

Neil Brodie

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

Premier Kathleen Wynne hosted GTHA mayors and chairs for their sixth joint summit. In a news conference following the meeting, Wynne said the leaders discussed three main issues, including the implementation of legalized cannabis, increasing the housing supply and the \$100 million **Municipal GHG Challenge Fund**, which will provide municipalities with funding for green retrofits to public buildings and upgrades to drinking water and wastewater facilities.

Four organizations will also host lobbying days and receptions: the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, **Enbridge Gas and Union Gas** and the Eye Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Ontario Power Generation is borrowing money on the public debt market in order to comply with the Fair Hydro Plan. OPG announced plans earlier this month to take on up to \$2 billion in public shareholder debt. As reported in the Financial Post, marketing materials for the initial public debt offering explicitly tie the OPG'S needfor-cash to its "commitment to Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan."
 o Under the Fair Hydro Plan, OPG must create a "trust" to refinance the Global Adjustment, decreasing ratepayers' electricity bills in the short-term.

The Ontario Energy Association released the results of a poll conducted by Innovative Research Group from September 11 to 18. The poll found the public's interest in energy issues has "dramatically declined" since the introduction of the Fair Hydro Plan. Formerly the most important issue to respondents, energy has dropped to fourth place behind the economy, health care and affordable housing.

While the energy file has become heated, 46 per cent of respondents said they disapprove of the Fair Hydro Plan and only 19 per cent said it is a "good thing." The largest opposition to the Fair Hydro Plan came from PC supporters (69 per cent), but of Liberal supporters that were polled only 30 per cent said they support the plan.

Sixty per cent of those polled said it is time for a change of government at Queen's Park. If an election were held today, 40 per cent would vote for the PCs, 35 per cent would vote Liberal, 18 per cent would vote NDP and five per cent would vote Green. Complete poll details are available online.

J. David Wake was appointed the province's temporary Financial Accountability Officer for a term of six months, or until a full-time Financial Accountability Officer is appointed.

o Wake is also the province's Integrity Commissioner. He served as the Financial Accountability Officer over last winter when former commissioner Stephen LeClair was on medical leave.

Question Period

NDP lead-off

Fair Hydro Plan

- NDP leader Andrea Horwath asked why the province is spending \$5.5 million on advertising that was explicitly designed to counter bad media coverage of the Ontario Liberal Party. Horwath said the government needs to fund solutions to high energy costs, not partisan advertising.
- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the only people benefitting from these ads are the people of Ontario who are learning about the Ontario Energy Support Program