

Message

From: Navigator Limited [info=navltd.com@mail3.atl71.mcdlv.net]
on behalf of Navigator Limited [info@navltd.com]
Sent: 2017-05-26 1:09:52 PM
To: Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group
(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]
Subject: Queen's Park Update - Week in Review

[View this email in your browser](#)

Friday, May 26, 2017

In the news

On Wednesday, Ontario Financial Accountability Officer **Stephen LeClair** released his assessment that the Liberal government's Fair Hydro Plan will lower electricity bills by 25 per cent immediately, though long-term costs to the province will reach \$45 billion over the next 29 years. Ratepayers will save \$24 billion for a net expense of \$21 billion. LeClair questioned why the government is bankrolling the cuts through Ontario Power Generation, which keeps the debt off the province's books, and could add an additional \$4 billion in interest costs. While opposition parties are criticizing Premier **Kathleen Wynne** for this plan, she is emphasizing that Ontarians demanded and deserved immediate relief.

In a statement, the Ontario Government announced the hiring of lobbyists in Texas to convince state officials not to pass a Buy American Bill. Premier **Kathleen Wynne** is concerned the bill will be approved over the weekend, posing new challenges to Ontario's economy. Trade between Ontario and Texas is primarily focused in the tech, automotive, and construction sectors, and amounted to more than US\$12 billion last year and 460,000 jobs. Wynne will join several other Premiers in a trip to Washington D.C. next month to promote the benefits of free trade.

Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** released the Changing Workplaces Review final report on Tuesday. The review provides legislative changes to the province's *Employment Standards Act* and *Labour Relations Act*. Among the 173 recommendations, the review has acknowledged an overall lack of knowledge and understanding of workplace rights, and focuses on raising the level of knowledge and enforcement of Ontario's labour laws. The recommendations focus on equal pay, increased vacation entitlements, and closing legal loopholes.

Ontario's new web-based Interactive Opioid Tracker was announced in a joint statement by Minister of Health **Dr. Eric Hoskins**, Chief Medical Officer of Health **Dr. David Williams**, and Chief Coroner for Ontario **Dirk Huyer**. The tracker has more than 13 years worth of statistics, listing cases that required medical care, hospitalization, or death. The platform is primarily meant to be used by health-care workers, however it can be accessed by the general public. The statement cites the steadily increasing opioid-related deaths in the province since 2014. This initiative is part of a larger strategy to prevent opioid addiction and overdose in the province.

In other news, May 31, 2017 will mark the first day for Ontario's newest judge on the Ontario Court of Justice bench. Justice **Anastasia (Stacey) Marie Nichols** will preside in Orillia. Nichols has specialized in criminal law for the past 15 years of her career.

Opinion Highlights

- Why high speed rail switched from Montreal to Kitchener-Waterloo (Martin Regg Cohn, *Toronto Star*)
 - Wynne's hydro plan simply irresponsible (Lorrie Goldstein, *Toronto Sun*)
 - Don't let Ontario sell you on its hydro 'savings' plan (Konrad Yakabuski, *The Globe and Mail*)
 - Wynne spending our cash like a drunken sailor (Andre Martin, *Toronto Sun*)
 - Doctors must reduce opioid prescriptions (Editorial Board, *Toronto Star*)
-

Insights | Economic Reassurance

By Kanivanan Chinniah

On Monday, the Province released the final report from the Changing Workplaces Review and is due to formally respond to its recommendations very soon. In updating Ontario's labour laws for the 21st century, the review comes against the backdrop of heightened economic anxiety.

This review is necessary. The rise of the gig economy and the onset of precarious work, coupled with the continuing loss of low-skilled high-wage labour intensive jobs to automation and globalization will eventually come to a head.

That will have consequences at the ballot box, and so ballot box considerations will drive the final legislation that Ontario Labour Minister Kevin Flynn presents to the legislature before it rises for the summer break.

The government is betting strong action on the file will be a vote-winner for. Coupled with the Fair Hydro Plan and Fair Housing Plan, the government has staked out a populist social justice

agenda in advance of the next election.

After the release of a balanced budget that delivered a slew of new social program spending, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne justified the programs to help the most vulnerable because of Ontario's strong economic fundamentals.

It is true though that all the proposed changes outlined in the Changing Workplaces Review will make the workplace more inflexible, which could lead to long-term and permanent job losses. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce already estimates that input costs have grown by 69 per cent in Ontario, versus a 28 per cent increase in the United States.

However, the government will win voters that want the fruits of economic growth to be distributed to them. There is a growing constituency of people with precarious work. People in low-skilled high-wage jobs still see their work shipped overseas or disrupted by new technologies.

They must be heard with action, not statistics and spreadsheets.

