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Your morning briefing

11.04.2018

Headlines

A senior aide to former premier **Dalton McGuinty** learns today whether he'll get "real jail" time — as called for by the prosecution — for wiping computer hard drives in the \$1.1-billion gas plants scandal, the *Toronto Star* reports. **David Livingston**, McGuinty's ex-chief of staff, was convicted in January of illegal use of a computer system. *QP Briefing* will be on the scene. Follow our intrepid reporter **David Hains** for the play-by-play.

Meanwhile, **Doug Ford** is touring touring Northern Ontario. The trip means he can't make it to this evening's leaders' debate, organized by Operation Black Vote Canada, though he was invited right after nabbing the Progressive Conservative leadership last month. Instead in Sudbury today, he'll have plenty of opportunity to make pledges like hopping on bulldozing a new future for the province.



Doug Ford

✓@fordnation

If I have to hop on a bulldozer myself, we're going to start building roads to the Ring of Fire. #onpoli <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/doug-ford-northern-ontario-1.4579311> ...
1:41 PM - Mar 16, 2018

Doug Ford says he'll jumpstart the Ring of Fire even if he has to start building roads himself |...

The leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party is promising to move the Ring of Fire mining project forward immediately if elected.
[cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)

At a rally in Thunder Bay last night, he put Hydro One's \$6 million man "on notice," but it's not clear how Ford would get the power to fire **Mayo Schmidt**.



Mike Crawley

✓@CBCQueensPark

Doug Ford said last night the CEO of Hydro One will be "gone" if he becomes Premier. Ford did not explain how he would fire the CEO of a company the government no longer controls. #onpoli <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-northern-ontario-1.4614005> ...

Doug Ford makes his pitch to northern Ontario, where PCs have won just 1 seat in 30 years | CBC News

If Doug Ford and the Progressive Conservatives win the Ontario election in June, it will be in large part thanks to voters like Paul Maydo.

cbc.ca

No sooner did MPP **Michael Harris** fall from PC grace due to sexting allegations than the race to replace him revved up in Kitchener—Conestoga, the *Waterloo Region Record* reports. Renowned University of Waterloo political science professor **Emmett Macfarlane** doesn't see the scandal significantly affecting Tory chances, however, with voters there more likely to choose based on leader and platform, he says.

Our latest stories:

- In brief: Ontario Plowed, a SmartTrack deal, and vulnerable road users
- Ontario Medical Association reaches interim agreement with province on 'relativity'
- Environmental watchdog says government isn't heeding its own climate law
- Pay transparency law 'disappointing,' 'trailing' behind feds, critics say
- Your Question Period briefing: The trumped-up edition
- Wynne weighs in on turfed Tory MPP Michael Harris

In other news:

The president of York University has asked the union representing striking workers to agree to binding arbitration amidst a five-week strike that has shut 50,000 students out of class, the *Globe and Mail* reports.

TVO asks whether employers should be forced to declare tips, given apparent loopholes in the last year's labour protection bill.

Per the *Toronto Sun*, Ontario's beer tax went up to 12 cents per case of 24 cans on March 1, with a 26-per-cent increase en route for Nov. 1, according to Beer Canada — all while the province was pouring \$1.3 million in tax money into a brewery last week.

Ajax Mayor **Steve Parish** is peeved about last week's deal to scuttle the local slots and horse-racing operation in favour of a mega-casino in Pickering, suggesting in a letter to Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** that it was done in "secrecy" and pledging not to "stop fighting," the *Sun* reports.

Per the *Citizen*, Ottawa's shortage of building inspectors leaves the vulnerable to flawed houses, one councillor says.

After years of planning in a community plagued by opioid use, London searches for a supervised drug injection site location that won't stir up NIMBY-ist sentiments, the *Free Press* reports.

A university bike share project in Windsor was an "abysmal" flop, with 33 of the 40 bikes — each worth about \$1,500 — vanishing from campus, the *Windsor Star* reports.

From the opinion pages:

- The *Star* editorial writes that the tale of Michael Harris illustrates why the media must monitor PCs.
- **John Michael McGrath** looks at how dusty permits and land-banking can ride roughshod over more recent wetland protections.
- The *Star* decries how temporary workers are still being "treated shamefully as disposal workers."
- **Lorrie Goldstein** argues the old boys club at Queen's Park needs new rules.

Bills and motions

Resuming the debate adjourned on April 10, 2018 on the motion for allocation of time on Bill 3, An Act respecting transparency of pay in employment.

Motion to pass the Correctional Services Transformation Act through second reading.

Resuming the debate adjourned on April 10 on the motion for Second Reading of Bill 31, An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact and amend various statutes.

Committees

9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts will meet for the purpose of report writing. Room No. 151 (closed session).

9 a.m.

The Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills will meet to consider Bill Pr79, An Act respecting the Kingston Health Sciences Centre; Bill Pr80, An Act respecting Emmanuel Bible College; Bill Pr81, An Act to revive Home Air Support Inc.; and Bill Pr82, An Act to revive 504260 Ontario Ltd., Room No. 1.

