

Neil Brodie

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

Today at Queen's Park

On the schedule

Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act, will be voted on a second reading after question period.

Wednesday's debates and proceedings

MPPs voted on a time allocation motion on Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act – Passed with Liberal support (Ayes 53; Nays 44)

NDP leader Andrea Horwath put forward a motion calling for a one-week extension to the legislative session so MPPs could have more time to study the Fair Hydro Bill. Her motion was denied by the legislature.

Topics of conversation

Plug'n Drive officially opened its Electric Vehicle Discovery Centre in North York on Wednesday. This is the first facility of its kind and is jointly sponsored by Plug'n Drive, TD Bank, OPG, Power Workers' Union, Toronto Hydro and Bruce Power. The facility also received \$1 million from the provincial government.

o The facility is open to the public six days a week to allow "consumers to explore and test-drive the latest EV models"

The 11th Québec-California carbon market auction was held on Tuesday. The results, which come as the California State Senate is considering to "repealing and replacing" the state's cap-and-trade system, will be released on May 24.

Today's events

May 18 at 9:15 a.m.

Representatives from Greenpeace Canada and the Canadian Environmental Law Association will hold a news conference at Queen's Park on how proposed nuclear emergency plans leave Ontarians vulnerable in the event of an accident.

News briefs — Governmental

Ministry of Finance The ministry announced it raised \$2.8 billion from the final Hydro One share offering, which sold off 120 million shares, or approximately 20 per cent of the utility. The province has now raised over \$9 billion for 51.1 per cent of the utility. The banks involved in the sale have 30 days to sell an additional 12 million shares, thanks to the government's over-allotment option. However, the Globe and Mail reported earlier this week that the sale's underwriters are having trouble getting rid of the shares. Hydro One shares were trading at \$22.97 on Wednesday afternoon, down from a high of \$26.59 in July 2016.

Question Period

PC's

Brown mentioned a letter from Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk to PC MPP Todd Smith in which she told him the Liberal government also advertised its Clean Energy Plan on hydro bills in 2011.

o Brown said the Liberals have no shame and "will continue to cross lines to try to pitch this alternate reality of their farce of a hydro plan."

- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault reiterated the merits of the Fair Hydro Plan and said the PCs are voting against bringing hydro rates down by 50 per cent for people living in northern and rural areas. Hydro rates

- PC MPP Randy Hillier delivered hundreds of letters to Thibeault from constituents who are angry about their hydro bills. Hillier said people suffering from energy poverty deserve the truth — not the Liberal spin on its hydro plan.

- Thibeault responded that the PCs have no plan to help Ontarians.

o "I hope that he's telling the constituents in his riding that they have no plan, that they have no idea on what to do," Thibeault said

NDP lead off

Time allocation

- NDP leader Andrea Horwath said the Liberal government is rushing through Legislation that will cost people more money in a couple years' time when it comes to their electricity bills.

o Horwath asked why the government is holding all of the public committee hearings on Bill 132 in Toronto instead of giving people around the province a say on this important legislation.

- Attorney General Yasir Naqvi said the government is moving quickly on its plan so it can lower hydro rates by summer. Naqvi said the full hydro cut will come 15 days after the Bill 132 receives royal assent.