Summary of Question Period for Tues. Apr. 24/18

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Please see the attached select or full summaries of today's Q.P.

MPP Fedeli (PC) to Minister Thibeault (Energy) re: accounting matters

>> Vic Fedeli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of energy, in speaking about the auditor general's comments on the Liberal hydro scheme, the Minister of energy had the following to say "Our plan has been approved by her peers at some of Canada's top accounting firms KPMG, Ernst and Young and Deloitte. The Auditor General has said that's not true." Mr. Speaker, did the accounting firms mentioned approve the plan.

>> Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, what we have are two world class accounting firms and I will outline what they had to say in statements about regulated accounting within the public sector accounting standards, Mr. Speaker. So KPMG said on the bases of our extensive research, deliberations and an opinion from another major accounting firm, we believe that the accounting policies adopted by the independent electricity system operator are in accordance with the Canadian public sector accounting standards. Deloitte, Mr. Speaker, they stated that concluded any regulatory assets and liabilities recognized through the appropriate application of these policies would meet the criteria for recognition under the Canadian public sector accounting standards, Mr. Speaker. Additionally, Ernst and young is financial auditor and consulted on this, Mr. Speaker, on an ongoing basis.

>> Vic Fedeli: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the Minister of energy he uses phrases which have nothing to do with what we're talking about. In regards to KPMG, Ernst and Young, and Deloitte the auditor general said the sum of all of the work the Minister was just speaking about does not equate to the approval of the hydro scheme. To the Minister is the auditor general correct?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I don't believe I need to reiterate and read, reread what the accounting firms have said because I know the Honourable member had just heard those, Mr. S but they do talk about it and I will say, agains, as KPMG said these accounting policies are in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards. Deloitte, meet the criteria for recognition under the accounting standard, Mr. Speaker. And I know, Mr. Speaker, we've said this before and I'll say it again it was a policy choice made by this government. We made this policy choice to ensure that we continue to have a clean, reliable and affordable electricity

system for the rate payers of today and the rate payers tomorrow because, Mr. Speaker, the fair hydro plan. Not on the tax base because that's the logical thing to do, Mr. Speaker, and how it's been done in the past.

>> Vic Fedeli: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the Minister of energy the Minister has said "Of course we worked with KPMG and Ernst and Young and worked with Deloitte." All of them agree the accounting standards are accurate except the auditor general has said that is not true. They didn't approve the books. So Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of energy come clean.

>> Minister Thibeault: I will reiterate here's what KPMG said. On the base bases and -- we believe the accounting policies adopted by the independent elect system operator are in accordance with the Canadian public sector accounting standards, Mr. Speaker. And the policies and the implementation of this process for the fair hydro plan were designed, Mr. Speaker, and extensively reviewed by senior bureaucratic officials from my ministry, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of energy the ministry of finance, the treasury board secretariat the office of the provincial controller, Cabinet office. The Ontario financial authority, the ISP, OPG and work with the third party executives accounting firms, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to look at and monitor Ensure due diligence was completed.

MPP Fedeli (PC) to Minister Thibeault (Energy) re: Hydro One executive salary and severance

>> Vic Fedeli: Well thank you Speaker I'll now speak in my role as the interm leader of the official opposition and continue our duties in that respect. So back to the **Premier**. **Premier**, Ontario rate payers and tax payers want answers. Mr. Speaker, when didhe **Premier** become aware that Hydro One gave their CEO a $6 million salary and a $10 million severance?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and to respond to the question put by the leader within the House from the Conservatives. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the executive salaries at one we recognize these are high and continue to remain committed to work with Hydro One on their regulation accountability and their transparency, Mr. Speaker, through our government's involvement as a majority shareholder, Mr. Speaker. And I know, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with Hydro One because we have seen a change. The executive team has found $114 million in savings, Mr. Speaker, they entered, you know, a vary winter disconnection program. So, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to monitor, thank you.

>> Vic Fedeli: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the **Premier**. Mr. Speaker, does the **Premier** approve of both the Hydro One CEO's $6 million salary, and his $10 million severance?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to costs, Mr. Spr, the board, the Ontario energy board that is, Mr. Speaker, they set rates. So by talking about firing the CEO of Hydro One, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't take anything off anyone's bills. So the board, Mr. Speaker, is the energy sector's independent regulator with a mandate to protect rate payers, and that is how it's going to continue to deliver on that mandate. For instance, Mr. Speaker, last, last fall, the Ontario energy board capped a portion of executive compensation, Hydro One electricity customers are required to fund at 10% of

base salaries. Saving rate payers $30 million over this year and next. So, Mr. Speaker, the Ontario energy board will continue to monitor we'll continue to work with Hydro One to help them become a better company, Mr. Speaker .

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.

MPP Mc Naughton (PC) to Minister Sousa (Finance) - re: natural gas and cap and trade

>> MPP McNaughton: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is to the Minister of finance many people in this province rely on natural gas to heat homes and run major appliances when the Liberals and NDP brought in the cap and trade carbon tax, they made life expensive for millions of people in Ontario. Mr. Speaker, in 2017, the costs of cap and trade on natural gas bills was on average an extra $80.50 per year. But shockingly, Mr. Speaker, in to 2020 according to the long term forecast commissioned by the Ontario energy board it could cost an extra $336 per year. Mr. Speaker, that is an increase of 317%. Speaker, how much is this Liberal government prepared to make families pay for natural gas?

>> Minister Sousa: I appreciate the question I will use supplementary to one of my Colleagues. Let's be clear we're talking about a cap and trade system that is enabling us to provide up to $2 billion more to reinvest in new economies, and in new green energy program that enables us to build our economy and increase our gdp. And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we are -- Mr. Speaker, we're now increasing natural gas into the communities that do not have that opportunity and that only happens because we do have a ram in place to enable the capital infrastructure programs that the opposition would vote against, Mr. Speaker. They're cutting back on the things that matter to Ontario included in the natural gas to all communitites across the province and furthermore, a new economy and greater G in our province.

>> MPP McNaughton: Well Mr. Speaker, back to the Minister of finance when the Liberals and NDPs brought in the cap and trade carbon tax they knew it was going to hit families where it hurt. From keeping their car on the road to keeping their home heated through winter. And make everything in the province more expensive. Not only is the cap and trade carbon tax hidden on natural gas bills, it also has hst on top of it is this government wondelling to hike -- wonderfulling to hike the carbon tax from 8.50 cents to $336 per year?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise and talk about cap and trade and of course the decision that was talked about earlier for us when we talked about consumers' bills. So cap can trade, Mr. Speaker, and the decision on how to present that on consumer bills was made by the Ontario energy board, Mr. Speaker. And that is an independent arms-length regulator for the province's energy sector. And it did so, Mr. Speaker, based off of extensive consultations with consumers, utilities and environmental stakeholders including over 40 written submissions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In their decision, the Ontario energy board highlighted the cap and trade costs are part of doing the business of delivering natural gas homes and businesses, Mr. Speaker, and to quote the board and the oep's view separating out cap and trade costs as a line item is in consistent in the manner. Our -- are reflected on --