

# NDP on AG's FHP Report

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Hey both,

List of all NDP transcripts, and release.

Sebastian.

## **TRANSCRIPT – Peter Tabuns scrum after Ministers’ media availability – October 17, 2017**

MPP: Peter Tabuns

*Media: Jones, Artuso, Bliss, CityTV, Global, McGrath, Hains*

[START TRANSCRIPT]

*Citytv: And your thoughts Peter*

Tabuns:

- Well, this was one of the most shameless displays I have ever seen from Liberal cabinet ministers
- And I have seen some pretty shameless stuff
- They’re trying to make this whole thing to be a fight over accounting
- And really
- The guts of this
- Is if this government is spending \$4 billion dollars more on interest that we’re going to have to pay for on our hydro bills
- So they can move these numbers off their books to make it look as though they are not running a deficit
- That’s the heart of all of this
- They can spend all the time they want talking about different accountants they’ve hired
- In the end, it’s our hydro bills and its \$4 billion dollars more that we’re spending

that we don't have to pay

- This is a road they're going down that is really destructive to this province
- And really hard on the people who are trying to get by month by month, covering their bills

*Artuso: is it going to sort of corner future governments in terms of what options they have in terms of reducing hydro costs or do people have to absorb this expense?*

Tabuns:

- Yeah
- No you're right as a matter of fact
- It's going to add to all of the cost pressures that are going come out over the next decade
- As the refurbishments come online
- As there are changes in technology
- Yeah, it is going to mean that our bills are going to go up very fast, before we even start looking at other factors that are going to come across the market place
- So it's bad news for the system, overall
- But again, I need to focus on this
- They could've gone – if they were going to take this route down a much cheaper road
- And they decided to go down an expensive road to make their books look good
- That is crazy

*Bliss: bigger picture here, the Auditor General is an independent officer of the legislature, presumably she has public trust. And here again we have the government saying respectfully we disagree with you. This leaves people confused.*

Tabuns

- Well it may leave them confused
- But I'll point out to you, that the financial accountability officer has agreed with the Auditor General
- Has said that we're being asked to shell out an extra \$4-billion for our hydro bills that we need not shell out
- So we have two independent officers of this legislation who are saying this government made the decision that is going to hurt people in their hydro bills

*Bliss: Who do you believe?*

Tabuns:

- \*laughs\*
- I assume that's not a rhetorical question
- I believe the auditor general and the financial accountability officer
- Not just because I think they have credibility given their professional status
- But because the arguments they make, the information they present, makes sense

*McGrath: What do you make of the government's argument that uh the debt retirement charge precedent doesn't really hold here because when they broke up hydro – Ontario hydro, nobody wanted to buy that*

*debt whereas they can actually make some – they can find buyers for this debt?*

Tabuns:

- Yeah, you know, that just – more weird spin on their part
- The reality is, we've got a problem in Ontario with affordability of hydro
- They could have taken a different route
- They didn't
- They are doing this to protect themselves
- And it is costing us
- We wouldn't have gone down this road
- We shouldn't have gone down this road
- But having done that, they picked the most expensive way to do it
- It's indefensible

*Artuso: Peter is the asset that they are borrowing against our – paying higher bills down the road*

Tabuns:

- Yes it is
- Actually well put Antonella
- \*laughter\*
- No it is
- It's the assumption that they can squeeze us more heavily in the future for more money
- That's the asset they are selling to financiers
- They're saying look we are going to give you an opportunity to squeeze these rate payers in future and we set up the law so you can squeeze them as much as you want

[END TRANSCRIPT]

**TRANSCRIPT – Peter Tabuns responds to Auditor General's Press Conference – October 17, 2017**

MPP: Peter Tabuns

*Media: CBC, Hains, Benzie, Lamoureux, Carter (Global), Smith Cross, Alison Smith, TFO, Toronto Sun, Crawley, CityNews, TFO, Rath, McGrath*

[START TRANSCRIPT]

Tabuns:

- They set up an expense
- An extra \$4 billion dollars that they're going to be putting on people's hydro bills
- \$4 billion dollars that people are going to have to pay off after this election
- That is – they're only so the books look good
- All these and the Liberals could say we don't have a deficit
- No other reason

*Media: Is this intentional misleading of the Kathleen Wynne government?*

Tabuns:

- Absolutely
- I mean, listen to what she had to say
- And look at her report
- They knew what they were doing
- They didn't want these numbers to show up
- On her books
- They're willing to spend \$4 billion dollars and put it on people's hydro bills just so they can say 'no, we don't have a deficit from this'

