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

Today at Queen's Park

Debates and proceedings

The House convened at 9:00 a.m. for third reading debate on Bill 132, Fair Hydro Act. Bill 132 was voted on at third reading after question period. The bill passed with Liberal support. PC and NDP members opposed the legislation that will temporarily reduce hydro bills by 25 per cent, while potentially increasing them in the long term (Ayes 53; Nays 41).

Topics of conversation

- A new Ontario Power Generation report determined the deep geological repository site near Lake Huron is still the ideal location to bury nuclear waste. The report analyzed the pros and cons of three sites and found the Huron site to be the safest and the location that could be utilized the soonest.

News briefs — Non-governmental

Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario

Ontario's Financial Accountability Officer Stephen LeClair released his spring 2017 Economic and Fiscal Outlook. The FAO predicts the budget will remain balanced in 2017-18 because of a \$3 billion boost to non-tax revenues (from the **Hydro One sale**, federal transfers and **cap-and-trade** revenues) but predicts the deficit will steadily deteriorate beginning in 2018-19.

LeClair uses different projections, one based on the government's accounting presentation and one using the Auditor General's recommended accounting of pension assets. In both scenarios, it will be hard to maintain a balanced budget beyond 2017-18, but using the AG's numbers LeClair predicts the deficit will reach \$6.5 billion by 2021-22.

The FAO is predicting 2.4 per cent GDP growth in 2017, which is higher than the 2.3 per cent GDP growth projected in the spring budget. However, LeClair also predicts the province's debt will rise by \$76 billion over the next five years, reaching \$390 billion by 2021-22.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said her government will continue to recognize its portion of public sector pension assets in its projections, as recommended by the Pension Asset Expert Advisory Panel. Wynne recommitted to maintaining a balanced budget until 2020.

Question period

NDP lead off

Fair Hydro Plan

- NDP MPP Peter Tabuns asked what the premier would say to Ontarians whose lives will get harder

because of future hydro rate hikes related to the Fair Hydro Plan.

o Tabuns said the premier can't win votes or improve her poll numbers by continuing to make decisions that sell out Ontarians.