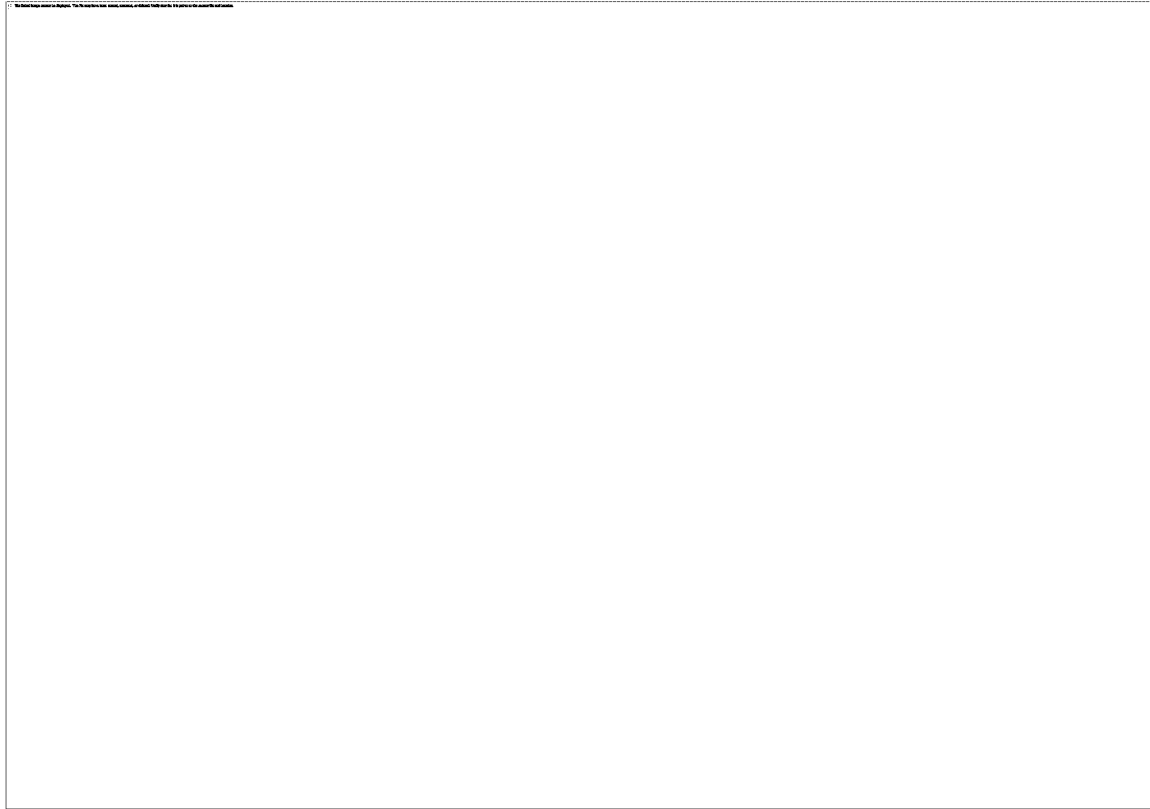
Strong government action on the sectors of the new economy will reassure a large constituency of people who feel left behind.

If they don't go far enough, the government suddenly becomes vulnerable to attack from labour and the NDP. If they go too far, the government will risk any economic credibility they have with the electorate and cede more ground to the Progressive Conservative opposition.

Their challenge will be whether they can balance their redistributive measures while avoiding unintended consequences that could wreck the economy.

Kanivanan Chinniah is an Associate Consultant at Navigator Ltd.

Social Media Snapshot



Events at a Glance

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/>

Monday, June 5, 2017

Education Minister Mitzie Hunter will address the Economic Club of Canada.

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: InterContinental Hotel, 225 Front Street West, Toronto

RSVP: <http://economicclub.ca/events/display/the-hon-mitzie-hunter-to-address-the-economic-club-of-canada>

Thursday, June 8, 2017

OEA Conversations that Matter: Energy Planning Governance Reform

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Offices of McMillan LLP, 181 Bay Street, 44th FL, Toronto

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/oea-conversations-that-matter-energy-planning-governance-reform-tickets-33926826050?>

Queen's Park Schedule

The Ontario legislature resume on Monday, May 29, 2017.

Copyright © 2017 Navigator Ltd.. All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up for an email marketing product from Navigator Ltd. This could include our Queen's Park Update, Brexit Update Series, Political Traction podcast, or another email product. You may also be receiving this email because you are an existing personal contact of a member of our Navigator team. You may unsubscribe from these emails at any time using the "unsubscribe" link in the footer of each email. If you have any questions or concerns please send an email to info@navltd.com.

Our mailing address is:

Navigator Ltd
121 King Street West, Suite 1810
Box 100
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3T9
Canada

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

