

## Queen's Park Today – Election Report May 30, 2018

|                                          |   |
|------------------------------------------|---|
| Day 22: Today on the campaign trail..... | 1 |
| Topics of conversation .....             | 5 |
| Today's events .....                     | 6 |
| News from the campaign trail.....        | 6 |

### Quotation of the day

“I’m a big, big supporter of the horse racing community. We’re going to do everything we can to help them with the slots in there. Everyone’s going to have fun today, going to the track.”

*PC leader Doug Ford tells a Fort Erie reporter Tuesday that a PC government would bring back the slots-at-racetrack program cancelled in 2012.*

---

## Day 22: Today on the campaign trail

### Wynne campaign

Ontario Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** began her day at Burloak Technologies in Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn**’s riding of Oakville, where she reaffirmed her pledge to expand the Jobs and Prosperity Fund with a \$900 million investment announced in the 2018 budget.

Alongside Flynn and local cabinet ministers **Eleanor McMahon** and **Indira Naidoo-Harris**, Wynne again questioned whether putting **Andrea Horwath** and the New Democrats in charge of Ontario’s economy was worth the risk, citing fears the NDP’s ideological, anti-business promises would stunt economic growth.

“The Jobs and Prosperity Fund is not, as **Doug Ford** would call it, ‘corporate welfare’. It is also not ‘selling out to the private sector’ as **Andrea Horwath** would say,” Wynne told reporters. “If Ontario, with its huge geography and small population is going to be competitive globally, we better find a way to work together. And we found that way.”

In the afternoon, Wynne met with *The Globe and Mail* editorial board. Like ships passing in the night, Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau**, who has not made any public appearances with Wynne during the campaign, attended an event at the *Globe's* new Toronto headquarters just a few hours after her meeting.

Wynne ended her day in NDP MPP **Peter Tabuns'** Toronto—Danforth riding where she visited a child care facility.

On Wednesday, Wynne will make an announcement at a private residence in PC MPP **Gila Martow's** riding of Thornhill before stopping at Carter's Ice Cream in Liberal MPP **Arthur Potts'** riding of Beaches—East York. In the evening, the Liberal leader will participate in a live Q & A on Twitter.

### Ford campaign

PC leader **Doug Ford** headed to Portal Village Retirement Home in Niagara Centre Tuesday morning to discuss how the PC tax plan would save seniors and low-income earners money on hydro bills, gasoline and child care.

"Unlike the NDP, our plan is responsible, affordable and modest," Ford said, again accusing the New Democrats of running on a "radical platform far outside the mainstream" that is riddled with \$7 billion in holes and unexplained gaps.

Ford also highlighted the \$1.4 billion annual accounting error contained in the NDP platform that leader **Andrea Horwath** admitted was a "mistake" by her party. "The NDP had two years, two years to figure out their plan and just a couple of weeks ago they thought 'boy, we made a mistake. A \$7 billion mistake,'" he said. "How do you make a \$7 billion mistake on your own budget? How do you expect people to trust you running the government when you can't even do your own math?"

Asked by a local reporter whether his party would reinstate the slots-at-racetrack program cancelled by Premier **Dalton McGuinty** in 2012, Ford said "Absolutely we would." Citing the 6,000 jobs created by Woodbine Race Track in his riding of Etobicoke North, the PC leader said, "I'm a big, big supporter of the horse racing community. We're going to do everything we can to help them with the slots in there. Everyone's gonna have fun today, going to the track." McGuinty cancelled the program on the recommendation of economist **Don Drummond** who determined it was costing the province \$300 million in lost revenues annually by diverting slot machine profits to racetrack owners rather than OLG. The cancellation led to the loss of jobs at three racetracks and was deeply unpopular in parts of Ontario.

Niagara Centre PC candidate **April Jeffs** joined Ford at the retirement centre. Jeffs is running in an open riding last held by NDP MPP **Cindy Forster**; Niagara Centre has been held by the New Democrats since 1975.

In the afternoon, Ford's team committed \$500,000 towards a planning grant that would determine what services and upgrades would be necessary to keep the hospital in Welland open.

In the evening, Ford held a rally with supporters at the Royal Canadian Legion in Welland, also in Niagara Centre.

On Wednesday, Ford will make an announcement in PC MPP **Bob Bailey**'s riding of Sarnia before holding a rally at the London Convention Centre in the open riding of London North Centre, last held by Liberal campaign co-chair **Deb Matthews**.

### Horwath campaign

In Immigration Minister **Laura Albanese**'s York South—Weston riding on Tuesday morning, New Democratic leader **Andrea Horwath** announced an NDP government would expand the amount of annual paid vacation full-time workers receive from two weeks to three weeks — a plan Horwath first introduced in November 2017.

