

AUDITOR GENERAL REPORT DECEMBER 2017 ON TV

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Auditor General Releases Report CKPR	
Source: CKPR	Dec 6, 2017 6: 05 PM (4)

Anchor: Now to the spending of tax dollars by the Ontario government. An audit of the books is painting an alarming picture of overspending and waste in the millions. CTV Paul Bliss has more from Queen's Park.

Reporter: It hits taxpayers with a thud - 830 pages of revealing government waste and spending. Among the highlights, teachers now taking an average 11.6 sick days a year, up from 9 days four years ago. At the Toronto Catholic Board, educational assistants averaged nearly 21 days absent. Sick days now use up 5.3 per cent of school boards' payrolls. Teachers only needing a doctor's note if they take more than 5 days in a row.

Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General: I would think as a taxpayer that in order to book a sick leave, I need to be sick right?

Reporter: The auditor general states teachers are allowed 11 sick days at 100 per cent pay, another 120 days at 90 percent salary, adding teachers get 131 sick days when their year is only 191 days. The cost of paying for those sick days averaging \$49 million a year at four boards surveyed. The Education Minister pointing the finger at the boards.

Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education: School boards have the responsibility to oversee attendance management and that's something that is expected of school boards.

Reporter: The auditor says the absenteeism problem got worst after the government removed teacher's right to bank sick time until retirement. Sometimes they were cashing out up to \$40,000 worth of unused sick days. The report also shows some gas plants have been using your hydro bill like a credit card, charging you for scuba gear, raccoon traps, \$175,000 for parkas, employee car washes, coveralls, \$300,000 in landscaping and carpet cleaning. Plus the Goreway power plant in Brampton charged you 17 million dollars without any receipts, \$6.5 million for gas to fuel a steam turbine that doesn't even use gas. Fictitious costs for equipment it had no intention of using.

Todd Smith, PC Energy Critic: The warning signs were out there for years and the government did nothing about it. We had four different Energy Ministers who were in charge. They all ignored it.

Reporter: The government is promising the loopholes will be closed to prevent similar opportunism in the future.

AG Report Focuses on Teacher Sick Days CHEX	
Source: CHEX	Dec 6, 2017 6: 23 PM (18)

Anchor: Back to today's auditor general report. One of the big issues creating a lot of talk tonight: teacher sick days.

Reporter: It is a sore spot in the auditor general's dissection of school board staff sick days.

Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General: We are commenting that school boards perhaps need to put in place some sick leave policies, and some program to manage sick leave so that they can minimize the cost to the overall school board budget.

Reporter: A study commissioned by more than 50 boards found that average employee sick days and sick leave pay are up over a five-year period. The AG narrowed the focus, honing in on for school boards. Toronto Catholic, Hamilton Wentworth, Halton Catholic, Hastings and Prince Edward.

Lysyk: We are just saying school boards need to monitor this to make sure that a sick leave program is in place that is followed that would stand our scrutiny.

Reporter: Three of the 4 schools saw salary costs paid to workers on sick leave soar from \$32.3 million in 2011-12, to \$42.7 million in 2015-16. Average sick days taken during that period range from 8 to 13 days.

Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education: School boards have the responsibility to oversee attendance management.

Reporter: Toronto Catholic believes there is value in knowing why the sick days are being sought in the first place.

Unidentified: Perhaps by looking at the causes we will get a better sense of eliminating some of the sick days. We are working with an organization to get a better understanding of what might be contributing to the particular numbers. We are looking at implementing an employee assistance policy.

Hamilton Wentworth board chair Tom White chalks the numbers up to a particular moment.

Tom White, Hamilton Wentworth Board Chair: We had through the last round of bargaining with the province a change to the entitlement for our employees. Through the new structure where you can no longer bank sick days, it had a bit of an unintended consequence.

Reporter: Consequence that has been costly to the board.

White: We saw a large increase in the one year. It has an impact on us of about \$3 million in one year. Unfortunately that is unfunded by the Ministry of Education.

Reporter: The Auditor General meanwhile is advising the boards to come up with a plan to reverse the trend.

