

Douglas, Dave (MGS)

From: Kwiatek, Marta (CAB)
Sent: February-08-13 9:43 AM
To: @CAB-CSU; @OPO-All Chiefs of Staff; @OPO-All Office of the Premier; Amaral-Costa, Maria (CAB); Bartucci, Ernie (CAB); Betzner, Lynn (CAB); Conrad, Debbie (CAB); Deschamps, Angèle (CAB); Dowler, Rob (CAB); Forrest, Jamie (CAB); Fuller, Shannon (CAB); Guest, Alana (CAB); Hwang, Wendy (CAB); Kennedy, Nancy (CAB); Lang, Terri (CAB); Leigh, Jonathan (CAB); Martel, Josée (CAB); McFadyen, Craig (CAB); McMichael, Rhonda (CAB); Qiao, Sophia (OCOC); Rodrigues, Vanessa (CAB); Stafford, Sue (CAB); Sumi, Craig (CAB); Thompson, Scott (CAB)
Subject: Legislative Highlights - February 8
Attachments: February8edition.pdf

See enclosed copy of Feb. 8th Legislative Highlights

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Ontario LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

ENTERPRISE
CANADA

FEBRUARY 8, 2013

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

GAS PAINS – Premier-designate **Kathleen Wynne** showed off some political acumen Thursday when she asked Auditor General **Jim McCarter** to expand his probe of the cancelled Mississauga gas plant to include the cancelled plant in Oakville. Wynne earlier rejected NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath's** call for a public inquiry into the issue as too expensive, but by having McCarter expand his investigation she is getting the sticky issue out of her hair while looking like she is boldly facing it.

TALK TO ME – A small mid-winter thaw occurred this week when, for the first time, PC Leader **Tim Hudak** appeared to suggest that he may be willing to put some policy ideas on the table for consideration by Wynne. Unlike Horwath, Hudak was not focused on a short list of demands. Instead, he tabled a compilation of his recent white papers. Given the range of topics and levels of conservatism, Wynne may return to sender in the hopes that another overture is forthcoming.

I'LL BE BRIEF – Having been stuck in limbo since mid-October, Queen's Park will suddenly be abuzz with activity next week. Internally, at least. From an outside perspective there still won't be much movement, but after the new cabinet is announced and sworn in Monday, bureaucrats will be consumed with preparing and explaining briefing notes to their new bosses.

SOCIAL WORK – The increasing role of social media in politics and the news was evident early Thursday morning when Finance Minister **Dwight Duncan**, instead of gathering the Queen's Park Press Gallery for a news conference, took to Twitter and Facebook to announce his departure from the Legislature as of February 14. Duncan, who was praised by former Premier **Dalton McGuinty** as "the longest serving finance minister in modern Ontario history," posted a letter on his Facebook page at midnight, followed by a Tweet thanking the residents of his Windsor-Tecumseh riding. (They will now face a by-election unless the minority government falls in the next six months, causing a general election.) Twitter was again the source of word that Sudbury MPP **Rick Bartolucci** is also calling it quits – although he'll stay in his seat until the provincial election. Expect a wave of similar pronouncements – or at least speculation – about Liberal MPPs excluded from cabinet on Monday.

GERRY ON THE JOB – Much-respected former Liberal cabinet minister **Gerry Phillips**, who didn't seek re-election in 2011 but stayed around as an unpaid advisor to Duncan, has a new role on the provincial stage. Phillips, who once served as Energy Minister, has been named to the board of Ontario Power Generation.

RUMOURS AND RUMBLINGS

(DON'T) ASSUME THE POSITION

Monday's cabinet unveiling will end the suspense for MPPs, but at the staff level the anxiety will continue unabated. (See Christina Rettig's blog, below.) A couple of key posts have reportedly been decided, with **Tom Teahen**, who was Wynne's Chief of Staff when she was Education Minister, returning from the WSIB to run the Premier's Office. Atop the policy direction file will be **Andrew Bevan**, ex of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement Secretariat, who is coming on board as Wynne's Principal Secretary. Operations chief **Dave Gene**, a fixture in the Liberal camp for

FOR THE RECORD

"I don't think **Andrea Horwath** has a clue what she's talking about when she sweeps her hand across the front of the cameras and says a 15 per cent cut. There definitely has to be a good look taken at that industry, but to say that you can simply create a 15 per cent cut without knowing the state of the bloated aspects of the auto insurance industry is silliness."

