

Sample: Minister's Letter for the 2013 Long Term Energy Plan

Ontario has come a long way since 2003, when we were faced with aging energy infrastructure, a shortage of supply and a system that relied on expensive imports and dirty coal.

Our government has made significant progress transforming our electricity system into one that Ontarians can count on.

To build and maintain a clean, reliable and affordable electricity system, more than \$11 billion has been invested in transmission and distribution networks by Hydro One alone since 2003. This investment has contributed to the province's annual gross domestic product (GDP) by an average of \$835 million and supported 8,000 direct and indirect jobs. Beyond that, Ontario's other distributors have invested a further \$8 billion since 2003. Also, more than \$21 billion has been invested in cleaner generation. Ontario has virtually eliminated coal from our electricity system, with the last plant to close in 2014. The phase out of coal is the single largest climate change initiative in North America. Coal use had accounted for \$4.4 billion per year in financial, health and environmental costs.

Today, Ontario is a world leader in energy technology, innovation and smart grid solutions. Smart meters and consumer demand response programs are allowing ratepayers to control and understand their electricity consumption better while additional smart grid technologies are being used by utilities to operate an advanced, more efficient and modern grid. All told, our investments are making Ontario's grid modern, clean and reliable and a foundation for future growth and prosperity.

Ontario's energy use has changed substantially in the last decade. As our economy continues to grow, our homes, businesses and industries are becoming more efficient. Our demand projections have been updated to reflect this new reality and to address areas of growth around the province.

This review of the Long-Term Energy Plan was the most comprehensive consultation and engagement process the Ministry of Energy has ever undertaken. Sessions were held online and around the province with municipalities, Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the public. This process informed the direction of the Long-Term Energy Plan and we will make continued engagement a priority.

Communities must be allowed to take a more central role when implementing provincial policy objectives. The opportunity for communities to participate in energy infrastructure must be balanced with their responsibility to take ownership of local decisions.

Ontario has adopted a policy of Conservation First, focusing on rate mitigation over major investments in generation or transmission to curb costs for ratepayers. This will mean pursuing lower-cost options to meet energy needs when and where we need it.

The Long-Term Energy Plan will be flexible; Ontario will plan for a lower demand scenario, with the ability to adjust to potential demand changes. For that reason, an annual Ontario Energy Report will be issued to provide an outline of how supply and demand are tracking and also to review progress in implementing the Long-Term Energy Plan.

A major advantage of Ontario's supply mix is the diversity of our generation, which includes solar, wind, natural gas, nuclear, combined heat and power, bioenergy, hydroelectric and waste to energy. Rate mitigation will be top of mind as we leverage this diversity to maximize value for ratepayers.

Ontario will continue to invest in new renewable generation, and explore flexible options such as storage technologies by applying balanced planning principles in a measured and sustainable way.

Nuclear generation will continue to be the backbone of Ontario's supply, and we have confirmed our commitment to nuclear with the refurbishment of the Bruce and Darlington sites. Due to the strong supply situation, we have deferred the construction of new nuclear generating units.

Finally, we will work with our agencies and the province's local distribution companies to ensure they operate more efficiently and produce savings that will benefit Ontario's ratepayers.

This updated Long-Term Energy Plan will encourage conservation, and provide the clean, reliable and affordable energy Ontario will need now and into the future. Our plan will build on our past accomplishments, and achieve a better balance.

Sample: News Release for the 2014 Ontario Liberal Campaign - Ottawa (2014)

Ottawa Liberals will Protect the Montfort

Local Liberal Candidates are committed to Francophone Health Services

This morning Ontario Liberal candidates committed that they will protect the Hôpital Montfort and access to French language health services.

The Harris-Hudak government shutdown 26 hospitals and tried to close the Montfort after promising not to close hospitals. Ontario Liberals fought this dangerous policy, and we have continued to invest in and grow the Montfort.

Tim Hudak is now proposing reckless cuts that would have a devastating impact on our health care services. He has also promised to fire 4,800 health care workers while cutting billions in funding.

QUOTES:

"We've heard the PCs promise before not to close hospitals. I have fought hard to keep the Montfort open and I will continue to fight against Tim Hudak's dangerous cuts."

The Montfort is a vital institution to the Francophone community in Ontario. And, as a Minister in the Mike Harris government, Tim Hudak had a direct hand in trying to close this hospital, we can't let that happen again."

"The Ontario PC Party want to balance the budget on the backs of Ontarians by cut 100,000 public sector positions and slashing spending. These reckless cuts would have a devastation impact on our Francophone community."

2014 LIBERAL BUDGET – HEALTH CARE SUPPORT

- Investing \$11 billion for approved major capital projects at hospitals over the next 10 years.
- A dedicated Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund of \$300 million over the next 10 years to support Community Health Centres, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, community-based mental health and addictions organizations, and Aboriginal Health Access Centres.
- A low-income Health Benefit, which will provide health benefits, like drugs, vision and mental health services to children from low-income families.