Asked later in the day what she thought of Horwath's plan to extend paid vacation time, Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** said 2017's **Bill 148**, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act included a provision to expand vacation time to three weeks for full-time workers after five years. "So that's already in place," Wynne said.

Four days after PC leader **Doug Ford**'s stop in Brantford—Brant, Horwath headed to the riding to meet supporters at NDP candidate **Alex Felsky**'s campaign office. The riding was held by Liberal MPP and Speaker **Dave Levac** since 1999 but is now considered in play for the New Democrats.

Later in the afternoon, Horwath travelled to PC MPP **Randy Pettapiece**'s riding of Perth—Wellington to meet with supporters at NDP candidate **Michael O'Brien**'s Stratford campaign office. While there, she ran into former Ontario Liberal Premier **David Peterson**, in town to attend a play at the Stratford Festival, where he is also a board member. "I have won going in 20 points behind and I've lost 20 points ahead," he told Horwath, in reference to his historic win in 1985 and historic defeat in 1990.

Horwath ended her day at an Italian restaurant in Chatham-Kent—Leamington, the riding held by PC MPP **Rick Nicholls** since 2011. The riding has oscillated between the Tories and Liberals since 1999.

On Wednesday, Horwath will make announcements in Windsor and Leamington before holding an afternoon campaign event in Sarnia and a rally with local NDP candidates in Kitchener.

### Ford under fire for delays in platform release

PC leader **Doug Ford** faced increasing scrutiny Tuesday on his party's refusal to release a fully costed platform as a single campaign document like the Liberals and New Democrats have done.

Speaking with reporters at a retirement home in Port Colborne Tuesday morning, Ford was asked three times when the Tories would release a platform, given the Ontario election is less than 10 days away.

“Every single day we have a press conference, we roll out our plan. Every single day we put a cost beside our plan,” Ford said. “Each and every one of you have followed us around, and every day I hold a press conference and tell you about our great plan.”

When asked again for a specific date for the platform's release, Ford only said, “By the end of this campaign, we will have a fully costed platform.”

Ford and several Tory MPPs and candidates have assured reporters over the past week the PC Party would make its full platform public before June 7 — however, former PC leadership contestant **Christine Elliott** told reporters she had not seen the party's costed platform herself.

On Tuesday, Ford told supporters and the media to visit the party's website to see the PC plan for themselves, complete with price tags.

But a visit to the “[Platform](#)” page at OntarioPC.ca reveals only a dozen broad categories such as “More access to beer and wine” and “Audit Kathleen Wynne.” Each of these links offers a few details on how much people may save but nothing on what the promises would cost the province. Each page also features a pledge box, allowing supporters to share their name, phone number and email address with the party.

Horwath told [reporters](#) Tuesday it's “insulting” and “shameful” the Tories have yet to release a platform. “People are already at the polls. Folks are already voting in the advance polls,” she said. “There's nine days left to election day and Mr. Ford is somebody who talks a great game around respecting the taxpayer [and] is really being very disrespectful to voters.”

In the absence of a Tory platform, the Liberals [unveiled](#) a costed platform on the PCs behalf Tuesday afternoon. Using details Ford has made public in press conferences and public announcements on everything from his child care tax credit to aviation fuel deductions, the Liberals tabulate Ford would oversee \$40 billion in cuts over a four-year mandate.

### **Oops!**

Tuesday's issue of Queen's Park Today reported that **Greg Rickford** is the only PC candidate with cabinet-level governing experience. That should have said Rickford was the only candidate at the PC Party's Newmarket candidate roundtable with cabinet-level experience.

**Jim Wilson** and **Ernie Hardeman** both served as cabinet ministers in the **Mike Harris** and **Ernie Eves** governments.