- PC finance critic **Peter Shurman**, reacting to the NDP's proposal to slash auto insurance rates by 15%.

"There's a message here for parents, too: When thousands of high school students are losing after-school activities, the campaign donations hidden behind noisy public protests are fresh evidence that their kids are being treated as pawns in a sophisticated game."

- *Toronto Star* editorial, summing up the thoughts of many parents after learning that teacher unions hedged their bets by donating to Liberal leadership candidates.

decades, is said to be leaving as Wynne makes good on her campaign pledge to spearhead a changing of the guard. Word is popular veteran politico **Shelley Potter** has taken on responsibility for assigning staff for ministers – always a tricky challenge. Insiders say there have been many intense discussions with existing staff about future plans, with decisions about who goes where starting to roll out early next week.

BLOG ON

By *Christina Rettig*, a government relations consultant with *Enterprise Canada*. Read the full blog at <http://bit.ly/Xp8cqa>.

JOB JITTERS

Behind the curtains at Queen's Park is a small army of political staffers who are currently in limbo. Much of the media focus of the past week has been speculation about the pending Cabinet shuffle and potential departures from caucus. For the Liberal staff apparatus, this means an overhaul of 22 current Ministers' offices, the Premier's office and Members' staff – and a nagging worry about their employment at the Pink Palace.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you think we will have a spring 2013 election?
2. If so, who will be elected Premier?
 - a. Kathleen Wynne
 - b. Tim Hudak
 - c. Andrea Horwath

Let us know what you think at <http://bit.ly/11R85tE>.

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From: Cohen, Helen (CAB)
Sent: February-12-13 12:04 AM
To: @CAB-QPscrums
Subject: MEDIA EVENT: OPPOSITION SCRUMS POST SWEARING-IN OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Attachments: Feb 11 - Opposition scrums.doc

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February 11, 2013

Location:

N/A

Speakers:

PC MPP Todd Smith; NDP MPP Gilles Bisson

Media Attendance:

Print – N/A TV – N/A Radio – N/A

Media Outlets:

Leslie – CP; Babbage – CP; Benzie – Star; Ferguson – Star; Cohn – Star; Morrow – Globe; Blizzard – Sun; Artuso – Sun; Crawley – CBC Radio/TV; Franzios – CFRB 1010 Radio; Noel – Radio Canada/CJBC; Gregoire – Radio Canada TV; Carter – Global; Bliss – CTV Ontario; Tumelty – City TV; Mulligan – CityTV; Lagogianes – City TV

Media Questions:

Questions for PC MPP Todd Smith:

(Joined in progress) wasn't actually, and the ceremony was probably about 25 minutes longer than it needed to be. Unfortunately, we've seen that the new Premier can't make the tough decisions already that it's going to take to get this province back on track. The jobs and economy crisis is the largest that it's been in a lifetime and Premier Wynne has expanded the size of Cabinet by 25 per cent. She's been the Premier for thirty minutes and already she's growing the size of government, so clearly it shows that she doesn't have what it takes to make the tough decisions to get us going again on our economic track that we need to get on so we can balance our books.

Q. Leslie: Isn't it a new fresh phase when you see ten new ministers come up, or are we dealing with the same government?

Well absolutely not. I mean, you get sixteen old faces there as well. I mean, if you add ten, well there's a couple of new faces there, but it's the same old Liberal caucus. What's new is old again and what's old is new again here with this Liberal caucus. So clearly this wasn't the direction that we hoped that the new Premier was going to take. The opening line was jobs and the economy, but there was nothing in her message about jobs and the economy, and that's obviously what we need to do. We need to get back to creating jobs in the province. We lost 48,000 private sector jobs in January.

That's the most since the recession started. Clearly the prorogation of Parliament – it'll be 127 days that we will have been prorogued when Parliament resumes on Tuesday. And another four billion dollars added to our debt, so we're not headed in the right direction, and today wasn't a good first step.

Q. Ferguson: Do you think it was odd that the first woman Premier is being sworn in, and yet the female NDP leader is not here today. Was that a snub?

I have no idea. I'm not part of the NDP caucus. I can tell you that the Progressive Conservative caucus was here. We're ready to work. As you know, we've been ready to work since October the 15th. There's a lot of things that are still out there on the table that need to be discussed. We need to get to the bottom of the gas plants scandal. We now have a Finance minister who is right in the middle of the gas plants scandals. He's the \$190-million-dollar man, and he's the guy that's now running the finances for the province of Ontario. It's not a good first step by the Premier and I don't like the way that things are going.

