

Message

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Sent: 2017-03-20 1:00:53 PM
To: Terry Young [/O=IMO/OU=MSX1/cn=Recipients/cn=Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Monday, March 20, 2017

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Monday, March 20, 2017

In the News

On Friday, Auditor General **Bonnie Lysyk** raised concerns about government advertisements touting the Fair Hydro Plan. **Lysyk** noted that the advertisements would not have been approved under legislation in effect prior to 2005 as they were more of a "pat on the back". Today, PC House Leader **Jim Wilson** asked Speaker **Dave Levac** to find the government in contempt of the legislature for the advertisements.

Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister **Marie-France Lalonde** urged chiefs of police throughout Ontario to audit the use of reinforced gloves. Ottawa's police service began an audit of the standard-issue gloves after a police officer was charged by the Special Investigations Unit for the death of a man after an altercation with the police officer. Minister **Lalonde** said she will request a copy of the audit's report once it is completed.

A judge in the Ontario Superior Court dismissed a wrongful dismissal suit launched against the government by former Ombudsman **André Marin** after the government declined to reappoint him to a third five-year term. Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** defended the all-party decision to hire **Paul Dubé**, insisting that it was a "fair and impartial one". **Marin**, who ran as the PC candidate for Ottawa—Vanier last year, accused the government of scuttling his reappointment for partisan reasons.

Opinion Highlights

- A foreign-buyers tax would help cool Toronto's housing market. (Editorial Board, *Toronto Star*)
 - Paralegals can save legal system from overpriced lawyers. (Martin Regg Cohn, *Toronto Star*)
 - A modest proposal to prosecutors. (Solomon Friedman, *Ottawa Sun*)
 - More urgency needed on court delays. (Editorial Board, *Ottawa Citizen*)
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Question Period Highlights (March 20)

Electricity Costs

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** criticized the government for spending taxpayer dollars on self-promoting ads identified by the Auditor General. **Brown** noted that the Liberals already had bad track records of spending \$8.1 million for self-congratulatory radio ads. **Brown** criticized the government for spending millions on self-congratulations while some Ontarians cannot afford their hydro bill. **Brown** also noted that the Liberals opposed public advertisements while in Opposition that they are utilizing now.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** affirmed that people are looking for relief on their hydro bills and the government is moving ahead with its plan. The Premier said she was extremely proud of the government's record. The Premier took credit for changing the rules that allowed the former government to broadcast advertisements featuring images of the former Premier.
- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** demanded to know the price tag for the "self-serving" action of broadcasting the advertisements. **Horwath** noted that the government had changed the rules and then changed them back when it suited their purposes. **Horwath** questioned the timing of the advertisements, which are broadcast before the government introduces legislation to implement the hydro cut.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** reiterated that the Liberal government introduced rules restricting partisanship in government advertising.

Seniors

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** noted the government spends \$8.33 per day for seniors in long-term care homes, yet spends a dollar more per day on prisoners. Brown demanded to know why Ontario's prisoners eat better than seniors.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** noted that the government had introduced more than 10,000 long-term care beds for seniors, but acknowledged there was more to be done.
- Health and Long-term Care Minister **Eric Hoskins** added that the Liberals provide tremendous flexibility to each home so they may exercise discretion over expenditures. Minister **Hoskins** noted that the budget for food increased by 3.7 percent—well above food inflation.

Electricity prices

- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** demanded to know when the Liberals will introduce legislation to drop hydro rates. **Horwath** also noted that hospitals face growing hydro bills yet will not see relief—citing one such hospital that saw a \$2.7 million increase. **Horwath** also noted that hospitals, businesses and municipalities are suffering as a result of skyrocketing hydro bills and questioned the government on the timing of the legislation.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** indicated that the government will introduce legislation before the summer. Minister **Thibeault** claimed that hospitals pay on the average 1.6 per cent more and accused **Horwath** and the NDP of misleading the public. Minister **Thibeault** added that the Liberals have increased support for municipality energy costs four-fold.