## Topics of conversation

- In defending her plan to buy back the partially privatized Hydro One, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** said, if elected, her party will immediately gather expert advice on the best way to purchase shares of the utility sold off. She pointed to companies like Heinz and Dell who, after going public, bought back all of the shares previously sold to private shareholders.
  - The New Democrats would use the dividend paid by Hydro One to the province to buy those shares back, a move the Tories say would only benefit shareholders and not ratepayers.
- Meanwhile, PC MPPs **Todd Smith** and **Lisa MacLeod** met with reporters in Toronto Tuesday to discuss how the NDP's energy strategy would result in higher hydro rates. Between the New Democratic Party's plan to cancel the Liberal's Fair Hydro Plan, its 30 per cent hydro bill reduction and the \$600 million cost to shut down of the Pickering nuclear plant in August, the Tories argue that hydro bills will only increase under an NDP government.
  - In a release, the PCs also claimed it would take the New Democrats 31 years to successfully buy back Hydro One given their platform allocates \$300 million a year towards purchasing the utility that was sold for \$9.2 billion.
  - "The NDP plan is to spend money they do not have on a hydro savings plan that does not exist," Smith said. "And along the way they are going to rip you off with skyrocketing hydro rates that Ontario families cannot afford."
- Flamborough—Glanbrook PC candidate **Donna Skelly**, currently a city councillor in Hamilton, promoted an alt-right website supporting neo-Nazi views at a young conservatives Christmas party last December.
  - Holding up a "Make America Great Again"-style hat reading "Free Bird Media," Skelly allegedly spoke highly of the website at the party, despite Free Bird Media being the online home to numerous videos and interviews with alt-right figures and neo-Nazis, several of whom, according to *Press Progress*, have been charged with hate crimes.
  - On Tuesday morning, Skelly clarified on Twitter she was handed the Free Bird Media hat on her way to the podium and left after 20 minutes. "I have always denounced hateful and harmful acts and words," she said. "They have no place in our Party and no place anywhere in Ontario."
- After blaming the NDP for prolonging the strike of CUPE support staff at York University on Monday, the Liberals released an online ad Tuesday showing footage of closed daycares centres, gridlock, striking workers and garbage bags piling up alongside an image of NDP leader **Andrea Horwath**. "Get ready for picket lines," reads bold font at the end of the ad: "The NDP puts unions first. And the public second."

## Today's events

**May 30 at 8:45 a.m. — Windsor**

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will make an announcement at a private residence.

**May 30 at 9 a.m. — Toronto**

The Ontario Liberal Party will “unveil new information on the NDP” at OLP headquarters.

**May 30 at 10:30 a.m. — Sarnia**

PC leader **Doug Ford** will make an announcement.

**May 30 at 12:30 p.m. — Leamington**

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will make an announcement at a farming supply store.

**May 30 at 12:45 p.m. — Thornhill**

Ontario Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** will make an announcement at a private residence.

**May 30 at 3:30 p.m. — Sarnia**

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will hold a campaign event at a community garden.

**May 30 at 3:30 p.m. — Toronto**

Ontario Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** will visit Carter's Ice Cream.

**May 30 at 6 p.m. — Toronto**

Ontario Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** will participate in a live Q&A on Twitter.

**May 30 at 6:30 p.m. — Kitchener**

NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** will hold a rally with supporters and local NDP candidates at the Kitchener Schwaben Club.

**May 30 at 7 p.m. — London**

PC leader **Doug Ford** will host a rally with supporters at the London Convention Centre.

## News from the campaign trail

- Just one day after former Prime Minister **Stephen Harper** held a \$1,222-per-person fundraising dinner for Kitchener—Conestoga PC candidate **Mike Harris Jr.**, former federal Conservative Party leader **Peter MacKay** will also head to Toronto's Albany Club to host a \$525-a-head fundraiser for former PC leadership candidate and Newmarket—Aurora **Christine Elliott**.

- Brampton East NDP candidate **Gurratan Singh**, brother of federal NDP leader **Jagmeet Singh**, apologized “unreservedly” Tuesday for carrying a sign at a 2006 protest reading “Fuck the Police.”
  - “Twelve years ago I attended a public demonstration and was photographed holding a sign I’m now deeply ashamed of,” Singh wrote on Twitter. “I apologize unreservedly to police officers, their families and the policing community.”
  - When asked about the incident at a campaign stop Tuesday, NDP leader **Andrea Horwath** said the sign displayed a “despicable sentiment” and “Gurratan has said so as well ... He has changed his life around since his early 20s when he was holding that sign. He, in fact, then went to law school and now actually upholds the law in the justice system as opposed to rallying against it.”
  - Speaking with reporters in Oakville Tuesday, Liberal leader **Kathleen Wynne** said, “If this were a candidate on my team, I would not be able to support his candidacy.”
- After pledging to stump with PC leader **Doug Ford** at least once during the provincial campaign, federal Conservative Party leader **Andrew Scheer** told reporters Monday he will not be appearing alongside Ford to support his election bid due to “scheduling conflicts.” Despite living at Stornoway in Ottawa — the official residence of the leader of the official opposition — Scheer, who hails from Saskatchewan, will not vote in the Ontario election like Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** did last week.
- **Margaret Schleier Stahl**, Liberal candidate in Chatham-Kent—Leamington, told a local news site the government should convene a health hazard investigation over well water contamination in the area. Dozens of residents have long complained that pile driving to build a local wind project, owned by Korean tech giant Samsung, has turned their once-clear well water black.
  - But Environment and Climate Change Minister **Chris Ballard** has said for months that no investigation is necessary because, while the water may be discoloured, early ministry analysis found it is still safe to drink.