Auditor General Releases Report On Government's Financing And Accounting Design CHCH	
Source: CHCH	Dec 6, 2017 6: 20 PM (9)

Anchor: Ontario electricity rate payers are paying millions for power generators ineligible expenses out of footing the bill for large industrial company savings. That's according to the province's auditor general.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario Auditor General: This year, our October 2017 special annual report on the government's financing and accounting design under the fair hydro plan also raised a significant question of value for money.

Anchor: In her annual report, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk said the independent electricity system operator hasn't implemented repeated recommendations from the Ontario Energy Board, including one that could save ratepayers \$30 million a year.

Lisa MacLeod, PC MPP: The report describes a repulsive display of waste that would make any honest, hardworking, taxpaying Ontarians cringe. While seniors saw their power disconnected in the dead of winter, wealthy power executives were expensing thousands of dollars on scuba gear and car washes.

Anchor: Lysyk also wrote that more families are waiting for social housing than are actually living in social housing and NDP leader Andrea Horwath says it's only going to get worse.

Andrea Horwath, Ontario NDP Leader: Well I mean it's very worrisome. We've got families that are waiting five years, seven years, a decade to get the affordable housing that they need. We also know that there are literally thousands of units that are crumbling because municipalities, including the city of Toronto, don't have the capacity to undertake the maintenance and repairs that are necessary to keep those units in circulations.

Anchor: Lysyk's report also says Ontario is paying tens of millions of dollars to send cancer patients to the U.S. for stem cell treatments that don't exist here. Health Minister Eric Hoskins says Lysyk points to areas where Ontario can do better but says we're already expanding our capacity.

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health: And we've seen significant improvements both in wait times and in terms of being able to provide those services -- stem cell services in the province. In this year's budget, we announced I think \$35 million or the in order of

that, to expand stem cell transplant and supports that capacity at Sunnybrook hospital, at Mount Sinai, in London, in Hamilton. And I think over the last five years, we've increased our funding for stem cell, specifically by 600 per cent.

Anchor: The report also says teachers and other school board employees are taking more sick days, racking up close to 12 days on average last year. She says that absenteeism means increased costs for replacement workers, which of course means less money is left for students.

Ontario's Auditor General Releases Annual Report CBLT	
Source: CBLT	Dec 6, 2017 5: 59 PM (2)

Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General of Ontario: The current provincial emergency management program is not planned for more recent and evolving threats related to climate change, cyber-attacks and terrorism.

Anchor: Out of date messages plans over paying for drugs and the story we broke yesterday; hydro producers gaming the system. The auditor general lays out her problems with the province six months before an election. Bonnie Lysyk's meticulous and lengthy report brought out attacks from the opposition and disagreement from the Liberals. Queen's Park reporter Mike Crawley joins us now with more from the legislature. He's going to break it down for us. Lots to get through here Mike. It was so large, this came out in two volumes.

Reporter: That's right. My arm is getting kind of tired here. It is so big, 800 pages, the auditor's report. Giving you an idea, five years ago, it was half the size. Inside these 800 pages, the auditor has found a litany of spending problems to the tune of hundreds of millions of your tax dollars. Teachers and other education workers used to be able to bank their unused sick days and get them paid out on retirement. The province put an end to that during a bitter battle with the unions back in 2012. The result? School boards are now spending millions more on sick pay. Secondary teachers are calling in sick 26 per cent more often than they were five years ago. Elementary teachers are taking 29 per cent more sick days, and for early childhood educators, sick time jumped 41 per cent.

Lysyk: You assume that people are sick, and so you know, we are commenting that school boards perhaps need to put in place some sick leave policies, and some program to manage the sick leave so that they can minimize the cost.

Reporter: The auditor also revealed are more about a story CBC news broke yesterday. Electricity generators like this gas plant in Brampton, billing the province millions that they weren't entitled to.

Andrea Horwath, Ontario NDP Leader: There needs to be a crackdown on the companies that are continuing to behave this way.

Reporter: Turns out some of those billings that were supposed to be about generating

electricity were for anything but. Power company executives expensed scuba gear, raccoon traps, car washes, and landscaping.

Todd Smith, Ontario PC Energy Critic: The alarm bells should have been going off for the last number of years.

