 6, 2017**. Please keep track of the time required to conduct the search.

As mentioned below, we will consult with the MOF on records that respond to the request.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you think the request requires clarification.

Thanks very much,
Jamie Forrest
Coordinator, FOI and Issues
Cabinet Office
(416) 326-2672

From: Forrest, Jamie (CAB)

Sent: February 21, 2017 9:37 AM

To: Bromm, William (CAB) (William.Bromm2@ontario.ca); Farrow, Alicia (CAB); Pontikis, Maria (CAB); Deschamps, Angèle (CAB); Marsden, Katherine (CAB); Killorn, Bill (OPO) (Bill.Killorn@ontario.ca); Sumi, Craig (CAB) (Craig.Sumi@ontario.ca); Lazarus, Jordan (OPO) (Jordan.Lazarus@ontario.ca); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Appave, Priscilla (OPO); Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Foster, Robert (CAB)

Cc: Hwang, Wendy (CAB); Cvjeticanin, Dan (CAB); Matela, Angelo (CAB); Veerman, Alan (CAB); Kennedy, Nancy (MOF)

Subject: New FOI Request - CO 17/17 - Artificial Intelligence

FYI

A new request has been received from law firm. The requester is seeking access to the following records.

For the period September 1, 2016 to February 15, 2017:

1. all emails and attachments sent or received by, or forwarded or copied to, the email account of ed.clark@ontario.ca that relate to artificial intelligence (“AI”), and
2. all emails and attachments sent or received by, or forwarded or copied to, the email account of Steve Orsini that relate to artificial intelligence (“AI”)

The request is assigned to the Former Assets Council and the SoC’s Office. We will consult with the Ministry of Finance as required.

Processing is underway.

Please let me know if you would like more information.

Thanks,
Jamie Forrest
Coordinator, FOI and Issues
Cabinet Office
(416) 326-2672