

Table of Contents

Your morning briefing 2

Horwath says she'll do everything she can to cancel Hydro One-Avista deal 6

Your morning briefing

14.05.2018 Jessica Smith Cross

Headlines

Neither NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** nor Liberal Leader **Kathleen Wynne** have said anything about forming a coalition — or working together in any way to avert a hypothetical PC minority government, but the press is buzzing with the idea.



Power & Politics

✓@PnPCBC

How far would Ontario NDP Leader @AndreaHorwath go to block a Doug Ford government? Horwath leaves the door open to an agreement with the Liberals. #pnpCBC #cdnpoli #onpoli
5:43 PM - May 9, 2018

QPB put it this way: They're both expressing reluctance about the idea of propping up a **Doug Ford** minority.

Are you a middle-aged married man? Well then there's a reason you're getting those Ford Nation Live videos on your Facebook page. The *Globe and Mail* has a rundown of online ad targeting by the parties and outside groups.

Your weekend QP Briefing podcast features our reporters: one on the Liberal bus, one on the NDP bus and one following **Doug Ford** around in a Dodge Durango asking "gotcha questions," apparently. In case you missed our recent stories:

- Wynne, Horwath express reluctance to work with PCs in minority government situation

- [NDP touts candidate slate with record number of women](#)
- [Doug Ford tries to quell controversy over 'we take care of our own first' comment](#)
- [In brief: Dental care and developmental services](#)
- [Horwath says she'll do everything she can to cancel Hydro One-Avista deal](#)
- [In brief: Job numbers and smile-ghazi](#)
- [Who's who on the 2018 NDP campaign](#)

In other news:

iPolitics has [a rundown on the fresh election ads](#) — including a cheery new one from the Liberals, in which a woman admits life isn't perfect in Kathleen Wynne's Ontario. And the *Toronto Sun* [reports](#) that political ads don't need to be strictly true.

After rising in the polls, the NDP is now fending off attacks from both sides, so this week might just be make-it-or-break-it, the *Toronto Star* [reports](#).

The Canadian Press has profiles of the two new northernmost ridings, [Kiiwetinoong](#) and [Mushkegowuk-James Bay](#). CP also lists [10 ridings to watch](#) starting with Don Valley West — to see if Wynne will lose her seat.

Seven-in-10 Ontarians see a carbon tax as just a tax grab, [according to a new poll by Ipsos for Global News](#).

The Toronto Real Estate Board is having a little tiff with the Ontario Real Estate Association, [accusing it of attempting to supplant TREB](#).

At a barbecue in Peterborough this weekend, Wynne talked horse racing and supply management, [the *Examiner* reports](#).

In the opinion pages:

- Premier **Doug Ford** could be the boogeyman **Justin Trudeau** needs, [writes Campbell Clark](#)
- **Thomas Walkom** thinks the NDP could [pull off its second miracle](#) in this election
- Physician **Adam Kassam** says Wynne is now [proposing solutions to health-care problems](#) her government created

- The *Star's* editorial board sees meaning in the small, telling moments on the campaign trail, including Ford's response to the gotcha question

Events

9 a.m.

Horwath will make an announcement about health care. North Star Plaza, 900 Peter Robertson Blvd., Brampton.

9:15 a.m.

Premier Wynne to make an announcement. Finishing Trades Institute of Ontario, 130 Toro Road, Unit C, Toronto.

9:15 a.m.

Green Party platform launch at Queen's Park Press Studio, with leader Mike Schreiner accompanied by Deputy Leader, **Robert Kiley** and Green Party of New Brunswick MLA **David Coon**.

10:30 a.m.

Ford will make an announcement. Marriott On The Falls, 3rd Floor Terrace, 6755 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls.

12 p.m.

Ford will visit Stanpac. 2790 Thompson Road, Smithville.

1:30 p.m.

Ford will have a meet and greet at Scorecard Harry's Inc. 17 Lock St, St. Catharines.

2:30 p.m.

Horwath holds campaign event. 6533 Arkona Rd., Watford.

4 p.m.

Premier Wynne to visit Carpenters' Local 785. 680 Fountain Street North, Cambridge.

6 p.m.

Ford will hold a rally. Marriott On The Falls, Oakes Ballroom. 6755 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls.

6 p.m.

Horwath holds town hall focused on health care. Dante Club Hall, 1330 London Rd., Sarnia.

6 p.m.

Premier Wynne to deliver remarks at a barbecue with local supporters, 33 Severn Avenue, Kitchener.

Horwath says she'll do everything she can to cancel Hydro One-Avista deal

12.05.2018 David Hains

SUDBURY, Ont.--

At a campaign stop in Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault's** Sudbury riding, NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** criticized what she called the "Wynne-Ford" hydro plan, and said she would do everything she can to cancel the \$6.7-billion Hydro One purchase of the Washington-based energy company Avista.

Flanked by a Sudbury family concerned about high energy prices, and in front of a campaign placard that called the long-term increase in costs "Thibeault approved," Horwath said she would return Hydro One to public hands, end time-of-use pricing and stop "charging rural and northern families more than everyone else for delivery."

She also sought to paint the Liberal and PC hydro plans as one and the same. "**Doug Ford** and **Kathleen Wynne** share the same hydro scheme, and it's one that will cause hydro bills to soar by another 70 per cent after the election," she stated.

In 2017, the Liberals passed the Fair Hydro Plan as a response to growing public anger about hydro costs that were perceived to be high, and energy prices have been lowered by an average of 25 per cent since then. Much of the Fair Hydro Plan was funded by a complex financing mechanism that borrows against future revenues to provide discounts today, with billions of dollars of additional long-term interest costs. Although Ford has criticized the Fair Hydro Plan, the PCs do not plan to repeal it, while the NDP do.

Ford has also criticized the Liberals for the Hydro One purchase of Washington-based energy company Avista, using part of his rally in Barrie to call out the Grits on the decision. But when he held a presser last week that criticized the Liberals on energy policy and executive compensation, he declined to say he would cancel the \$6.7-billion acquisition that was initiated in July 2017.

Horwath, by contrast, seemed eager to do so.

"We will do our best to make sure that deal doesn't go through," she said in her second Sudbury campaign stop in as many days. "My understanding is that, at this point, the last time I was briefed on it, that the expectation is that the final paperwork [for the acquisition] won't be complete until the end of the summer. If that's the case, then that deal will not go through with an NDP government and we will be switching things around to ensure that Hydro One is in our best interest again here in Ontario."

Hydro One CEO **Mayo Schmidt** told *QP Briefing* in late 2017 that he sees the North American energy industry as one that will become increasingly consolidated, arguing that for the company to remain competitive it needs to acquire companies and find efficiencies.

Horwath also, like Ford, criticized executive compensation at Hydro One, but she took aim at the PC leader, saying he will replace Wynne's "cronies" on the board with his own, replace Schmidt with someone who makes as much money, and would give people who make \$6 million a big tax cut.

Horwath's hydro-focused announcement came in the riding of Liberal MPP **Glenn Thibeault**, who served as energy minister. The former NDP MP changed parties to run for the Grits and NDP MPP **Joe Cimino** resigned his seat.

More to come.