

Message

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Sent: 2017-03-29 1:37:48 PM
To: Terry Young [/O=IMO/OU=MSX1/cn=Recipients/cn=Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Wednesday, March 29, 2017

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Wednesday, March 28, 2017

In the News

PC Energy Critic Todd Smith criticized Hydro One for paying its chief executive officer \$4.5 million in compensation last year. Smith said the high salaries were a "slap in the face" while so many Ontarians struggled to pay their hydro bills. Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** defended the salaries and noted that the company is run better today than it has been in recent years. Hydro One also noted that the executives---who shared \$11 million in compensation between them---managed to find \$25 million in operational savings.

Yesterday, Government and Consumer Services Minister **Tracy MacCharles** announced that the government would create a stand-alone regulator for homebuilders to replace Tarion new home warranty corporation. Minister **MacCharles** noted that Tarion was "too far removed from the government" and that the corporation's multiple roles could give the perception of a conflict of interest.

Today, PC Deputy Leader **Sylvia Jones** introduced a private member's bill to restore Auditor General **Bonnie Lysyk's** power to veto government advertising deemed partisan. Jones added that the money spent on the government's advertising campaign about the Fair Hydro Plan could be better spent on raising awareness about the opioid and fentanyl crisis. Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** noted that less than \$1 million was spent to market the government's hydro plan thus far.

Yesterday, Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** said that the province needs federal help to cool the housing market. Minister **Sousa** had asked his federal counterpart to broaden the application of the capital gains tax on secondary homes, which would deter home-flippers. Minister **Sousa** told reporters that he had spoken to British Columbia's finance minister about British Columbia's experience with a foreign buyers tax but affirmed that any policy option to

cool the market should minimize "unintended consequences".

This morning, Premier **Kathleen Wynne**, Education Minister **Mitzie Hunter** and Advanced Education Minister **Deb Matthews** announced the launch of a calculator for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) that details the upfront grants and assistance students can get for attending university. The Premier and Ministers made the announcement at a secondary school in Toronto.

The Governments of Ontario and Canada are poised to announce more than \$200 million in funding for a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) research centre in Toronto. The Vector Institute will be affiliated with the University of Toronto and chaired by **Ed Clark**, a business advisor to Premier **Kathleen Wynne**

Opinion Highlights

- The secret to securing local support for wind energy? Money and power. (John Michael McGrath, *TVO*)
-

Question Period Highlights (March 29)

Government advertisements

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** demanded to know why the government took away the Auditor General's power to veto partisan government advertising. **Brown** argued that the government changed their own rules for their political benefit.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** took credit for legislating laws that ban partisan advertising. The Premier defended the advertisements for the government hydro rate cut as "useful

for the public", in line with other advertisements previously taken out by the government.

Health

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** highlighted a report from the Canadian Institute for Health that showed patient wait-times for cataracts surgery is getting longer. **Brown** accused the Liberals of diminishing the level of patient care through funding cuts.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** noted that the government is working to reduce wait-times in partnership with health care providers. The Premier also praised doctors, and touted that she understood how hard they worked because her father was a doctor.
- **Brown** added that physicians have been "vilified" by the government and the health care system is underfunded. **Brown** further criticized the government for letting doctors work for three years without a contract.
- Health and Long-term Care Minister **Eric Hoskins** committed the government to the arbitration process with the Ontario Medical Association. Minister **Hoskins** confirmed that negotiations begun last evening and expressed confidence in a deal reached within the next few weeks.

Executive compensation

- NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** questioned why the government paid \$4.5 million for Hydro One's CEO, while families in Ontario are struggling to pay their electricity bills. **Horwath** questioned if the government still retained control over Hydro One given the partial privatization of the utility.
 - Premier **Kathleen Wynne** touted the government's work to reduce Ontarians' electricity costs.
 - Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** acknowledged that the executive compensation was high, but noted that the system is reducing electricity costs. Minister **Thibeault** criticized the NDP for having "no idea of the system". Minister **Thibeault** also noted that the government controls a majority stake in Hydro One.
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Today in the Legislature

Government Business

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

Private Members' Business

No private members' business.

