

Message

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Sent: 2017-05-15 1:02:11 PM
To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - May 15, 2017

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Monday, May 15, 2017

In the News

A new survey by Forum Research indicates that about 10% of Ontarians say they trust Premier Kathleen Wynne. Survey respondents were asked which of the three major party leaders they find most trustworthy. NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** ranked first with 29 per cent finding her trustworthy; PC Leader **Patrick Brown** ranked second, receiving 25 per cent. Premier Kathleen Wynne ranked last, with only 11 per cent saying they trust her. Although Brown is ranked second in trust, survey respondents ranked him as the best choice for premier according to the research results.

Ontario Premier **Kathleen Wynne** has been speaking with U.S. governors in Wyoming, Colorado, and South Carolina to discuss trade relations between the Province of Ontario and U.S. states. These visits are a reaction to President **Donald Trump's** "Buy American" policy. Wynne promoted the importance of Ontario's trade relationship with the United States, highlighting the \$1 billion in daily trade between the countries is a large contributor to Ontario's economy. The Premier will be attending an annual trade convention this summer in Rhode Island.

Minister of Municipal Affairs **Bill Mauro** and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services **Marie-France Lalonde** have released a joint statement on the recent flooding of Eastern Ontario. The statement recognized the difficult circumstances facing affected communities, and acknowledged the emergency services, municipal leaders, volunteers, and residents who have been managing them across the province. The statement highlighted the government's recent reform of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program, and confirmed the government's commitment to helping individuals recover from the floods.

In other news, a recent report by People for Education has found that only 41 per cent of elementary schools have a full-time or part-time music teacher. This is a significant drop from the 58 per cent in 1998. Many of the cuts exist within rural communities, as there are fewer qualified music teachers. Schools in the Greater Toronto Area are more than twice as likely to have music teachers. The decline is attributed to budget cuts to the arts within schools, including dance, drama, and visual arts. The report calls on the province to develop policy to ensure that all elementary students have the opportunity to take music classes across the province.

Opinion Highlights

- Ontario plans big boost to minimum wage, update of labour laws. (Martin Regg Cohn, *Toronto Star*)
 - Wynne's Liberals don't have a divine right to rule. (Editorial Board, *Toronto Sun*)
 - The people always lost with green scheme energy deals. (Lorne Gunter, *Toronto Sun*)
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Question Period Highlights (May 15)

Electricity Costs

- PC Leader **Patrick Brown** questioned the government's refusal to fix the structural problems within Ontario's electricity system. Brown cited the recent leaked document which indicated that the new program will temporarily provide hydro discounts, but will increase rates substantially four years later.
 - Premier **Kathleen Wynne** responded by dismissing the document, saying that it is outdated and was not used in the development of the Fair Hydro Plan.
 - NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** maintained this line of questioning, and asked if Premier Wynne would accept an independent review by the Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario of the Fair Hydro Plan.
 - The Premier agreed to the review, further emphasizing that the goal of the plan is to help Ontarians, and there are not any concerns with the plan.
 - Both **Horwath** and **Brown** identified Premier **Wynne's** release of the Fair hydro Plan as a re-election tool, and questioned her true intentions.
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Today in the Legislature

Government Business

Private Members' Business

Committee Meetings

Bill 132 - An Act to enact the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act, 2017 and to make amendments to the Electricity Act, 1998, second reading.

1:00 p.m. - **Standing Committee on General Government** will meet to consider An Act to provide for Anti-Racism Measures.

2:00 p.m. - **Standing Committee on Social Policy** will meet for consideration of An Act to enact the Human Trafficking Awareness Day Act.

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

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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