

Queen's Park Today – Daily Report October 30, 2017

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Quotation of the day

“She’s getting treatment for free? ... You’re saving money.”

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders praises Ontario's approach to preventative health care after meeting a refugee from Eritrea who, because of early diagnoses, is able to manage her Type 2 diabetes without medication.

Today at Queen's Park

On the schedule

The House will convene at 10:30 a.m. for question period.

Two bills are scheduled to be debated in the afternoon:

- **Bill 166**, Strengthening Protection for Ontario Consumers Act, will be debated at second reading.
- **Bill 154**, Cutting Unnecessary Red Tape Act, will be debated at third reading.

Leader watch

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** joined Vermont Senator **Bernie Sanders** on a tour of Toronto General, Women's College and Mount Sinai hospitals on Saturday. Sanders was in town for a speaking engagement hosted at the University of Toronto (and attended by NDP leader **Jagmeet Singh**).

The former U.S. Democratic primary contender is an advocate for single-payer healthcare and is currently participating in a cross-country tour to see Canada's system in action. Sanders and Wynne held a roundtable with doctors and patients at Women's College Hospital that touched on doctors moving from the U.S. to Canada, wait times, hospital funding models and technological innovation in the system.

The senator also visited the hospital's bill department, which has only one employee, and remarked on how much lower Canada's healthcare administration costs are than in the United States.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, is one of the most left-wing politicians in recent U.S. history. Wynne's participation in his itinerary, which was heavily promoted by her media team, reflects not only Sanders' star power and popularity among millennials, but also Wynne's continued push to outflank the NDP on the left. "In this period of rapid social and economic change, someone like Senator Sanders encourages us to think big, and take bold steps to build the kind of world we want to live in," the premier said in a statement.

On Sunday afternoon, Wynne was re-nominated as the Ontario Liberal Party candidate in her riding of Don Valley West — by far the easiest political contest she will face over the next eight months.

PC leader **Patrick Brown** was back in northern Ontario over the weekend. He travelled to Sudbury to do some local media and to campaign with the city's PC candidate and former NHL player **Troy Crowder**. Brown also announced a new detail about his party's upcoming policy convention: Only Northern Ontario PC members will be allowed to debate and vote on 10 of the party's policy resolutions that specifically apply to Northern Ontario. This is designed to combat the belief in the region that too many policy decisions are made in Toronto.

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** attended the NDP's Hamilton—West Ancaster—Dundas nomination meeting on Saturday.

Committees this week

The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs will meet on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for public hearings on **Bill 148**, Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Act.

The Standing Committee on Social Policy is scheduled to meet on Monday and Tuesday, if necessary, for clause-by-clause consideration of **Bill 139**, Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act.

The Standing Committee on Estimates meets on Tuesday and Wednesday to continue its study of the Estimates of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

On Wednesday, public hearings will be held on the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly's study of **Bill 142**, Construction Lien Act.

In the park

Fanshawe College will hold a lobby day and morning MPP reception.

The Canadian Nuclear Association will also hold a lobby day, which will include an evening reception for MPPs.

Topics of conversation

- Over the weekend columnists divided over which Ontario leader's recent actions have the most in common with **Donald Trump** — a favourite rhetorical strategy of pundits.
 - In a CBC Opinion piece **Robyn Urback** argues PC leader **Patrick Brown's** refusal to apologize for saying the premier was standing trial is akin to Trump's "doubling down on insensitive comments made to a war widow over the phone, deaf to well-meaning allies bellowing at him to just apologize and move on."
 - On the flip side, former ombudsman **André Marin** wrote in the *Toronto Sun* that the pro-Liberal advocacy group Working Ontario Women is Trumpian in its goals: "Next time you see an ad on TV by WOW, remember that it's courtesy of Wynne in the finest of Trumpian tradition — deceitful, deceptive and meant to divide."
- The founder of Ontario Proud also wrote an op-ed in the *Toronto Sun*. **Jeff Ballingall** argues that social media's ability to connect disenfranchised Ontarians upset with the Liberal government will help stop the premier's re-election.
- On Friday the courtroom studying the gas plants case heard testimony from **Peter Faist**, the man who the Liberal Party paid \$10,000 to wipe staffer computers in **Dalton McGuinty's** office. Faist told the judge he thought he was only clearing personal information from the computers when the office turned over after McGuinty's resignation and that he did not think he was doing anything wrong. Faist, who signed an investigative agreement with the OPP in 2013 and is not being charged, returns to the stand on Monday.
 - On Thursday, a second witness in the gas plants trial testified about the irregularity of Ontario chief information officer **David Nicholl's** request for "global administrator's access" to all the computers in the former premier's office. As the *National Post* reports, Nicholl has said in the past that he only asked for a password for normal administrative access.
- A new Forum Research poll found the PCs with a 20-point lead over the Liberals. Weeks of dual trials playing out in the media have not been doing the OLP any favours. Twenty-four per cent of Ontarians polled said they would support the Liberals in the next election, putting the party in a statistical tie with the NDP (22 per cent).
 - Forty-five per cent of respondents support the PC Party. This is the highest the party has polled since Brown won the leadership.
 - The Liberals are polling five points higher than last March when Forum pegged their support at its rock bottom of 19 per cent.
- In the wake of increased opposition pressure to deal with air quality concerns in Sarnia's Chemical Valley, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change posted a new sulphur dioxide air standard online for consultation. Environment Minister **Chris Ballard** recommitted to funding a health study of Sarnia residents.