Reporter: Also, Ontario's emergency response plans are outdated, says the auditor. She revealed the cabinet committee responsible hasn't sat down together since 2009. Why did this cabinet committee, supposed to oversee emergency management, not meet for years?

Marie-France Lalonde, Minister of Community Safety: You know, I was very happy to release our emergency management action plan recently.

Reporter: The minister continued to not answer the question. However, the auditor had a lot to tell us about. For instance, more than 800 provincially owned buildings are sitting empty. That's nearly one out of every six buildings the province owns. And it's costing taxpayers \$19 million annually to maintain them. Also, more than half of all biopsies and urgent surgeries for nearly all types of cancer are not being performed within the health ministry's target of 14 days. Now you can be guaranteed with an election just six months away from tomorrow, that the opposition parties are going to be talking about the stuff that you just heard in that report and the other things that the auditor general found in here as they try to blame the Liberals for the waste and mismanagement that they have seen and end the Liberal's 14 years in power. Dwight.

Auditor General Releases Report MCTV	
Source: MCTV	Dec 6, 2017 6: 21 PM (16)

Anchor: Now to the spending of tax dollars by the Ontario government. An audit of the books is painting an alarming picture of overspending and waste in the millions. CTV Paul Bliss has more from Queen's Park.

Reporter: It hits taxpayers with a thud - 830 pages of revealing government waste and spending. Among the highlights, teachers now taking an average 11.6 sick days a year, up from 9 days four years ago. At the Toronto Catholic Board, educational assistants averaged nearly 21 days absent. Sick days now use up 5.3 per cent of school boards' payrolls. Teachers only needing a doctor's note if they take more than 5 days in a row.

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Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education: School boards have the responsibility to oversee attendance management and that's something that is expected of school boards.

Reporter: The auditor says the absenteeism problem got worst after the government removed teacher's right to bank sick time until retirement. Sometimes they were cashing out up to \$40,000 worth of unused sick days. The report also shows some gas plants have been using your hydro bill like a credit card, charging you for scuba gear, raccoon traps, \$175,000 for parkas, employee car washes, coveralls, \$300,000 in landscaping and carpet cleaning. Plus the Goreway power plant in Brampton charged you 17 million dollars without any receipts, \$6.5 million for gas to fuel a steam turbine that doesn't even use gas. Fictitious costs for equipment it had no intention of using.

Todd Smith, PC Energy Critic: The warning signs were out there for years and the government did nothing about it. We had four different Energy Ministers who were in charge. They all ignored it.

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Auditor General Examines Government Waste In 2017 Report Global	
Source: GLOBAL	Dec 6, 2017 6:04 PM (18)

Anchor 1: On the Breakdown, a deeper look at the annual auditor general's report, otherwise known as Christmas for complainers.

Lisa MacLeod, PC MPP: The report describes a repulsive display of waste that would make any honest hardworking, taxpaying Ontarian cringe.

Anchor 1: Whoo! That is the opposition reaction to Auditor Bonnie Lysyk's latest report. It comes out every year in early December. Now here she is briefing reporters Wednesday, talking everything from those teacher sick days to wait times for stem cell surgery. Three quick highlights here: First, raccoons and the price of power.

Reporter: Just so we're clear here, people in this province are paying \$30 million more a year for power than they should be?

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario's Auditor General: We do not believe that there is support for maintenance and operating cost to be covered under such programme, and that equates to about \$30 million a year. So yes.

Anchor 1: So what the auditor discovered is some power companies under contract to the province have been gaming the system by submitting inappropriate expenses. Some of the money has been recovered but \$92 million was lost. And those inappropriate expenses? Well power companies were reimbursed for things like staff carwashes, scuba gear, parkas and traps to catch raccoons. The auditor found that all of these expenses including to trap 'Rocky' here had nothing to do with running a power plant, yet millions of dollars have ended up on Ontario hydro bills as a result.

Anchor 1: But that might not be our biggest worry because the auditor also found that Ontario is not prepared for a large-scale emergency. Practicing for emergencies is key, that is what you're looking at here, but the report says the province only does this kind of thing every so often. Emergency plans have not been updated since 2012 and that means the latest information on climate change, cyberattacks and terrorism simply have not been considered. And finally now, this important measure best message from your government.

