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To: Terry Young [/O=IMO/OU=MSX1/cn=Recipients/cn=Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Monday, March 27, 2017

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Monday, March 27, 2017

In the News

PC MPP for Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock **Laurie Scott** called on the government to mandate sexual assault training for Ontario's judges. Premier **Kathleen Wynne** hinted that the government would look into ways to encourage the practice while respecting judicial independence. **Scott** committed to introduce a private member's bill to mandate the practice if the government would not issue a mandate. Women's groups and NDP MPP for Nickel Belt **France Gelin** urged the government to mandate judges to take the training.

Government polls obtained by *The Canadian Press* showed that Ontarians were dissatisfied with government policy on hydro since December 2013. The monthly poll also found that hydro became a top issue, overtaking health and the economy, in November 2015 as the government partially privatized Hydro One.

Today, the government announced that **Hillary Hartley**, the former deputy executive director of the American government's digital office, 18F, will assume the role of the province's first chief digital officer next month. **Hartley** will help streamline online government services to make them more efficient for people and business.

On Friday, Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** announced a general minimum wage increase to \$11.60 from \$11.40 starting October 1. Minister **Flynn** also noted that Ontarians on minimum wage have taken home an additional \$2,782 over the last four years. Since 2014, the general minimum wage has been indexed to inflation to provide predictability in wage raises.

Opinion Highlights

- Kathleen Wynne is the Liberals' greatest asset, not their greatest problem. (Chris Selley, *National Post*)
 - The leader you don't know versus the leader you don't like. (Robert Fisher, *CBC News*)
 - Trump and Wynne moving against the tide. (Andre Marin, *Toronto Sun*)
 - How can Ontario tame Toronto's 'dizzying' housing market? (Janet McFarland, *The Globe and Mail*)
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Question Period Highlights (March 27)

Electricity costs

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** referenced the government poll on electricity prices, which Brown said showed Ontario's families were struggling with hydro costs for at least three years. **Brown** asked how much the government spent on well-connected advisors in the same time period whose advice he alleges the government ignored.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** touted the the 25 per cent reduction in hydro bills. She said there was much work to be done, but it could not be done all at once. She promised Ontarians would pay higher electricity bills no more.
- **Brown** further noted that the contracts for polling were given to well-connected Liberal insiders. **Brown** accused the government of helping out their friends while Ontarians were struggling.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** noted that the government has been taking costs out of the system since 2010.

Education

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** referenced a story about a six-year-old student who was handcuffed by police officers in schools. **Brown** noted that the government collects data on school violence, yet it is not acting on the observations.

- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** has admitted that violence is a serious issue, but the Liberals increased education funding and hired more teachers.
- Education Minister **Mitzie Hunter** further indicated that violence at school is unacceptable and that everyone should be safe in a school environment. Hunter noted that the government has prepared an appropriate protocol to deal with future issues.
- **Brown** further claimed that the government has cut resources to schools, hampering their ability to help students with autism.
- **Hunter** claimed that the government has increased the education budget significantly. **Hunter** then accused **Brown** of wanting to fire teachers.

Hydro relief

- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** claimed the government was reducing hospital budgets. **Horwath** noted that skyrocketing hydro bills have taken away money from hospital spending.
- Health and Long-term Care Minister **Eric Hoskins** noted that the government invested more than \$20 million into the hospital system, and affirmed that there was no effect on service at hospitals due to hydro bills.
- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** further challenged the government on their hydro plan, which she said does not provide relief to struggling municipalities. **Horwath** implored the government to table legislation on hydro relief immediately.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** accused **Horwath** of not attending a government briefing on the Fair Hydro Plan and reiterated that the government has been taking costs out of the system since 2010.

Today in the Legislature

**Government
Business**

**Private Members'
Business**

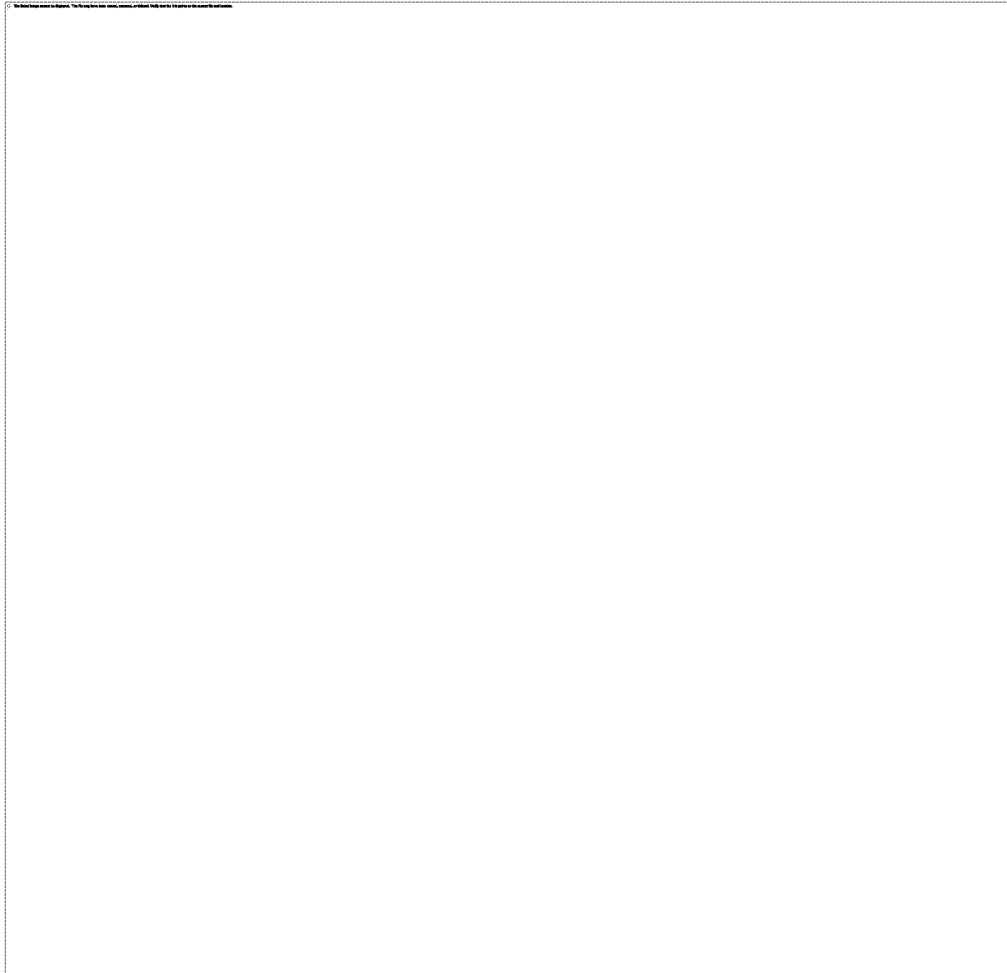
**Committee
Meetings**

Bill 87 - An Act to
implement health measures
and measures relating to
seniors by enacting,
amending or repealing
various statutes, second
reading.

**No private member's
business.**

No committee meetings.

Social Media Snapshot



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Events at a Glance

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

The Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Minister of Government and Consumer Services

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Delta Hotel Toronto, 75 Lower Simcoe Street, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.empireclub.org/events/honourable-tracy-maccharles/>

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>

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca will outline the reasons behind the province's foundational investments in transit and other modes of transportation by outlining the challenges inherent in building a modern, adaptable infrastructure in a time of enormous technological disruption.

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.canadianclub.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?id=3346>

Queen's Park Schedule

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