



April 2018

I think spring is finally here. I can't remember having this much snow on the ground this late in the year. I am sure that everyone is glad to have that behind us.

Yesterday, April 25th, the Auditor General released the pre-election report on Ontario's finances. Bonnie Lysyk has made it clear that she does not agree with the Liberal's accounting. To quote from her report: "In my opinion, the pre-election report is not an accurate representation of the province's finances."

The Auditor goes on to indicate in her report that she believes that the government is underestimating the 2018-19 deficit by \$5.0 billion, the 2019-20 deficit by \$5.6 billion, and the 2020-21 deficit by \$6.0 billion. Even the deficits that the Wynne Government proclaims themselves are excessive, but if you add the additional amounts the Auditor believes are accurate, the condition of Ontario's finances are more precarious than previously indicated. This has led to a downgrading of the province's credit rating by Moodys, an internationally recognized bond-rating agency. When a credit rating is downgraded, it can lead to higher borrowing costs for the government—which could drive the deficit even higher. In the recent budget, the Liberals are making a last-minute attempt to cling to power by making expensive promises, hoping to buy your votes with more borrowed money. We all know it is easier to spend someone else's money than it is our own. The Liberals are taking that to a whole new level.

Let me put this into perspective. In 2003 provincial spending was \$68 billion. Under the Liberals, spending in this year's budget will be over \$158 billion—that's an increase of over \$90 billion. As a taxpayer, do you believe that you have received value from that additional spending? What improvement have you seen from that \$90 billion?

Recently, Kathleen Wynne told the press that the upcoming election campaign would be a vicious one. She then went on to conduct herself in a way that manifested her prophecy. She decided that rather than defend her record of the past 15 years—which, by the way, every government must do if seeking re-election—she choose instead to attack the character of our Leader Doug Ford. Wynne went after him personally, portraying Doug Ford as the bully and herself as the victim. No one who holds the office of Premier, the highest political position in the province, could legitimately classify themselves as a victim.

A little history here. When municipalities wanted more control over whether or not they could have a say about industrial wind turbines going up in their communities, the Wynne Liberals as much as told them to go fly a kite. Rural Ontario is being thwarted continuously in its attempt to develop itself because rules adopted by the Liberals won't allow it. When small business owners all across Ontario said that the rapid increase in the minimum wage and changes in labour laws did not give them enough time to adjust, Kathleen Wynne attacked them, calling them greedy and accusing them of exploiting their workers. When you don't agree with Kathleen Wynne, she attacks you personally. I wonder who the real bully is?

This will be my last column before the provincial election. If you see me on the hustings over the next few weeks, please stop and chat. I would love to hear from you.