[Hydro Ad]: Starting this summer, households in Ontario will receive an average of 25 per cent of their hydro.

Anchor 1: The auditor found that government advertising under the Liberals has hit a 10-year high. \$58 million in the last year alone has been spent. Included in that, millions of dollars' worth of ads that the auditor says are too partisan and too self-congratulatory to the **Wynne government**.

Anchor 1: See, a little bit of something for everybody who want sot complain or gripe at this time of year.

Anchor 2: I think everybody can complain about raccoons for sure. But what happens next now?

Anchor 1: Well this goes to – you know it's been tabled now and everybody complains about it. I got one more. You want one more?

Anchor 2: Yeah sure, I'll take it.

Anchor 1: I'll give you one more. \$19 million, that is how much this province spends taking care of buildings that are owned by the province that are empty.

Anchor 2: Nothing? No –

Anchor 1: There's nobody in there. \$19 million for buildings which are empty.



Auditor General Report Highlights Government Waste And Spending CKVR	
Source: CKVR	Dec 6, 2017 6:00 PM (1)

Anchor: Good evening. Ontario's cancer patients deserve better. That's essentially one of the messages from the Auditor General today who says the government is falling short of its goals to tackle waiting lists and get procedures done. She's also red flagging a laundry list of other problems that she says have cost taxpayers too much money. Here's CTV's Paul Bliss.

Reporter: It hits tax payers with a thud. 830 pages of revealing government waste and spending.

Unidentified [clip]: Which one do you think is gonna be easier in this case?

Reporter: Among the highlights, teachers now taking an average 11.6 sick days a year, up from nine days four years ago. At the Toronto Catholic Board, educational assistants average nearly 21 days absent. Sick days now use up 5.3 per cent of school boards' payrolls. Teachers only needing a doctor's note if they miss five days in a row.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario's Auditor General: I would think as a taxpayer that in order to book a sick leave, I need to be sick, right.

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Reporter: The Auditor says the absenteeism problem got worse after the government removed teachers rights to bank sick time until retirement. Some times they were

cashing out up to \$40,000 worth of unused sick days. The report also shows some gas plants have been using your hydro bill like a credit card charging you for scuba gear, raccoon trap, \$175,000 for parkas, employee car washes, coveralls, \$300,000 in landscaping and carpet cleaning. Plus the Goreway power plant in Brampton charged you \$17 million without any receipts, \$6.5 million dollars for gas to fuel a steam turbine that doesn't even use gas. Fictitious costs for equipment worth \$27 million it had no intent of using.

Todd Smith, PC MPP: I mean the warning signs were out there for years and the government did nothing about it. We had four different energy ministers who were in charge. They all ignored it.

Reporter: The government is promising the loopholes will be closed to prevent similar opportunism in the future. Paul Bliss, CTV News.

Anchor: As mentioned, there is also plenty of criticism about cancer care services in Ontario, wait lists and the time it takes for procedures to get done. You can see a list of more of the highlights from the Auditor General's report by heading to our website, Barrie.CTVNews.Ca.



Teachers Taking More Sick Days, Ontario Auditor General Report Global	
Source: GLOBAL	Dec 6, 2017 6:01 PM (17)

Anchor 1: Brace yourself, this next story can cause high blood pressure. The auditor general unveiled her annual report today, detailing millions in wasted tax dollars. We're going to break it all down in a moment. But first one of the issues raising eye-brows tonight is the dramatic rise in teacher sick days. We get more from Shallima Maharaj.

Reporter: It's a sore spot in the auditor general's dissection of school board staff sick days.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario Auditor General: We're commenting that school boards perhaps need to put in place some sick leave policies and a programme to manage the sick leave so that they can minimize the cost to the overall school board budgets.

Reporter: A study commissioned by more than fifty boards found that average employee sick days and sick leave pay are up over a five year period. The auditor general narrowed the focus, honing in on four school boards: Toronto Catholic, Hamilton-Wentworth, Halton Catholic, Hastings and Prince Edward.

Lysyk: We're just saying school boards, you need to monitor this to make sure that a sick leave programme is in place that is followed that would stand our scrutiny.

