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Your morning briefing

29.11.2017

Headlines

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** apologized for Canada's historic LGBTQ discrimination, and in particular the attempt to purge gay and lesbian civil servants from the 1950s to 90s. "This happened systematically, in Canada, with a timeline more recent than any of us would like to admit," Trudeau said in a report by the *Globe*. The Canadian government will provide \$100 million in compensation to public servants who suffered discrimination, and is expecting 2,000 to 3,000 claims. Criminal records related to anti-LGBTQ charges can also be expunged, including for deceased Canadians.

City staff don't support it in part because there's no projected 60-year scenario where benefits outweigh costs, but Toronto mayor **John Tory** wants further study plans to tunnel or grade-separate parts of the Eglinton West LRT in Etobicoke. The decision would add \$880 million to \$1.3 billion to a project estimated at \$1.5 to \$2.1 billion. Local councillors **John Campbell** and **Stephen Holyday**, as well as Liberal MPP **Yvan Baker**, also support the move on the grounds that it would improve travel times for drivers.

In case you missed our stories Tuesday:

- Patrick Brown says no PC officials have sat down with police in criminal probe
- Grassy Narrows leaders call for immediate action on mercury treatment centre
- No further private hospitals will be allowed in Ontario, says Health Minister
- In Brief: A long-term infrastructure plan, and low vacancy rates

In other news:

Kathleen Wynne is still in China, but in speaking to the *Star* she says **Patrick Brown's** hope to find painless cuts to finance his election platform is "nonsense."

Wynne also asked Brown to be "transparent" on the Hamilton Police investigation into the May PC nomination contest. The PC leader has promised to fully co-operate with investigators.

Globe health expert **Andre Picard** writes about the continuing outbreak of invasive group A streptococcus, the flesh-eating infection which has killed nine people since April 2016 and proved particularly acute in London. Picard writes that it's a classic case of how health outbreaks affect the most vulnerable first, and the lack of awareness or response can be "maddening". The CBC also has an explainer on the outbreak.

The CBC writes that the dive in the rental vacancy rate coupled with the increase in rent has some fully employed professionals questioning whether they can afford to live in big cities.

Ontario is set for its last cap-and-trade auction before entering a market with Quebec and California, reports the *Canadian Press*.

And in the opinion pages:

- **Thomas Walkom** writes that Brown's shift to a Red Tory may spook some from within his own party.
- **Mark Bonokoski** writes that Brown must now steer clear of a **Tim Hudak** "fire 100,000 people" style mistake.
- For TVO, **Sean Marshall** writes that Ontario's inter-city bus travel is suffering from cuts over the decades, particularly when you look beyond big cities.
- **Denise Balkissoon** looks at whether Ontario's largest school board should do away with specialty education programs in the name of equity, and finds that they're worth preserving if certain goals are achieved.
- **Emily Keene** of the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic writes in the *Hamilton Spectator* that the recently passed labour protections in Bill 148 are a boon for workers, including the increased minimum wage.

Bills and motions

Resuming the debate adjourned on November 23, 2017 on the motion for Third Reading of Bill 139, An Act to enact the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act, 2017 and the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre Act, 2017 and to amend the Planning Act, the Conservation Authorities Act and various other Acts.

Opposition Day motion from NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**: "Therefore, the Legislative Assembly calls on the government to immediately begin to bring Hydro One back into public hands by financing the purchase of shares using Hydro One shareholder dividends, moving towards the people of Ontario owning Hydro One once again."

Committees

9 a.m.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts will meet for the purpose of report writing. Room 151.

4 p.m.

Standing Committee on General Government will meet for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 160, An Act to amend, repeal and enact various Acts in the interest of strengthening quality and accountability for patients. Room 2.

4 p.m.

Standing Committee on Justice Policy will meet to consider Bill 174, An Act to enact the Cannabis Act, 2017, the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation Act, 2017 and the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017, to repeal two Acts and to make amendments to the Highway Traffic Act respecting alcohol, drugs and other matters. Room 1.

Events

9 a.m.

Peter Milczyn, Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, to make an announcement. 66 Isabella St., 5th floor.

10 a.m.

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath to discuss NDP opposition day motion on the future of Hydro One. Media Studio, Queen's Park.

10 a.m.

Her Honour the Honourable **Elizabeth Dowdeswell**, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Honourable **Dipika Damerla**, Minister of Seniors Affairs, will present 15 outstanding individuals with the 2017 Ontario Senior Achievement Awards. Lieutenant Governor's Suite, Queen's Park.

1 p.m.

Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, will make an announcement. He will be joined by Dr. **Shafiq Qadri**, MPP for Etobicoke North. Rexdale Community Hub, 21 Panorama Court, Toronto.

8 p.m.

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks and witness an MOU contract signing ceremony between Ontario business delegates and their Chinese counterparts. Chongqing, China.

11 p.m.

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at the Friends of Ontario Networking Luncheon Reception. Chongqing, China.

12:45 a.m.

Premier Wynne to engage in a roundtable discussion with educational leaders on Science, Technology and Innovation in Ontario and Southwest China. Chongqing, China.