

Briefing for May 29, 2017

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Your morning briefing

29.05.2017 Geoff Zochodne Q

Headlines

Ah, nothing like a quiet weekend to recharge and rela-oh my god, what happened? Er, we begin today's morning briefing with the saga of **Jack MacLaren**, who is no longer in the Progressive Conservative caucus — although the reason why remains a subject of debate. MacLaren has had his share of bad press over the past year, but PC Leader **Patrick Brown** said he had enough after a video came to light (via CFRA Radio) of MacLaren making a crack about French-language education and hinting at some sort of hidden Tory agenda. While Brown said he expelled MacLaren, the latter told the *Toronto Sun* that he "resigned from the PC Party last week," and joined the Trillium Party. MacLaren also said the PC Party knew about the tape since 2012, but nothing came of it until now. Stop the spin machine, we want to get off!

MPPs are back at Queen's Park today, so we're definitely going to be watching.

Moving on, the Liberal government's response to the Changing Workplaces Review is coming on Tuesday, reports the Toronto Star. According to the paper's sources, the Premier "wants to strike a balance in the reforms," by leaning towards ensuring equal pay for equal work and away from a ban on scab workers.

The new federal Conservative leader is, uh, *not* **Maxime Bernier**, it's former Speaker of the House Andrew Scheer. This is good news for Scheer's sole supporter in the Ontario PC caucus (drumroll, please) Monte McNaughton! McNaughton chaired Scheer's Ontario campaign, and it appears to have paid off.

They grow up so fast. It seems like only yesterday that **Jagmeet Singh** was taking shots at Ontario's Liberal government during question period at Queen's Park. Now Singh is the one being asked questions by his competition in the federal NDP leadership race, The Canadian Press reports.

The celebration of Ontario's 150th anniversary will include a 30,000-pound duck, according to Postmedia.

In the opinion pages:

- Ontario is returning to its old role as Canada's economic engine, writes Mike Crawley
- Dr. Cheryl Chetkiewicz and Dr. Justina Ray think the province's approach to the Ring of Fire is misguided

- Ex-ombudsman Andre Marin has nothing but bad stuff to say about the Liberals' handling of the energy file
- Jeannette Tossounian agrees that Ottawa needs a new jail

Bills

Third Reading of Bill 87, An Act to implement health measures and measures relating to seniors by enacting, amending or repealing various statutes.

Third Reading of Bill 68, An Act to amend various Acts in relation to municipalities.

Committees

1:00 p.m.

The Standing Committee on Justice Policy will meet for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 132, An Act to enact the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017 and to make amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998 and the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998. Room 1.

2:00 p.m.

The Standing Committee on General Government will meet for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 114, An Act to provide for Anti-Racism Measures. Room 2.

Events

9:00 a.m.

Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth and Jeff Leal, Minister Responsible for Small Business, will make an announcement. Galleria Supermarket, 865 York Mills Road, Toronto.

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi will be in Ottawa, joined by Mayor Jim Watson, for announcement about safe access to health care services. Centretown Community Health Centre, 420 Cooper Street, Ottawa.

9:15 a.m.

MPP Yvan Baker to Introduce Private Member's Bill on Consumer Protection. Queen's Park.

9:45 a.m.

MPP Gila Martow to introduce Private Member's Bill: Transportation Systems Improvement Advisory Committee Act, 2017. Queen's Park.

12:00 p.m.

Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, will address the Empire Club of Canada. Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto.