

Message

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on behalf of Navigator Limited [info@navltd.com]
Sent: 2017-05-12 1:02:14 PM
To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - May 12, 2017

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Friday, May 12, 2017

In the news

Today, Transportation Minister **Steven Del Duca** announced the purchase of 61 trains from Alstom for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. **Del Duca** speculated that the dispute resolution process with current supplier Bombardier could take up to a year, which the Minister said could delay the Crosstown project. The \$528-million sole-sourced contract would deliver 61 vehicles—14 of which will be used on the Finch West LRT while 44 could be used on the Eglinton Crosstown if current supplier Bombardier is unable to deliver its vehicles on schedule. The vehicles will be used on Mississauga's Hurontario LRT should Bombardier meet its scheduled delivery dates. **Del Duca** also announced that Alstom will open an assembly facility in the Greater Toronto area to fill the order.

Yesterday, Ontario's official opposition released leaked cabinet documents that allege Ontarians will end up paying significantly higher energy bills over two decades in exchange for short-term relief. The document shows that the average Toronto Hydro consumer would save \$2,500 through 2025, and subsequently will pay an extra \$4,800 over the next 22 years. PC Energy Critic **Todd Smith** said that he received the document from a disgruntled Ministry employee. NDP Energy Critic **Peter Tabuns** claims that the document proved that the Fair Hydro Plan was just a ploy to get re-elected. Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, however, said that the document was outdated, did not reflect the latest information available to the government and did not take into account additional measures to take costs out of the system.

Meanwhile, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** warned First Nations communities that are only accessible by flight to quickly agree on the construction of roads into their region to support the Ring of Fire project. The Premier made the points in a letter to the the Matawa First Nations, where she emphasized that her willingness to negotiate with individual communities if there was no consensus. The chiefs do not agree on the specifics of a road, worrying that it may increase crime rates, lead to environmental degradation and cause the loss of additional social assistance for isolated communities.

Ontario's patient ombudsman **Christine Elliott** said that 60 per cent of the more than 1,500 complaints received by her office revolve around miscommunication from officials in the hospital, long-term care and home-care sectors. Other top complaints included waiting times, overcrowded hospitals and access to care in remote parts of the province. NDP Leader **Andrea**

Horwath said that NDP MPPs receive many complaints from constituents about exorbitant hospital fees or mistreatment of elderly family members at hospitals.

Opinion Highlights

- B.C.'s political earthquake reverberates in Ontario. (Martin Regg Cohn, *Toronto Star*)
 - Wynne Liberals can't be trusted. (Editorial Board, *Toronto Sun*)
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Insights | Winning the Message of the Day

By Jessica Georgakopoulos

On the campaign trail, each political party has a goal of winning the message of the day. There is much strategy that goes into what these messages are and when they will rolled-out. For political campaign teams, if you get the timing right and execute well, repeatedly winning the message of the day can be a game changer.

The next Ontario general election is scheduled for June 7, 2018. So while Ontario is not "officially" in an election campaign, the silly season has essentially begun and by all accounts the Ontario PCs won yesterday's message of the day through shrewd timing .

The Liberal government has had, for the most part, a good couple of weeks in the media since releasing a balanced budget full of goodies on April 27. Yesterday, the good news was schedule to continue with the Minister of Energy introducing legislation for the Fair Hydro Plan. Premier Wynne had already put the issue of high electricity rates for residential customers relatively to bed when she announced this plan to cut bills by 25 per cent in March. For the

government, yesterday should have been another good news day of re-announcing a commitment to remind voters of the significant rate cut they will be receiving.

What likely came as a surprise for the government Thursday, and did not factor into their communications plan for the day, was that the PCs had in their possession a confidential government document that revealed the Fair Hydro Plan will see electricity rates soar 6.5 per cent annually from 2022 to 2027 and will then increase 10.5 per cent annually following that.

And this is where the shrewdness of the timing comes in.

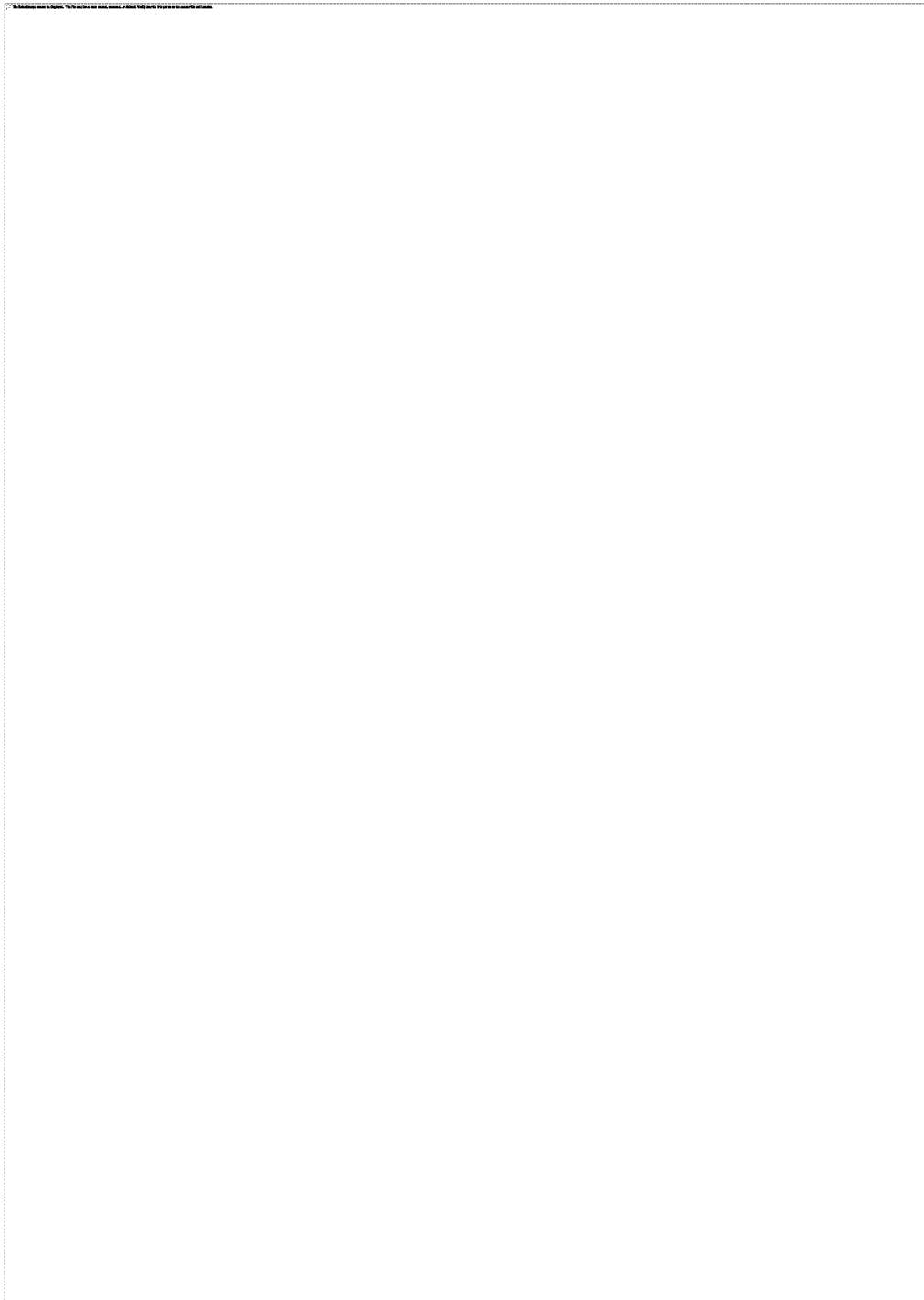
According to the *Toronto Star*, the office of Ontario PC Leader, Patrick Brown, received this confidential document shortly after a Liberal cabinet meeting in early March. While news like this would have made headlines regardless of when it was announced, waiting for the day the Government introduced the legislation on the Fair Hydro Plan, allowed for the message to shift from electricity rates being cut to how high electricity rates will soar in the next ten years.

The timing was perfect. It put the Liberals on the defense at their own announcement and gave them a glimpse of what they can expect from Patrick Brown and his team going forward.

If they didn't think it before, yesterday indicated to the Liberals that Patrick Brown should not be underestimated.

Jessica Georgakopoulos is a Consultant at Navigator Ltd. She is a former Queen's Park staffer.

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

Friday, May 26, 2017

Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli will speak on Ontario's historic infrastructure investment

Time: 7:45 am

Location: Fairmont Chateau Laurier, 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa

RSVP: <http://www.economicclub.ca/events/display/Ontario%E2%80%99s-Historic-Infrastructure-Investment>

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

The will resume on Monday, May 15, 2017.

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