

Neil Brodie

From: Neil Brodie
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To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Legislative Affairs

Today's committee meetings Standing Committee on Government Agencies

- Tuesday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- Room 2
- The committee will meet to consider the following intended appointments:
 § Jo-Anne Poirier as member of the Ontario Education Communications Authority (TVO)
 § Rumina Velshi as member of the Ontario Energy Board

Today's events March 21 at 8:00 a.m. — Toronto Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault will address the Ontario Energy Association at Arcadian Court, 401 Bay Street

Question period PC lead off

- Before question period began, PC House leader Jim Wilson filed a complaint with the Speaker. Wilson posited that Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault is in contempt of Parliament for advertising the impacts of its new hydro plan before it is introduced as legislation in the House.
- Speaker Dave Levac will study the allegation and report back soon

Hydro ads

- PC leader Patrick Brown kicked off question period by calling on the government to cancel publicly-funded partisan advertisements about hydro rates.
- Premier Kathleen Wynne said while travelling the province she learned “people are concerned about their hydro bills” and she would have thought the opposition would support the changes her government is bringing forward to reduce bills.
- Brown said he has also travelled the province and no one in Ontario is asking for more self-congratulatory radio ads

NDP lead off Hydro ads

- NDP leader Andrea Horwath called on the premier to reveal how much her government is spending on partisan ads advertising its “phantom hydro plan.” • Horwath quoted Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk who called the ads a partisan “pat on the back.”
- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the ads are necessary so that Ontario families can budget for rate reductions by summer: “It’s important to let everyone know about this Fair Hydro Plan and all the

programs that come with it.”

- After question period, Thibeault told reporters the province has spent less than \$1 million on the radio and social media ads so far, but will be expanding the campaign to include print and radio