

Message

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Sent: 2017-05-08 1:01:19 PM
To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Monday, May 8, 2017

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Monday, May 8, 2017

In the News

On Friday, Sudbury MPP and Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** announced a \$5.8 million funding increase to Health Sciences North for this coming year. These funds will be used to reduce wait times, expand services, and provide overall better care to patients in Sudbury. This funding is part of a province-wide health-care initiative, including \$500 million targeted at hospitals across Ontario. **Thibeault** also praised the government's OHIP+ program that provides prescription coverage for all Ontarians under the age of 24.

Meanwhile, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** attended the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's annual general meeting, where she addressed Ontario's trade relationship with the United States in response to the United States' recent targeting of Canadian softwood lumber and dairy tariffs. Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid** acknowledged that Ontario is prepared to decrease the 26.5 per cent corporate tax rate to remain competitive. During the meeting, Premier **Wynne** noted that she is focused on these developments and Ontario's economy, not the upcoming provincial election.

The Government of Ontario has opened the next round of permit applications for Canada's first High Occupancy Toll [lanes](#), which span 16.5 kilometres of the Queen Elizabeth Way. These lanes are part of the government's overall plan to improve transportation infrastructure within the province.

Ontario PC Leader **Patrick Brown** promised to listen to ideas coming from other parties at Queen's Park if elected Premier. **Brown** expressed that he is disappointed with the partisan nature of the legislature, and recognized that good ideas come from all sides of the political spectrum. In his interview with *Toronto Sun*, **Brown** pushed back against suggestions that his party has not offered up any policy ideas since he became leader, and touted a policy convention in November where ideas will be debated.

Meanwhile, **Brown** announced that he will travel across the province from May 8 to May 14 to participate in Nursing Week. Brown will travel to six health care facilities with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario's "Take Your MPP to Work" program.

In other news, NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** will tour a Toronto Community Housing complex with Toronto Mayor **John Tory** on Monday. This tour is part of Tory's effort to lobby the province for additional money for repairs to Toronto's city housing.

Opinion Highlights

- ♦ Kathleen Wynne is going to build a trade wall, and Ontario is going to pay for it. (Sarah Reid, *TVO*)
 - ♦ Wynne's rent controls will repeat past mistakes. (Ben Eisen, *Toronto Sun*)
 - ♦ We need a businesslike approach to pharmacare. (Colleen Flood & Bryan Thomas, *Ottawa Citizen*)
 - ♦ School closures raise conflict of interest concern. (Jim Dunn, *Hamilton Spectator*)
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Question Period Highlights (May 8)

Government procurement

- ♦ PC Deputy Leader **Sylvia Jones** criticized the government for buying Canada Goose jackets for some ministry employees. Jones noted that the government cut spending on autism yet allowed frivolous spending for their own employees.
- ♦ Children and Youth Services Minister **Michael Coteau** said that the government has a clear procurement process and accused the official opposition of misunderstanding the process, despite being a "party of business".

Photo radar

- ♦ PC Transportation Critic **Michael Harris** called on the government to support a PC amendment to Bill 65 to ensure that school bus cameras can be admissible in court proceedings.

- Transportation Minister **Steven Del Duca** accused the official opposition of "trying to make themselves look good" and implored the opposition to help the government pass the bill to protect children.

Universal prescription drug coverage

- NDP Health Critic **France Gelinas** said that the government's OHIP+ program does not insure workers in the province. Gelinas touted the NDP's plan and asked the government to extend coverage for all Ontarians.
- Health Minister **Eric Hoskins** criticized the NDP plan for limiting coverage to 125 drugs instead of the 3,000 covered under OHIP+. Hoskins said that the plan was a step in the right direction and noted that the government has consistently called for a national pharmacare plan.

Fair Hydro Plan

- NDP Energy Critic **Peter Tabuns** noted that there were only 12 days left in the spring session. Tabuns asked when the government will table legislation to enact hydro rate cuts for the summer.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** touted the Fair Hydro Plan that will reduce hydro bills by up to 25 per cent. Thibeault also criticized the official opposition for having no plan to deal with hydro prices.