*Media: Could an NDP government take this debt onto their government books if you win in 2018?*

Tabuns:

- Uhm – we actually have a different plan for dealing with hydro expense
- Which we set out earlier this year
- Uhm - we would end the privatization of the system
- We would look at structural changes
- We would do a variety of things to reduce bills
- We would not be setting up a phoney accounting measure to deal with the problems we have with hydro

*Media: would you dismantle these measures that they have set up for them and would you then take on*

*the debt \*inaudible\**

Tabuns:

- Although we have to have a longer discussion about that
- We would not allow a phoney structure to go forward
- We would not allow that

*Media: [French]*

Tabuns: [French]

*Media: should there be a rule forbidding governments using any other accounting standards?*

Tabuns:

- It's a good question
- Uhm – frankly, it will affect the credibility of this government
- And financial markets if people don't believe they're being honest and fair in the way they present things
- Uhm – so, I don't know if there should be a rule but certainly, anyone who actually cares about the integrity of Ontario's public finances, should care about the fact that they follow rules that are publicly set out

[Becomes one off]

[END TRANSCRIPT]

## **TRANSCRIPT – Peter Tabuns Post Question Period Scrum – October 17, 2017**

MPP: Peter Tabuns

*Media: Reynolds, CP24, Cindy Wu, Rath*

[START TRANSCRIPT]

*Media: So, what do you think of the AG's report?*

Tabuns:

- Well, it's a damning report
- Let's face it
- People all over Ontario are having trouble with their hydro bills
- Lovely AG came out and said, well – the Premier has borrowed an extra \$4 billion dollars or he's going to spend an extra \$4 billion dollars to make the books look good
- And we're going to have to pay for it
- So people should be aware, their bills are high and they're going to get a lot higher as this scheme goes forward
- People are having a tough time

- They don't want to spend the equivalent of 4 gas plant scandals to make the government's books look good

*Cindy Wu: So the \$26 billion dollars - that doesn't show in the government's books, so what does that say to the government for the next election?*

Tabuns:

- Well, they are doing everything to make their books look good before the election
- And they don't care what it costs people who pay their hydro bills
- As you're probably aware, after the next election, bills are going to shoot up like a rocket
- Because they're just spending this extra money to make the bills look good now
- They don't care what happens after the election

*Cindy Wu: So the ratepayers are going to pay \$4 billion dollars for the interests that add on -*

Tabuns:

- - they're going to pay an extra \$4 billion dollars in interest beyond what they would've paid
- Because they set up this convoluted scheme to hide the expense
- Keep it off the government's books
- We are borrowing money at a much more expensive rate
- And that's where that extra \$4 billion dollars is going to hit your bill
- Really, there are alternatives
- The NDPs come forward with a plan to deal with hydro bills
- That does not involve borrowing tens of billions of dollars just to make the bills look good for a few years

[END TRANSCRIPT]

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**From:** Holden Wine [mailto:hwine@liberal.ola.org]

**Sent:** October 17, 2017 2:33 PM

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**Subject:** [NDP RELEASE] NDP STATEMENT ON AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

[HTTP://WWW.ONTARIONDP.CA/NODE/3228](http://www.ontariondp.ca/node/3228)

## NDP STATEMENT ON AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

*October 17th, 2017*

NDP Energy critic Peter Tabuns issued the following statement regarding the Auditor-General's report on the Wynne Liberal's hydro plan:

“The Auditor General has confirmed that Kathleen Wynne's hydro borrowing scheme will cost Ontarians \$40 billion, and that Kathleen Wynne will charge families \$4 billion, just for the accounting tricks she's using to cover up just how bad this plan is.

Ontario's families and businesses know they're paying too much for hydro. They feel it every month when they open their hydro bill. Kathleen Wynne is totally out of touch – it's like she doesn't even open her own hydro bills.

The Wynne Liberals have let us all down. And Patrick Brown isn't going to fix this – Conservatives have always been in favour of privatizing our hydro system, which led to this mess, and they have no plan to undo the damage now.

It doesn't have to be this way.

New Democrats have a real plan to return Hydro One to public hands, to regain control over skyrocketing hydro prices. The plan will put Ontario families first, by lowering hydro bills permanently, and eliminating unfair Time of Use billing practices. New Democrats understand what Ontario families are dealing with. And we know we can make life better.”