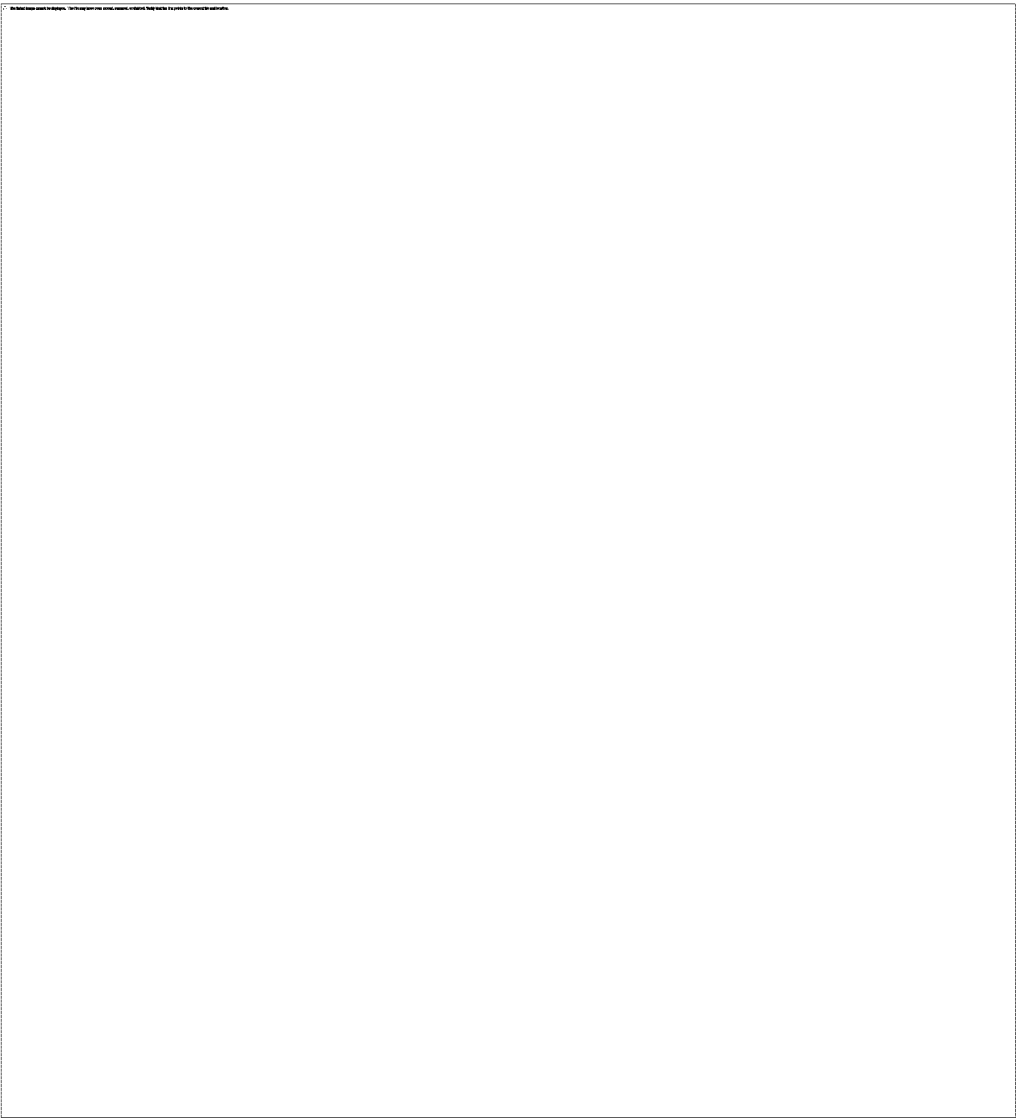
Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. - **Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills** will meet to consider Bill Pr59, An Act to revive 564539 Ontario Limited; and Bill Pr60, An Act to revive 1476283 Ontario Limited

12:30 p.m. - **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** will meet to consider Physician Billing (Section 3.11, 2016 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario)

1:00 p.m. - **Standing Committee on Justice Policy** will meet to consider Bill 89, An Act to enact the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2016, to amend and repeal the Child and Family Services Act and to make related amendments to other Acts

Social Media Snapshot



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Events at a Glance

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

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