

Message

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Sent: 2017-03-21 12:37:06 PM
To: Terry Young [/O=IMO/OU=MSX1/cn=Recipients/cn=Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Tuesday, March 21, 2017

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Tuesday, March 21, 2017

In the News

In advance of the federal budget on Wednesday, Ontario Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** urged federal Finance Minister **Bill Morneau** to raise capital gains taxes on the sale of secondary homes. Minister **Sousa** argued that the taxes will discourage speculative investing in the real estate market, thus cooling the housing market, while providing tax revenue to put towards housing affordability initiatives. Ottawa currently levies a 50 per cent tax rate on profits from the sale of a secondary property.

Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** and International Trade Minister **Michael Chan** will meet with legislators in Albany, New York today to implore the state to exempt Canada from a Buy American policy it plans to implement. **Duguid** and **Chan** are expected to highlight American job loss and procurement losses between New York state and Ontario that will occur if the exemption is introduced. The policy is set to pass March 31.

Allan O'Dette, current president and chief executive of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, will assume the role of the province's first chief investment officer next month, according to the *Toronto Star*. **O'Dette** will head the new Ontario Investment Office, which will be responsible for helping companies navigate various government ministries and solve problems that can create barriers to deals.

The Progressive Conservatives and NDP criticized taxpayer-funded ads about planned hydro bill reductions yesterday and highlighted that the move will put the Liberal government in contempt of parliament. The Opposition posits that the radio and social media ads are being used as a means to boost the Liberal's popularity in the polls.

Ontario is working to make the criminal justice system more efficient and fairer by

introducing a plan to reduce time-to-trial and improve the bail system in St. Catharines and the Niagara Region.

Opinion Highlights

- Language in the age of dog-whistle politics (Navneet Alang, *TVO*)
-

Question Period Highlights (March 21)

Government advertisements

- PC Leader Patrick Brown implored the government to stop running hydro “vanity” ads until the Speaker rules on whether the government is in contempt of the legislature.
- Attorney General Yasir Naqvi touted the government’s Fair Hydro Plan and accused Brown of not having a plan to deal with hydro rates. Naqvi also argued that the government needs to let Ontarians know about savings coming this summer.

Electricity Prices

- PC Leader Patrick Brown noted that the government’s Fair Hydro Plan does not include relief for manufacturers and job creators. Brown cited the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers’ Association’s concerns about the plan and skyrocketing input costs for car manufacturers and implored the government to provide long-term hydro relief.
- Premier Kathleen Wynne noted that Ontario received a record amount of auto investments in recent months. The Premier also credited Unifor for wrapping up new investments through new contracts with the Big Three manufacturers.
- Brown criticized the government’s record on the hydro file. Brown said the Fair Hydro Plan was just a “band-aid on a bullet wound” of years of mismanagement.

- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault noted that the Fair Hydro Plan will help everyone in Ontario through a long-term solution.
- NDP Leader Andrea Horwath noted the case of a hospital in Sault Ste. Marie that will face higher hydro costs yet will not receive any relief from the government. Horwath asked the government to outline the impact of hydro costs on hospital operations.
- Health and Long-term Care Minister Eric Hoskins said that hospitals have not laid off any employees due to hydro bills.

Today in the Legislature

Government Business

Bill 68 - An Act to amend various Acts in relation to municipalities, second reading.

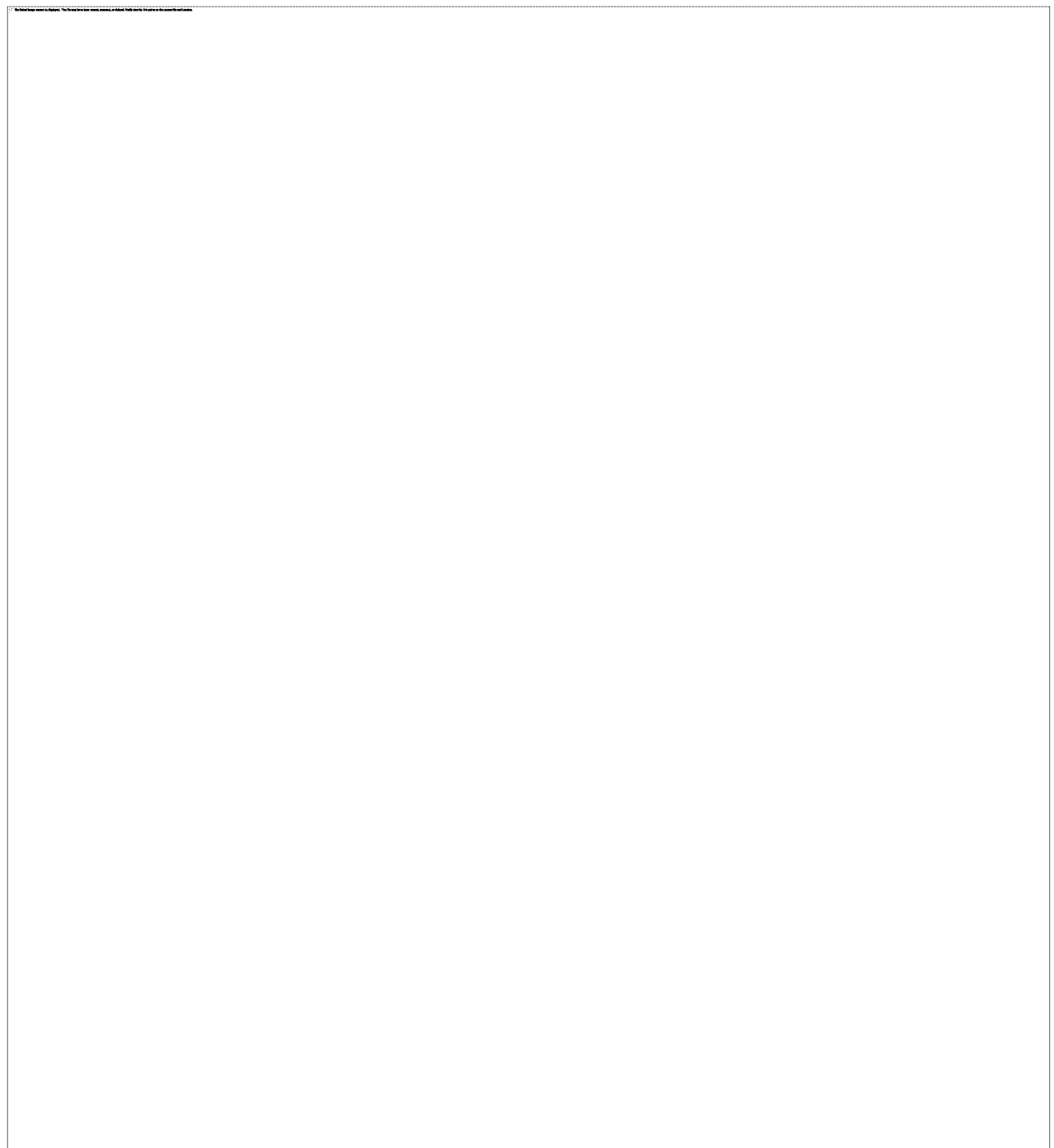
Private Members' Business

No private member's business.

Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. - Standing Committee on Government Agencies will meet to consider intended appointments.

Social Media Snapshot



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Events at a Glance

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 Caucus Meeting	Question Period Cabinet Meeting	Question Period Private Members' Business	No Business

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