Fact Check: Trudeau will deliver tax fairness for families and seniors

Despite Stephen Harper's false claims, the Liberal plan gives nine out of ten families more in monthly child benefit payments than under the Conservative system.

And only Justin Trudeau will raise taxes on the wealthiest one percent – Mulcair and Harper will not.

Contrary to Harper's falsehoods, Justin Trudeau will keep – not cut – pension income splitting for seniors. Conversely, the Harper plan disproportionately helps the wealthiest few.

The Liberal plan restores fairness to seniors by lowering the eligibility age for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement to 65, and boosting the Guaranteed Income Supplement for single low-income seniors by ten percent.

Fact Check: Harper's failed environmental record

The Harper Conservatives are missing in action on climate change. Under Harper, Canada withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol, weakened environmental protections, repealed the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and harmed Canada's environmental reputation internationally.

Both Environment Canada and the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, predict that Canada will not meet its international greenhouse gas 2020 emissions reduction targets.

Despite claiming he has reduced emissions, so far, almost all of the progress that Harper likes to take credit for is the result of provincial action. (Financial Post, April 13, 2015)

Only the Liberal Party has a real plan to build a strong, low-carbon economy, avoid irreparable damage to our environment, and leave the legacy of a healthy planet for our kids and grandkids.

Sample: Letter to Legislative Officer (2016)

Dear Commissioner Wake:

I am writing this letter in response to your June 1, 2016 and June 8, 2016 letters regarding a complaint brought forward by MPP Jagmeet Singh.

When I received your letter dated June 1, 2016 I contacted Adam De Caire in his capacity as Acting Executive Director, Liberal Caucus Services Bureau (LCSB), since the complaint dealt with LCSB, which is not an office that I oversee.

As mentioned by Mr. De Caire, as the Chief Government Whip, I do not have responsibility for LCSB, nor do I exercise any oversight over LCSB or its communications staff.

In regards to the news released referenced by MPP Singh I was not involved in the creation or approval of it. In fact, I was not aware that any release was sent by LCSB until I read about it in your letter. I would also add that none of my staff had any involvement or knowledge of the release before your letter.

As Chief Government Whip I am responsible for the coordination and communication of the daily proceedings of the legislature for the Liberal MPPs. Such responsibilities include the approval of absences, coordination of question period questions and members statements, approval and coordination of substitutions on standing committees, the deferral of votes upon the conclusion of debate on a Bill, coordinating Members to speak to bills during debate and making arrangements for representatives of the Liberal Caucus to participate in/on special occasions such as tributes or in interparliamentary programs.

It is for the above reasons that believe I have been inappropriately named in the complaint made by MPP Singh and this matter should be dealt with directly through LCSB.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Islamophobia Press Conference Q & A

Key Messages:

- Later today the House will debate and vote on MPP Des Rosiers' motion to reaffirm Ontario's commitment to fight against Islamophobia.
- The motion was introduced back in December after a number of troubling hate crimes and attacks targeting Muslims in Ontario and Canada.
- As a result of these on-going issues, including what happened in Quebec City last month, we felt it was important to move the debate up to our first week back.
- It is as important as ever for the Ontario Legislature to reaffirm our commitment to continue to fight against the rise of Islamophobia and all forms of discrimination that fuels acts of hatred within our society.
- Despite the divisive debate going on in Ottawa at federal level, I am pleased that I have heard from many of my colleagues from all parties that they will stand together against hatred, against discrimination, and prejudices, specifically in the rise of anti-Islamic rhetoric, and recognize the importance of diversity as part of Ontario's culture and heritage.

1. Isn't this just a political play?

No, this motion was tabled back in December and as a result of a number of recent hate crimes and attacks targeting Muslims, including what happened in Quebec City last month when six men who were worshipping dead, we felt it was important to move the debate up to our first week back.

2. Didn't it backfire when Patrick Brown said he would support it?

I was pleased that Patrick Brown will be supporting this motion, I have heard from a number of PC caucus members who are also supportive. I am hopeful that the motion will receive unanimous support from all MPPs.

3. Is this the same as the federal motion?

I was very pleased that the Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Erin Mills filed a similar motion in the House of Commons calling out hateful systemic racism and religious discrimination. However, the debate on the federal motion has uprooted a number of troubling comments from the Conservative Party of Canada, comments which seem designed to divide and engage in dog whistle politics.

4. When is the debate?

Later this afternoon starting around 1:30.

5. Did you change the debate date?

No, this motion was tabled back in December and as a result of a number of recent hate crimes and attacks targeting Muslims, including what happened in Quebec City last month when six men who were worshipping dead, we felt it was important to move the debate up to our first week back.

6. What is the Ontario Government doing about this issue?

The provincial government is committed to building a province where people of all religions live, work and worship in harmony. The Anti-Racism Directorate, which was formed last year, is working to implement a strategy to address and prevent systemic racism across government policy, programs and services, and increase anti-racism education and awareness, including Islamophobia, in all parts of the province.