

Message

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To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
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Subject: Queen's Park Update - May 10, 2017

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Wednesday, May 10, 2017

In the News

Yesterday, the Ontario government passed legislation that changes the rules around resource extraction. The changes are targeted at increasing environmental protection, boosting competitiveness, and creating jobs and economic growth. *The Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act* consists of five measures that fulfill the government's mandate to modernize the management of natural resources while creating jobs. Aggregate resources include sand, gravel, clay, earth, and rock extracted from pits and quarries.

PC Leader **Patrick Brown** has revealed an eight-point plan aimed at increasing government accountability and ethics if elected in 2018. Brown argues that the Liberal Government has not done enough to clean up the government. The plan includes closing loopholes that prevent ministers from fundraising, stopping ministerial staff from lobbying for companies their ministry has worked with, and putting government advertising back under greater scrutiny.

The Ontario Liberal Government argues that the ongoing lawsuit over the partial sale of Hydro One is a political complaint, not a legal one. The Canadian Union of Public Employees filed a lawsuit last December targeted at stopping the sale of Hydro One. On Monday, the Government announced the sale of the final portion, leaving the province owning 49.9 per cent of the utility company. Lawyers from the Government have filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed against them and will go to court on June 12 in their bid to dismiss this lawsuit, though it will come a month after the final shares are sold.

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** has admitted that the Sault Ste. Marie by-election will be tough on the Ontario Liberal's. NDP candidate **Joe Krmpotich** is emerging as the front-runner in this election, while the Progressive Conservatives struggle to fight for the typically Liberal-dominated region. Ontario NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** attributed her party's success in part to the Liberal's failure to include the Ring of Fire in the current Government's budget.

In other news, the Ministry of Finance announced that 76 more grocery stores across the province will sell beer and cider, beginning on June 30. This is the second round of a policy shift to make purchasing alcohol more convenient, while opening up additional opportunities for brewers. Currently, there are 130 stores across Ontario that can sell beer and cider, which were selected via a competitive bidding process held by the LCBO.

Opinion Highlights

- Kathleen Wynne is spending again the same way that got Ontario in trouble last time (Ben Eisen and Charles Lammam, *Financial Post*)
 - Why can't Ontario follow its own rules on hospitals? (John McGrath, *TVO*)
 - Ontario Needs To Be Honest About Its Budget Problem (Mike Schreiner, *Huffington Post*)
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Question Period Highlights (May 10)

Criminal justice

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** criticized the government for the handling of the parole system in Ontario. **Brown** cited a case where probation officers did not check in on a man charged with child luring.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** said that the government was committed to making communities safer instead of filling jails and criminalizing actions.
- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** said that the government has clearly "dropped the ball" on the issue as dangerous criminals are not being properly monitored.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** acknowledged that more must be done and criticized **Brown** for being part of the Harper government with an aggressive "law and order" agenda.

Nursing cuts

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** accused the government of firing 1,600 nurses. **Brown** cited a report that said Ontario's registered nurse to population ratio is the worst in Canada.
- Premier **Kathleen Wynne** touted the government's \$7 billion investment in health care over three years that will help improve health care services in Ontario.

Hydro One

- NDP Energy Critic **Peter Tabuns** criticized the government for selling further shares in Hydro One. Tabuns argued that the government's sale will only enrich Bay Street at the expense of ordinary Ontarians.
- Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** pushed back against the accusation and touted the government's Fair Hydro Plan that would decrease hydro rates by up to 25 per cent.

Today in the Legislature

Government Business

Bill 65 - An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act, third reading.

Private Members' Business

Bill 127 - An Act to implement Budget measures. Hon Yasir Naqvi (Liberal - Ottawa Centre).

Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. - **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** will meet pursuant to Standing Order 108 (h)

12:30 p.m. - **Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly** will meet to consider Bill 87, An Act to implement health measures and measures relating to seniors.

9:00 a.m. - **Standing Committee on Public Accounts** will meet to write

a report

3:30 p.m. - **Standing
Committee on General
Government** will meet to
consider Bill 124, An Act to
amend the Residential
Tenancies Act, 2006,

Social Media Snapshot



Events at a Glance

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

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