Today in the Legislature

**Government
Business**

**Private Members'
Business**

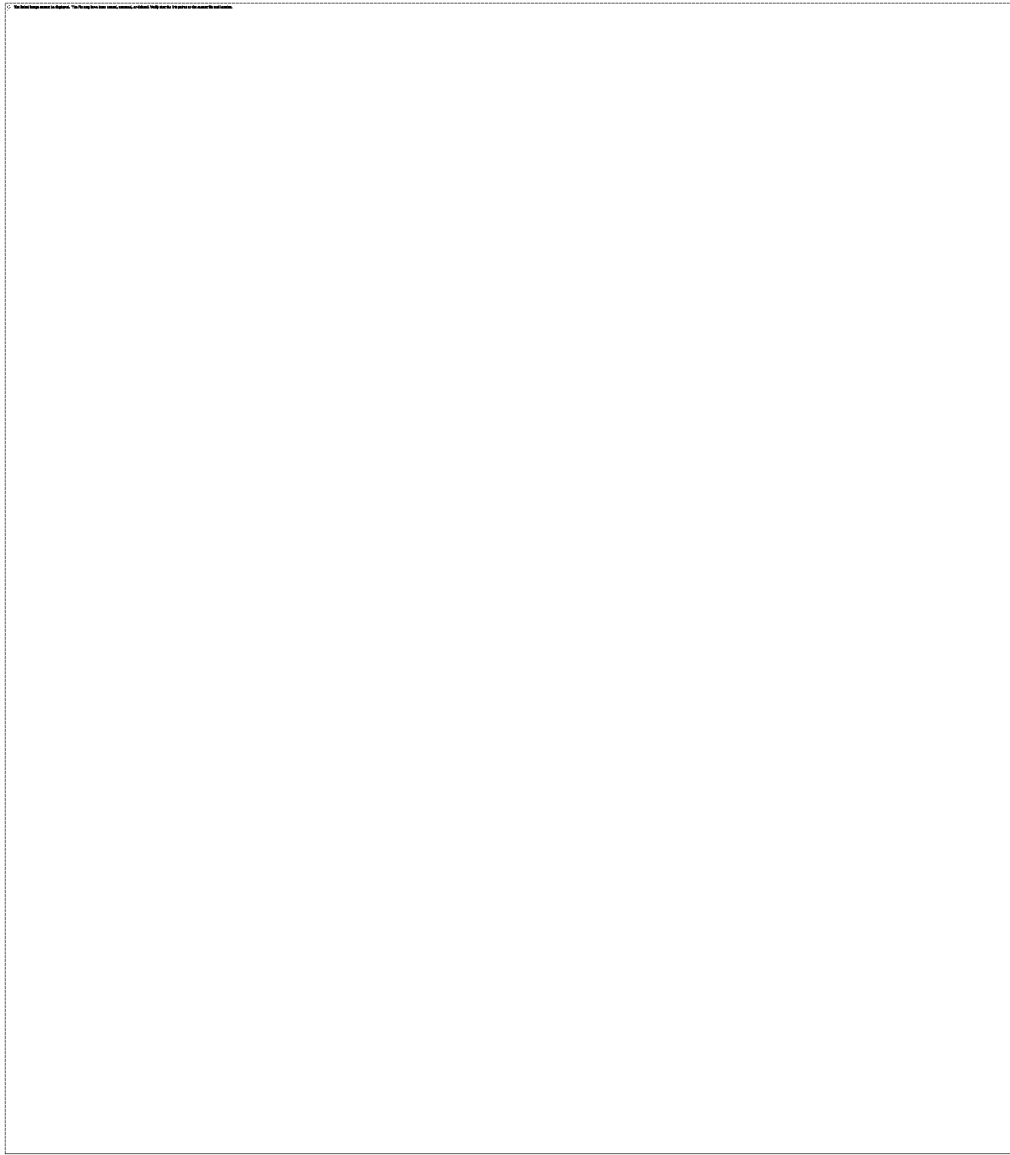
**Committee
Meetings**

Bill 65 - An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act in respect of speed limits in municipalities and other matters, second reading.

No private member's business.

2:00 p.m. - Standing Committee on General Government will meet for a clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 92, An Act to amend the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act, 2014 and make related amendments to other statutes

Social Media Snapshot



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Events at a Glance

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Ontario's Energy Future: The Hon. Glenn Thibeault will lay out priorities for the road ahead as the government prepares for the launch of a renewed Long Term Energy Plan

Time: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Location: Arcadian Court, 401 Bay Street, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/oea-speaker-series-the-hon-glenn-thibeault-ontarios-energy-future-tickets-31891969740>

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan and the First Cap and Trade Auction: The Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Location: One King West Hotel and Residence, 1 King West, Toronto

RSVP: <http://economicclub.ca/events/display/the-hon-glen-murray-minister-of-environment-and-climate-change-to-address-the-ec>

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

Dismantling racism in Ontario is key to Canada's success: The Hon. Michael Coteau, Minister of Children & Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: InterContinental Hotel, 225 Front Street West, Toronto

RSVP: <http://economicclub.ca/events/display/dismantling-racism-in-ontario-is-key-to-canadas-success>

Queen's Park Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Question Period	Question Period	Question Period	Question Period	No Business
	Caucus Meeting	Cabinet Meeting	Private Members' Business	

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