Today in the Legislature

Government Business

**Bill 127 - An Act to
implement Budget**

Private Members' Business

**No Private Members'
Business.**

Committee Meetings

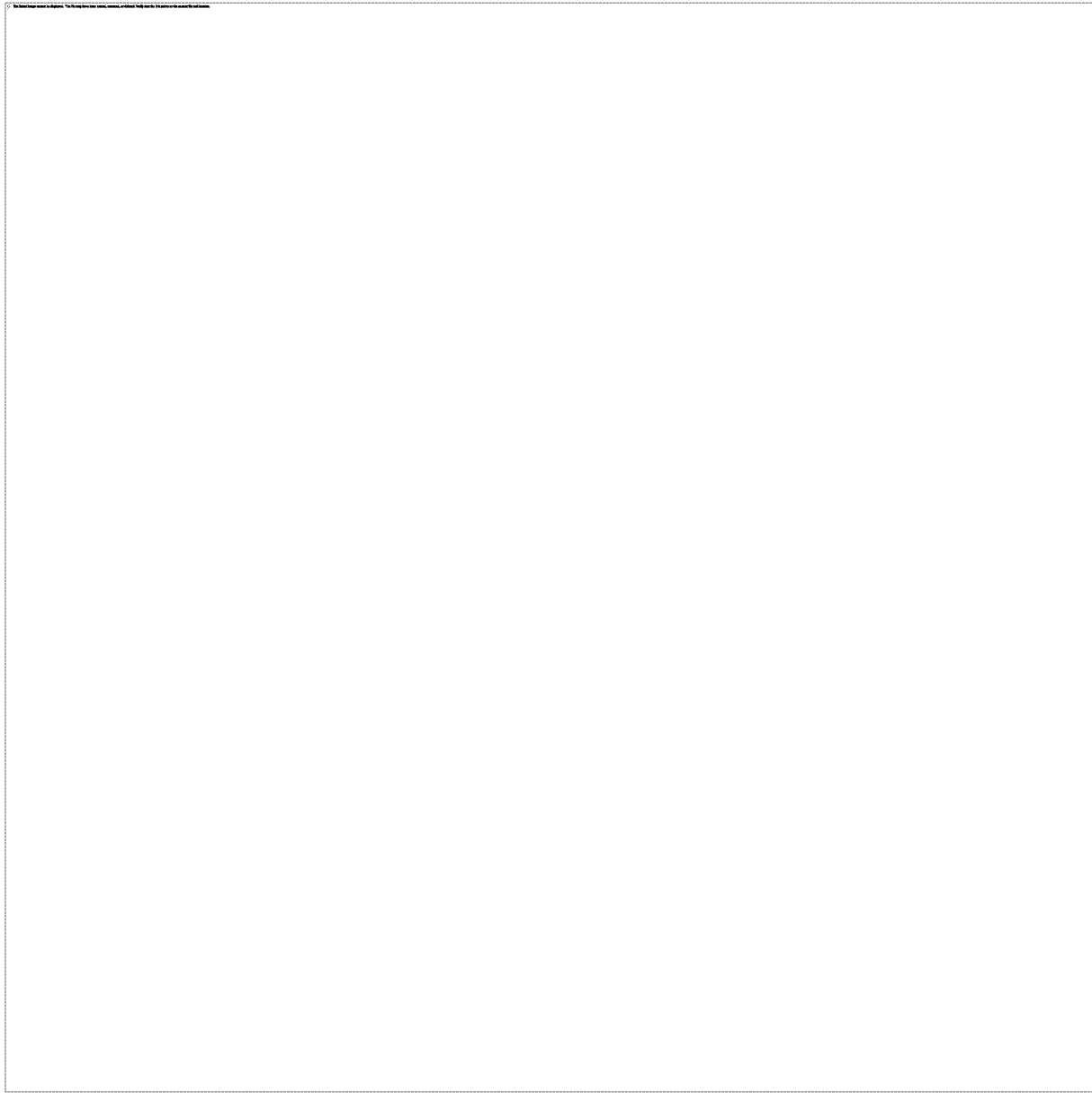
**2:00 p.m. - Standing
Committee on General**

measures and to enact,
amend and repeal various
statutes, second reading.

Government will meet to
discuss Bill 65, An Act to
amend the Highway Traffic
Act.

**2:00 p.m. - Standing
Committee on Social
Policy** will meet to consider
Bill 96, An Act to enact the
Human Trafficking
Awareness Day
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Social Media Snapshot



Events at a Glance

Monday, May 8, 2017

Education Minister Mitzie Hunter will discuss the government's Highly Skilled Workforce Strategy

Time: 11:45 a.m.

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

RSVP: <https://www.canadianclub.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?id=3383>

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

PC Leader Patrick Brown will discuss Ontario's affordability crisis that businesses and families alike are facing in Ontario

Time: 11:45 a.m.

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

RSVP: <https://www.canadianclub.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?id=3379>

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Queen's Park Press Gallery Spring Fling

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hart House, University of Toronto

Monday, May 29, 2017

Health Minister Eric Hoskins will outline the government's vision for transforming health care.

Time: 12:00 p.m.

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

RSVP: <https://www.empireclub.org/events/honourable-eric-hoskins/>

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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