Today's events



October 30 at 9:00 a.m. — Toronto

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** will host an employer and employee discussion on **Bill 148**, Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Act, at the Irv Gastro Pub.



October 30 at 9:00 a.m. — Richmond Hill

Transportation Minister **Steve Del Duca** will make an announcement with Liberal MPPs **Reza Moridi** and **David Zimmer** at Welcome Centre Immigrant Services.



October 30 at 9:30 a.m. — Ottawa

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will meet with families with loved ones in long-term care at 69 Ossington Avenue in Old Ottawa South.



October 30 at 9:30 a.m. — Toronto

Liberal MPP **Yvan Baker** will announce the introduction of a private members' bill on road safety, the Phones Down, Heads Up Act, at Queen's Park. The bill will be known as the "Zombie Law."



October 30 at 10:30 a.m. — Toronto

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** will attend question period.



October 30 at 5:30 p.m. — Toronto

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** will participate in a roundtable discussion with Secretary General of the OECD, **Angel Gurría**, and Canadian business leaders as part of the Toronto Global Forum at the Four Seasons Hotel.



October 30 at 1:30 p.m. — Toronto

Children and Youth Services Minister **Michael Coteau** and Advanced Education Minister **Deb Matthews** will make an announcement at 339 Queen Street East.



October 30 at 2:00 p.m. — Toronto

Attorney General **Yasir Naqvi** will make an announcement at the University of Toronto's Jackman Law Building.



October 30 at 7:15 p.m. — Toronto

Tourism, Culture and Sport Minister **Eleanor McMahon** will announce the laureates of the 2017 Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts at Canada's National Ballet School.

News briefs — Governmental

Ministry of Finance

Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** sent letters to all of Ontario's municipalities to share the next steps for determining the locations of cannabis retail outlets. The LCBO will lead the location-scouting process using guidelines to ensure stores are distributed evenly across the province and to make sure new government-run stores successfully counter the number of dispensaries currently in operation. The government will also ensure no stores are located close to schools.

The LCBO is now operating the domain name LCBOcannabisupdates.com, which is where details about prospective store locations will be posted.

Funding announcements

- The **Ministry of Small Business** announced \$257,200 to help HP Polymers purchase new equipment for its factory in the Town of Puslinch. The investment is expected to help create five new jobs.

Appointments and employments

Ministry of the Attorney General

- **Justice David Berg** was appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice to preside in Ottawa. Berg worked as both a public defender and a private practitioner in Nunavut.
- **Justice Trevor Allan Brown**, a criminal defence lawyer, was also appointed to the Ontario Court of Justice to preside in Ottawa.

New Democratic Party of Ontario

- **Joel Harden**, a "policy analyst and social justice advocate," was nominated to run for the NDP in Ottawa Centre. The contested nomination had four candidates. Over 650 party members turned out to vote.
- **Sara Singh** was nominated to run for the NDP in Brampton Centre. Singh is a PhD candidate in public policy at Ryerson University and the founder of a nonprofit called Broadening Horizons.
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- **Sandy Shaw** was nominated the NDP candidate in Hamilton—West Ancaster—Dundas. The NDP described Shaw as “corporate social responsibility strategist and local media contributor.”

Ontario Liberal Party

- Toronto City Councillor **Chin Lee** was appointed the OLP candidate in Scarborough North.
- Lee is the sixth municipal politician to join the roster of 2018 Ontario Liberal candidates. He will be nominated at a meeting on November 6.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

- **Mary Henein Thorn** was nominated as the PC candidate for Kitchener Centre.