

Queen's Park Today – Daily Report May 29, 2017

Today at Queen's Park.....	1
Today's committee meetings	3
Today's events	4
News briefs — Governmental	5
Funding announcements.....	5

Quotation of the day

“Clearly the real Jack MacLaren is the one we heard making derogatory comments towards women at the Carp Fair Men's Night, who published fake testimonials praising himself from fake constituents on his website, and who came out against a zero-tolerance policy against sexual abuse.”

PC leader Patrick Brown expels MPP Jack MacLaren from his caucus after a [video](#) of him disparaging French language rights resurfaced

Today at Queen's Park

On the schedule

The House will convene at 10:30 a.m. for question period. Expect the Financial Accountability Officer's analysis of the Fair Hydro Plan to dominate.

Three bills are scheduled for afternoon debate.

- The time allocation motion on the third reading stage of **Bill 89**, Supporting Children, Youth and Families Act;
- Third reading of **Bill 87**, Protecting Patients Act; and
- Third reading of **Bill 68**, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act.

In addition to those three bill, the government is aiming to pass **Bill 65**, Safer School Zones Act; **Bill 114**, Anti-Racism Act; **Bill 132**, Fair Hydro Plan Act; and **Bill 134**, the budget bill, by the time the House rises for summer break on Thursday.

Evening sittings remain an option on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Liberal MPP **Yvan Baker** is scheduled to introduce a private members' bill on consumer protection. PC MPP **Gia Martow** will introduce a bill calling for an advisory committee on improving the province's transportation systems.

Leader watch

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** and Liberal MPP **Nathalie Des Rosiers** continued their Northeastern Ontario tour in Timmins and Fort Albany on Thursday and in Elliot Lake and Bracebridge on Friday. Wynne promoted the OHIP+ plan at the Timmins YMCA and announced funding for a replacement hospital in Moose Factory. Des Rosiers seemed chosen for the tour as a visual reminder of the Liberal Party's success in last fall's Ottawa—Vanier by-election and to motivate the party faithful ahead of Thursday's Sault Ste. Marie vote.

While in Elliot Lake, the premier announced the renewal of the community paramedicine program in Cochrane, Sudbury and Algoma. The pilot program employs paramedics to provide non-emergency home healthcare visits in rural areas. In Bracebridge, she announced \$1.1 million in funding to replace a bridge.

Only hours after tweeting congratulations to his “friend” **Andrew Scheer** on his CPC leadership win, PC leader **Patrick Brown** issued a statement marking the end of his friendship with MPP **Jack MacLaren**. Brown announced Sunday morning he was expelling MacLaren from the PC caucus over a resurfaced a 2012 video in which MacLaren suggests a PC government would change bilingual employment requirements in the Ottawa region. Brown said MacLaren has asked for too many chances and will not be allowed to run under the PC banner in 2018.

Fellow Ontario-region MPP **Lisa MacLeod** called on MacLaren to resign his seat and said the PC Party never planned to change bilingual hiring practices.

Later in the day MacLaren tweeted that he has joined the Ontario Trillium Party “after months of deliberation and discussion with [his] constituents.”

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** was in the Sault campaigning with NDP candidate **Joe Krmpotich**. Horwath committed to investing \$4 million to keep the Huron Central Railway running if the NDP forms government next year. She said improving the rail service would be good for Essar Steel and Sault Ste. Marie jobs.

Topics of conversation

- On Thursday, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** threatened to move ahead with legislation that would prevent Texas firms from bidding on Ontario procurement opportunities, should the state pass a “discriminatory” bill that includes Buy American iron and steel policies. Wynne used the same tactic against New York State earlier this year and was able to obtain an exemption for Ontario. However, this time it does not appear to have worked. The Texas House and Senate approved the bill on Saturday.