Reporter: Three of the four schools saw salary costs paid to workers on sick leave soar from \$32.3 million in 2011/2012 to \$42.7 million in 2015/2016. Average sick days taken during that period ranged from eight to 13 days.

Mitzie Hunter, Ontario Education Minister: School boards have the responsibility to oversee attendance management.

Reporter: Toronto Catholic believes there's value in knowing why the sick days are being sought in the first place.

Rory McGuckin, Director of Education, Toronto Catholic District School Board: Perhaps by looking at the causes, we'll get a better sense of eliminating some of those sick days. We're working with an organization to try and get a better understanding of what might

be contributing to those numbers. We are looking at implementing an employee assistance programme.

Reporter: Hamilton-Wentworth Board Chair Todd White chalks the numbers up to a particular moment.

Todd White, Chair of the Board, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board: We had through the last round of bargaining with the province, a change to the entitlement for our employees. Through that new structure, where you could no longer bank sick days, it had a bit of an unintended consequence.

Reporter: A consequence that's been costly to his board.

White: We saw a large increase in that one year. It has an impact on us of about \$3 to \$4 million in one year. Unfortunately, that's unfunded by the Ministry of Education.

Reporter: The auditor general meanwhile is advising the boards to come up with a plan to reverse the trend.



Ontario Auditor General Releases Annual Report Today CJOH	
Source: CJOH	Dec 6, 2017 6:11 PM (6)

Anchor 1: Some damning findings released by Ontario's Auditor General in her report today.

Anchor 2: Ontario's teachers are calling in sick in unprecedented numbers. This happened just as teachers were told they can no longer bank sick leave.

Anchor 1: CTV's Claudia Cautillo joins us now with the details on this.

Reporter: You may remember a few years ago that the province stopped allowing the teachers to bank their unused sick days and cash it out at retirement. This was supposed to save money. While the Auditor looked at the five year period since that happend and found a pattern. The Auditor found that teachers at 50 school boards, there was 29 per cent of sick leave in five years. That's an average of 11.6 sick days per employee. More than 5 per cent of payroll now spent by the boards on sick leave. This is what Ontario's Auditor said today.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario Auditor General: I would think, as a taxpayer, that in order to book a sick leave, I need to be sick, right? With the increase that we are seeing, we're just saying that school boards you need to monitor this to make sure that a sick leave program is in place that is followed that would stand our scrutiny of it.

Reporter: The Auditor also found serious waste in Ontario's hydro industry, taxpayers paying millions for ineligible expenses. Things like scuba gear, raccoon traps and parkas. She also found that the province's Independent Electricity System Operator has not acted on repeated recommendations that could have saved Ontarians tens of millions of dollars. Also among the Auditor's findings, more than half of biopsies, many that are crucial for diagnosing cancer, are not being done within the Ministry of Health's 14-day target. Graham and Patricia.

Anchor 2: CTV's Claudia Cautillo reporting live for us tonight.

Auditor General Finds Problems In Health Care And Advertising Spending CBET

Source: CBET

Dec 6, 2017 6:07 PM (6)

Anchor: According to the Auditor General's report, more than half of all biopsies and urgent surgeries for nearly all types of cancer are not being performed within the 14 day targets set by the health ministry. The government spent about \$58 million on advertising last year. That's more than it has in a decade. The Auditor says nearly one third of that spending was for adds designed to make the government look good.

Auditor General Releases 2017 Report And Reveals Government Waste CFTO	
Source: CFTO	Dec 6, 2017 12:00 PM (1)

Anchor 1: We are live over Queen's Park. From here, politicians, members of the Liberal government make decisions about how services are delivered in this province. This hour, those decisions are under scrutiny. Good afternoon. From cancer treatment to education to electricity, Ontario's auditor general is releasing her report on whether those services and others are delivered in a timely and cost effective way.

Anchor 2: Bonnie Lysyk is going to sit down in front of the cameras in just a few minutes' time to deliver her findings, but our Paul Bliss is here right now to tell us first. Paul has been in what's called a reporter lockup. He's been able to pore over the AG's report, the details which you can now report. Paul?

