

Briefing for June 15, 2017

Your morning briefing.....2

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15.06.2017 Geoff Zochodne 0

Headlines

It's (allegedly!) the wild, wild Hamilton West...and also Ancaster-Dundas. According to the Toronto Star, one of the losing candidates for the Progressive Conservative nomination in, yes, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas is suing Tory Leader **Patrick Brown** and members of the party brass in a bid to overturn the result, which, ultimately, was a win for **Ben Levitt**. PC nomination drama will devour us all, maybe.

Toronto Mayor **John Tory** and Premier **Kathleen Wynne** still have "issues," reports the Sun. You know, like all that traffic going un-tolled and all those flyers being distributed that take pokes at Liberal MPPs.

Ontario hasn't even started to electrify its GO Transit lines and it's already wondering if it should go with hydrogen-powered trains instead, the Star reports. Can we just skip ahead to hover trains? Now *that's* cool.

Our stories from Wednesday:

- **Heard:** Co-ordinated care service up and running
- **Seen:** Brown delivers 2,000 letters requesting OEB reject Hydro One rate increase
- Oversight body fights back against challenge to assisted-dying rules
- Wynne expects more Liberal incumbents won't run again in 2018
- Tory MPP urges Health Minister to launch public inquiry into Elizabeth Wettlaufer case
- Government offers AMAPCEO four-year contract 'roll-over' with 7.5% pay bump

Canada's better-behaved provinces are preparing to belly up to the federal government's \$2-billion carbon fund, details of which are to be unveiled today, according to CP.

The new head of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police wants to get on with implementing the sweeping recommendations on police oversight, the Waterloo Region Record reports.

The London Free Press won the Michener Award last night for its Indiscernible series, which "chronicled the jailhouse death of a man with mental illness who fell between the cracks of Ontario's correctional and justice systems, taking his own life in a segregation cell."

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is looking to have a debate around transporting baitfish, [CBC reports](#).

In the opinion pages:

- Premier Wynne was jolted by Donald Trump's election, [Martin Regg Cohn reveals](#)
- Andrea Horwath is in a tough spot, [writes Bob Hepburn](#)
- John Carpay [says doctors](#) shouldn't be forced to go against their conscience

Events

10:40 a.m.

Premier Wynne to make an announcement. Art-Is-In Bakery, 250 City Centre Ave, Ottawa.

11:00 a.m.

Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, and Peter Milczyn, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, will make a transit announcement. They will be joined by John Jensen, President and CEO of Metrolinx. GO Transit Willowbrook Facility, Etobicoke.

1:30 p.m.

Premier Wynne to participate in a fireside chat with Don Newman at the 4th Annual Canada 2020 Conference. Shaw Centre – Gatineau Salon, 55 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa.

4:45 p.m.

Premier Wynne to meet with the Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean, Secretary General, La Francophonie. Fairmont Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

6:00 p.m.

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks and make an announcement at a Franco-Ontarian Festival Opening Reception. Fairmont Chateau Laurier – Adam Room – Lobby Floor, 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa.

Seen: Brown delivers 2,000 letters requesting OEB reject Hydro One rate increase

14.06.2017 Sabrina Nanil O

Tory Leader **Patrick Brown** is hoping it's death by a thousand paper cuts for Hydro One's rate application before the Ontario Energy Board.

Flanked by bankers boxes that Brown assured reporters Wednesday were "filled to the brim," the 2,237 letters addressed to the OEB request the board turn down the utility's five-year rate increase application that would add \$141 to Ontarians' bills by 2022. Brown said he would be delivering the requests, which are part of a Tory letter-writing campaign to "stop the rate hike," later in the afternoon. Hydro One's proposal would be gradual and increase monthly bills by \$2.79 in 2018, \$2.47 in 2019, \$2.31 in 2020, \$1.95 in 2021 and \$2.23 in 2022.

The OEB plans to hold a public hearing on the application, and the deadline to apply to be a participant was Wednesday.

Brown said that's "unfair" and "unaffordable" and the amount of letters he's amassed "highlights that people are just fed up" with hefty hydro bills. Brown also wrote an open letter to Premier **Kathleen Wynne** last week demanding she turn down Hydro One's request.

"It's the right thing to do to stop it," Brown said.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, responding to Brown's letter, said the Fair Hydro Plan, which received royal assent this month, will still cut 25 per cent from an average household's hydro bill, even if the regulator approves the five-year rate increase.

"When it comes to rate applications, neither the Minister of Energy nor the government of Ontario have the authority to direct the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) on decisions under its jurisdiction," Thibeault's letter reads.

"Despite claiming to support lowering electricity bills for Ontario families, you and your party all voted against the Fair Hydro Plan. It has been nearly 100 days since you promised to release an energy plan – but Ontarians are still waiting."

The NDP also expressed discontent in writing earlier this week –

Leader **Andrea Horwath** penned her own missive to Wynne, calling on her to direct the OEB to freeze distribution rates payable to Hydro One "until it can be proven that further rate increases are truly necessary and in the interests of consumers."

"Kathleen Wynne can try to pass the buck, but the reason hydro prices are so unaffordable in our province is because her Liberal government, and previous Conservative governments, sold off, and privatized more and more of our electricity system," added NDP MPP **Peter Tabuns**, in a statement Wednesday.