- Meanwhile in Wisconsin, Agriculture and Small Business Minister **Jeff Leal** said he received a warm welcome from the state's political leadership and agri-food business leaders. Leal paints the picture of a rosy trade future between the two jurisdictions.
- The Conference Board of Canada's metropolitan growth report projects Toronto will lead the country's cities in growth in 2017, with the GDP forecasted to increase by 2.7 per cent.
- PC MPP **Monte McNaughton** is on a publicity tour following CPC leader **Andrew Scheer**'s big win. McNaughton shares Scheer's social conservative leanings and was the co-chair of his campaign. Most PC MPPs endorsed failed leadership contender **Erin O'Toole**.
- PC MPP **Randy Hillier** is promoting an event he is hosting with University of Toronto professor **Dr. Jordan Peterson** next month. Peterson has faced media and academic backlash for his outspoken refusal to use genderless pronouns. Hillier says they will discuss the importance of "civic engagement, activism, and finding your voice in society."
- Citizenship and Immigration Minister **Laura Albanese** was re-nominated as the Ontario Liberal Party candidate in York South—Weston.
- CBC radio aired a 23-minute debate between all three major Sault Ste. Marie candidates.
- The rural-urban divide may prevail, but new data shows GTA residents largely support the agri-food sector and think the government should fund it over automotive and manufacturing industries.
- After a series of lagging auction results, the latest Quebec—California cap-and-trade auction sold out of available carbon allowances, which may bode well for the system's political future in California.
- The federal government announced a national strategy to increase the number of electric vehicles on the roads by 2018 — this includes an advisory panel and funding for EV charging stations, but no EV quota for automotive manufacturers.

Today's committee meetings

Standing Committee on Justice Policy

- Monday, May 29 at 1:00 p.m.
 - Room 1
 - The committee will meet for clause-by-clause consideration of **Bill 132**, Fair Hydro Plan Act.

Standing Committee on General Government

- Monday, May 29 at 2:00 p.m.
 - Room 2
 - The committee will meet for clause-by-clause consideration of **Bill 114**, Anti-Racism Act.

Today's events



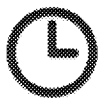
May 29 at 9:00 a.m. — Toronto

Ryerson University's Centre for Labour Management Relations and the University of Toronto's Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources will host a panel discussion on Ontario's Basic Income Guarantee and the impact it could have "on an increasingly precarious labor workforce where contract work is becoming the new normal." The event will take place at the Innis Town Hall Theatre.



May 29 at 9:00 a.m. — Toronto

Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** and Minister Responsible for Small Business **Jeff Leal** will make an announcement at Galleria Supermarket, 895 York Mills Road.



May 29 at 9:00 a.m. — Toronto

Transportation Minister **Steve Del Duca** and Tourism, Culture and Sport Minister **Eleanor McMahon** will make an announcement at Canadian Tire in the Eaton Centre.



May 29 at 9:00 a.m. — Ottawa

Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** will make an announcement with Ottawa Mayor **Jim Watson** about "safe access to healthcare." The announcement will likely concern Watson's call for legislation banning protests and harassment outside abortion clinics.



May 29 at 9:00 a.m. — Toronto

A "peaceful rally" in support of Liberal MPP **Soo Wong**'s private members' bill, **Bill 79**, Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, will be held on the Queen's Park lawn.



May 29 at 12:00 p.m. — Toronto

Health and Long-Term Care Minister **Dr. Eric Hoskins** will address the Empire Club of Canada about “Ontario’s vision for transforming healthcare” at the Royal York Hotel.

News briefs — Governmental

Ministry of Transportation

Transportation Minister **Steve Del Duca** announced plans to review the province’s weight compliance rules for heavy trucks, citing confusion in the industry. The announcement follows consultations with the province’s aggregate and excavation industries and includes a commitment to resume full reinforcement of vehicle weights and dimensions regulations by Fall 2018. Over the next year-and-a-half, the ministry will implement a new digital record to track maximum allowable weights for trucks carrying aggregate and excavation material on highways and to use the data to track compliance.

Funding announcements

- The **Ministry of Research and Innovation** announced \$940,924 in funding for a joint project between the University of Guelph and Benson Hill Biosystems that is developing new elite canola varieties.
- The **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care** announced the construction of a new 35-bed hospice in Northumberland. This is part of the province’s 2016 budget commitment to build 20 new hospices in Ontario.