Q. Carter: (inaudible) that Chris Bentley is stepping aside, would you resume your contempt motions against him when the House is back?

Yeah this was never about Chris Bentley. This was about a Liberal power play on a gas plant scandal to hold onto Liberal seats, and our new Finance minister is right in the middle of that power play and the scandals. So I don't think it speaks very well for the first day --

Q. Carter: Would you bring back the contempt motions?

Absolutely. We fully plan to try and get this to committee. We need to get to the bottom of this. We need to find out who ultimately made those potentially billion-dollar decisions to cancel gas plants in Mississauga and in Oakville.

Q. Carter: Even if he doesn't sit in the House, doesn't matter you're going to haul him in.

It's not about Chris Bentley. I mean it's about the new Energy minister Bob Chiarelli is going to have to come forward. We can get Chris Bentley to come back in. We'll have to subpoena Premier McGuinty. We'll subpoena the Liberal cabinet – the Liberal campaign team, and bring them back to the table with – there are clearly a lot of questions that need to be answered and I think you go back to October 15th and that's clearly one of the big reasons why Parliament was prorogued on that day, is because the government and the people that were in charge of the government don't want us to get to the bottom of who was making those decisions and why. I think it's clear when you heard the former Finance minister Dwight Duncan talk about the fact that the reason that the gas plants were cancelled were for political reasons. That says a lot about where -- who was making the decisions in the former cabinet office.

Q. Artuso: The Premier's spouse has a company which does a fair bit of business with the Ontario government and also with organizations that receive substantial funding from the government. Do you think there should be some clarity about this ethical wall that they say they've put up between the Premier's spouse and government money?

Yeah, absolutely, it's very concerning. It's a big concern to us and I'm surprised that it's actually taken until now for this to become public, and that the new Premier wouldn't have brought this forward earlier. This is something that – however it came to light, it came to light, but it's something that should have been dealt with earlier, and now it's just another potential hurdle for the government to overcome, and there are lots of hurdles for them to try and overcome in the coming days.

Questions for NDP MPP Gilles Bisson:

Q. Noel (Speaking in French): (Inaudible)

(Speaking in French) Well it will be difficult to make the committees work, listen, it's a large Cabinet, I imagine she had reasons for why she did this but it becomes the question, up to what point does it make good sense (inaudible) make the Legislature work because it takes MPPs on the committees to make it work. It will make that aspect a little more difficult. I think also that Ms. Wynne has certain, how to say, certain people she wants to re-compensate for having supported for her (inaudible) Cabinet.

Q. Leslie: What do you think of a larger Cabinet? Do we need that expanded?

Well, I was just saying a couple of things. She has a lot of people that she's trying to say thank you to, type of thing in the leadership race. That's part of what's going on here. The other part is it's going to make it really difficult, I think, for committees to a certain extent. A lot of Members are going to be doubled up on committee. So do we need a large Cabinet like that given it's such small numbers in a minority parliament? I'm not so sure.

Q. Blizzard: Did Andrea Horwath snub Kathleen Wynne by not showing up for the swearing in for the first woman Premier?

No. Andrea was already booked a long time ago in order to go to Thunder Bay. She spoke to the Premier's Office last week, said she couldn't make it, they'll meeting during the week, everything is, you know, is according to schedule, it's just one of those things.

Q. Artuso: There's a lot of new faces in that Cabinet. Does that suggest that they're committed to renewal?

Well, this is really the question. Is that, we have a government that's been there for 9 years, lot of things that people are upset out, trying to put a new face on it, there's some new people there but the real question is, how's it going to change things for people back home? For example, we're saying let's deal with youth unemployment issue. Let's deal with high auto insurance rate. Let's deal with homecare and other issues that we put forward. Will putting a whole bunch of new faces in Cabinet change that? Only time will tell. We'll do the best we can to propose ideas to the government, let's hope that Kathleen Wynne is serious when she says she wants to reach across the aisles and find ways to work with people. Only time will tell.

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Prepared by:
Jonathan Colford/Senior Issues Analyst
Alan Herman/ Issues Assistant
Helen Cohen/Senior Media Analyst

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▪ Corporate Issues ▪ Cabinet Office ▪

▪ Issues Manager - Craig Sumi: (416) 325-3772 ▪ Media Monitoring - Paul Stinson: (416) 561-0632 ▪

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