

# Brown Bashes Wynne Policies On Hydro, Divisive Politics

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a mess...some 30 big companies got these contracts and these firms have reportedly given \$1.3 million to the Liberals as donations. They benefited from hydro.. But I will clean up the mess."

Executive salary was also a point that was noted. "While the Quebec Hydro CEO got \$400,000 a year, the compensation for Hydro One CEO was \$4.5 million. It was Wynne who signed all these elaborate contracts. The savings after we take action on hydro should work out to a 12 per cent cut in hydro bills for all Ontarians. We will also be removing the conservation funding segment of the bill, which is just social policy", he said.

One of the biggest items on Brown's agenda - and one of the main voter grouses - is the exorbitant auto insurance rates. "It is crazy in Peel and unfair that people in Brampton, Mississauga and Scarborough have to pay higher premiums than those elsewhere in the province."

The People's Guarantee platform calls for an end to this geographical discrimination in auto insurance rates. "Wynne had promised to slash rates but she couldn't do it...we will end this geographical discrimination, although auto insurance executives are not happy about it."

Brown, however, ruled out any plan to act on multiple third party liability insurance in single households, saying "this is not a part of our platform, at the moment. However, we will introduce a winter tire tax credit and



insurance companies are also giving a discount on vehicles with winter tires."

Brown pointed out that almost a year ago, Kathleen Wynne had said that a higher minimum wage would kill jobs, when the NDP first proposed the idea.

"Today, when there is an election looming, she is suddenly pushing it. We strongly believe that a notice period ought to be given to small businesses and all increases need to be phased in." The PC plan calls for the second part of the wage increase - to take effect on July 1, to be spread over four years.

"A TD bank survey showed that the wage hike will result in

a loss of 90,000 jobs while the chamber of commerce study said it would be almost 100,000. The decision is part of election politics and not in the interest of anyone in Ontario," Brown said.

The PC leader is delighted with the surge in membership of the party.

From 12,000 a couple of years ago, the party roster has climbed to almost 200,000 and "polls are showing that we are ahead in every seat in Mississauga and Brampton. The voters are now realizing that the NDP and the Liberals are the same and we are happy to see that NDP voters are increasingly turning towards the Conservatives," he said.

With regard to the private member's resolution condemning what it called 'the genocide of Sikhs in India', Brown said: "We do not support the political games of the Liberals and we know that the idea behind the resolution was meant to divide the Indo-Canadian community...we don't engage with such divisive debates. Our focus will be on Ontario... it was Wynne who signed off on the private member's (Liberal MPP Harinder Malhi) bill and it was passed by them...I did not attend the legislature..."

"They are just looking for any distractions from the economic mess they have put the province in... We realize that we don't

have too good a relationship with India at the moment - and Wynne has no ability to build or repair the ties...nobody in India wants to meet her or talk to her".

"We need to bring the Indo-Canadian relationship back on track.. It will be corrected..," Brown promised. "Wynne is going around the world now asking investors to come to Ontario. But we have suffocating gridlock, heavy red tape, exorbitant hydro rates, high taxes...who will want to come here. We want to fix the fundamentals first."

The 'People's Guarantee' is an expression of our profound belief that Ontario is great because its people are great.

"It recognizes that there's nothing wrong with Ontario that can't be fixed by a change in government. It's time for change that works for Ontario."

The Tories are also promising to end the Liberals' cap-and-trade program by July 1, 2019, and withdraw from the Western Climate Initiative.

Brown says it would instead opt into federal carbon pricing benchmarks and return all proceeds of the program to taxpayers. The PC platform has been reviewed by former federal Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page who has deemed it "reasonable."

The platform projects that a PC government would fall into deficit of \$2.8 billion in its first year, while posting progressive surpluses that range from \$8 million in 2019-2020 to \$767 million in 2021-2022. - Pics: The Canadian Press.

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