Events

8:30 a.m.

Premier **Kathleen Wynne** to deliver remarks at the annual Together We Care conference hosted by the Ontario Long Term Care & Ontario Retirement Communities Associations. Toronto Congress Centre, Leonard Cohen Ballroom, 650 Dixon Road, Toronto.

10 a.m.

Federal Finance Minister **Bill Morneau** to announce how the Government of Canada is helping post-secondary students get new student work placements in their field of study. The DMZ, Ryerson University, 10 Dundas St. E., 6th floor, Toronto.

10 a.m.

Navdeep Bains, federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, to discuss the importance of innovation for the health sector, the economy and clean technology. Fireside chat at the MedTech Conference, The International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga.

10:30 a.m.

Wynne to attend Question Period, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto.

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

Armine Yalnizyan, president of the Canadian Association for Business Economics, to talk poverty in an age of technological disruption, with Global Toronto news anchor Farah Nasser moderating. Fairmont Royal York, 100 Front St. W., Toronto.

12 p.m.

Wynne to attend a Cabinet Meeting. Main Legislative Building – Room 275, Queen's Park. Toronto, ON

12 p.m.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority announces city-building initiative that brings nature back into neighbourhoods, featuring Mayor **John Tory**, among others. The Gatineau Hydro Corridor, near Benshire Drive, Scarborough.

1:30 p.m.

Peter Milczyn, Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy, will make an announcement. Regent Park Presentation Centre, 500 Dundas St. E., Toronto.

2 p.m.

Bains to announcement investment supporting the development of cutting-edge clean technology. Experience Studio, 23 Sultan St., Toronto.

6 p.m.

Cambrian College Student Life Centre. 1400 Barry Downe Road, Sudbury. Interviews available upon request Photo opportunity.

6:30 p.m.

Wynne to participate in the Black Community Provincial Leaders Debate. Jamaican Canadian Association Centre, 995 Arrow Rd., Toronto.

Environmental watchdog says government isn't heeding its own climate law

10.04.2018

Ontario's environmental watchdog has called out the Long-Term Energy Plan in her annual progress report, stating that the government "ignores its own climate law."

"The Ministry [of Energy] is making no plans to comply," **Dianne Saxe** warned in a press conference. She observed that the energy ministry and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change are not co-operating on objectives, in part to being too siloed from one another.

"It's simply not possible for the government to achieve its goals when two branches are not working together. They're going in opposite directions."

"We've been working with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change," responded Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** in remarks to *QP Briefing*. "Obviously, she says there's more work to do on that and we'll take those recommendations forward."

The consequences of unaligned policies are significant, Saxe said

"From an economic perspective, it means the province has turned its back on the renewable energy industry," she said, adding that the lack of an aligned policy between environment and energy means "the province has not got a path forward" to achieve greenhouse gas goals, even with optimal conservation efforts.

According to the climate law, Ontarians "must be prepared to reduce emissions from fossil fuel use by 40 to 50 per cent in the next 13 years," states the report prepared by Saxe.

She also used the opportunity to dispel "myths, rumours and part-truths" that cloud the environmental policy file.

"Contrary to popular belief, the sale of Hydro One has not added anything to power bills," she said, adding that, because of the Fair Hydro Plan, bills are artificially cheap right now by about 20 per cent.

"And selling surplus power when we don't need it generated net revenue of about a quarter of a billion dollars in 2016, which Ontario's electricity consumers would otherwise have had to pay," she said, taking issue with a line of argument used sometimes by the PCs and energy interest groups.

She also warned that "rate increases are ahead," in part to help finance the refurbishment of the Bruce and Darlington nuclear reactors, and to pay back the interest on the Fair Hydro Plan. "We know electricity rates are going up, they have to go up," she said.

Saxe also argued that conservation efforts still have room for improvement at times of peak demand. Asked by *QP Briefing* whether that meant the government should act urgently to invest in conservation efforts while energy prices are still low, she said: "Absolutely."

One area that Saxe would like to see greater government investment in is conservation programs for the 16 per cent of homes that rely on electric heating, many of which are in rural Ontario and face harsh winters. She added that 7 per cent of Ontarians live in "energy poverty," a financial measure where more than 10 per cent of household income is spent on utility bills.

Asked about the commissioner's recommendation, Environment Minister **Chris Ballard** touted the government's GreenON energy program, which is funded by proceeds from the cap-and-trade auctions. The funds can be used on items like the energy efficient home retrofits.

Despite her criticism of the Long-Term Energy Plan, the environmental commissioner had a number of positive findings in her report. She commended the government on ending coal-fired power and replacing it with renewable energy sources. She said "the cost to clean up the system led to higher electricity bills, but overall, it was worth it," adding that cheaper power in 2005 came with environmental and health costs. She also pointed out that Ontario has sufficient power to meet demand, although this surplus will decline in the coming years.