Reporter: That's right, Ken, and you always try to approach a document like this dispassionately, but you read some of the things that the auditor general has uncovered and it makes you start to curse in the lockup and shake your head and roll your eyes, and ultimately we have to bring to you some of the waste that she's uncovered. So let's start with the electricity sector. She took a close look at the way natural gas power plants are working in the province of Ontario, and they've been using your hydro bill like a shopping credit card. Some of the findings are quite surprising and stunning. So what she found is that one plant in particular, the Goreway power plant in Brampton, it claimed \$17 million in costs but provided no records or receipts. Is claimed \$6.5 million for gas to fuel a steam turbine, a steam turbine that doesn't even use any gas. \$300,000 for landscaping. This is a good one here. Documents containing fictitious costs for equipment worth \$27 million. So the auditor general describes it as fictitious costs. I've been saving the best for last. What else are they billing you for? Staff car washes, carpet cleaning, scuba gear – I don't know why a gas plant needs scuba gear – road repair, raccoon traps, and \$175,000 for parkas and coveralls.

Reporter: Okay, so that's a quick look at the natural gas sector. Bonnie Lysyk also discovering that the IESO which operates the hydro grid has some problems when it comes to cybersecurity, that it's actually had some attacks penetrate it over the last couple of years and it's also been using a computer to monitor transactions within the industry. That was set up back in 2003, and when the auditor general sent its personnel into the IESO to take a look at the computer system, the people inside the IESO said 'Nah we're not going to touch this one because we're afraid it's going to crash,' because

it was put together in 2003. They said they just haven't gotten around to upgrading it and it's in the budget for next year.

Reporter: Okay so now we're going to switch over to the use of taxpayer dollars within the school board. We're talking about teachers' sick days. The auditor general reviewed four school boards and found that teacher sick days are soaring, that it's now up to an average of 11.6 days per year. That is up from five not long ago, and in one case, one category of teachers at the Toronto Catholic Board, are taking 20.7 sick days a year. At Toronto Catholic elementary, they're averaging 14 sick days. Now the problem with this is it's costing the boards a lot of money. \$49 million a year just for these four boards to cover the costs of the teachers calling in sick. Sick days now actually account for 5.2 per cent of the entire payroll for some of these boards, so it's becoming quite a problem, and the auditor general points out that one of the challenges is that teachers can get 90 per cent of their pay if they take up to 121 sick days. They say it's not much of a disincentive, whereas the average public servant only gets 75 per cent over the pay if they take 121 sick days or so. Let's listen to Bonnie Lysyk, who is the auditor general, as she addresses the media, the news conference that started just about 45 seconds ago.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario's Auditor General: [Joined in progress]....One that emerges year after year is that the decision makers do not always have all of the information needed to make the most appropriate decisions. A related theme in many of this year's VFMs is the need for governments to improve longer term planning that supports timely and informed decision making and oversight. This will become readily apparent as I summarize the VFMs. Our audit of emergency management in Ontario found that the last provincial risk assessment was based on emergencies experienced in Ontario up to 2009. That means the current provincial emergency management program has not planned for more recent and evolving threats related to climate change, cyberattacks and terrorism. In addition to, the provincial emergency response plan and the provincial nuclear response plan have not been upgraded since 2008 and 2009 respectively. Our audit of the IESO's market oversight and cybersecurity found that the Ontario Energy Board's market surveillance panel has said in 30 reports since 2002 that Ontario's electricity market is vulnerable to manipulation because of design weaknesses and flaws. Some market participants have exploited these flaws, resulting in millions of dollars of additional costs for ratepayers. Our audit of cancer treatment services found that Ontarians needs were not being fully met.

Reporter: Okay I just want to expand upon on the audit of cancer treatment services in the province of Ontario. This is important to so many families that have been touched by cancer. So she took a look at the system and she is saying that Ontario's needs are not being met in the areas of stem cell transplants, access to take-home cancer drugs, radiation treatment, PET scans – P-E-T scans – and symptom management and psychological oncology services. So one example, urgent surgeries for 15 out of 17 types of cancer did not meet the ministry's 14-day wait time target. Further to that, Cancer Care Ontario has determined 48 per cent of cancer patients would benefit from radiation treatment but only 39 per cent actually received it last year. And Ontario does

not cover the full cost of take-home drugs for cancer care. We're also sending patients to the United States. The province actually sending patients to the US at an average cost of \$660,000, when that same cost in Ontario would be just \$128,000. So it costs half a million more to send patients for treatment in the United States, yet we're doing that anyway at quite the pace. She says that just under half of the biopsies performed in hospitals were done within the ministry's targeted wait times of 14 delays.

Reporter: So a lot of points to be concerned about there in the cancer treatment area that she looked at. She also examined pharmacare and as you heard, emergency management. She says that Ontario's vulnerable to a large scale disaster because we haven't really upgraded and updated our emergency response plans since 2009 and the threats have changed since then. So we're still pouring through the details; Bonnie Lysyk talking, we're going to talk to the government, find out how it's going to fix all this, and the opposition to find out how angry they might be. We'll send it back to you.

Anchor 2: Okay Paul, so there are a lot of people at home gritting their teeth right now. There's so many things to throw at you and so I will apologize in advance – IESO not properly planning for cyberattacks, really? I find that difficult to believe. Listen, on the healthcare front, I don't understand. You know what it reminds me of, is the FRAM oil filter commercial, you can pay me now or you can pay me later. Why are we sending them across the border at half a million dollars extra cost on that? In the executive summary or on the conclusion on her report, did she indicate are things getting better, or are they getting worse, how does this report fit in with others? And really how much lies on the shoulders of politicians, how much lies on the deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers?

Reporter: Well a lot of it goes to funding, Ken. The politicians we send here, we pay them to make decisions on where the money goes, and it's limited funds certainly for hospitals and drugs are costing more. But the auditor points out we're paying hundreds of millions of dollars more for generic drugs than we should. In fact, she cited one common drug that we spend – I believe she said \$127 million more than they spend on it in New Zealand, and she can't understand why, especially since Ontario has such incredible buying power. But to make you shake your head a little bit more, she said the Ministry of Health actually spends tens of millions of dollars more on the same drug than Ontario hospitals spend for that drug. So you're trying to figure out, okay why does the Ministry of Health spends tens of millions of dollars more than the hospitals spend for the same drug? It doesn't make any sense. What I always wonder is why if the auditor can find this the mangers in the system aren't pointing this out, raising the red flag and saying 'let's fix it.' We all know healthcare is expensive. Cancer care is expensive. But these inefficiencies make you wonder how this is getting passed.

Anchor 2: It all makes you wonder. Paul, thank you. Appreciate it. Going to let you pore over those documents, bring us more tonight at 6pm. Good luck to you.



Auditor General Releases Value-For-Money Report Today CKCO	
Source: CKCO	Dec 6, 2017 12:17 PM (15)

Anchor: How the provincial government spends our tax dollars is under heavy scrutiny today as Ontario's Auditor General releases her final report before the 2018 election and what Bonnie Lysyk's review exposes could be ammunition for the opposition. CTV's Daryl Morris joins us from the newsroom. The report just became public this hour and it appears the Auditor General is focussing a lot on health care spending.

Reporter: Bonnie Lysyk conducted 14 value-for-money audits, five of those focussed on health care services to see if they are delivered in a timely and cost effective way. The report found that patients are waiting too long for key biopsies to diagnose cancer. Only 46 per cent of those biopsies are performed within the Ministry of Health's 14-day target. The government is also spending millions to send patients to the United States for stem cell transplants because Ontario doesn't have the capacity to perform the procedure. This is Lysyk's fifth value-for-money audit and says a common theme every year is that governments need to improve on long-term planning.

Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario Auditor General: The province's limited capacity to perform stem cell transplants was first identified as an issue in 2009. In the next six years, this issue led to excessive wait times and costly out of country procedures.

Reporter: Sick days at Ontario's school boards and the provinces independent electricity system operator are also under the microscope. The report blasting the IESO for billing ratepayers millions for ineligible expenses like scuba gear and racoon traps. Lysyk also notes the IESO has failed to implement repeated recommendations from the Ontario Energy Board, recommendations that is would save taxpayers \$30 million a year.

Anchor: That's a lot of money. Thanks Daryl.
