



BULLETIN TO MEMBERS:

Ontario's new "Government for the People" takes shape - Doug Ford Sworn In as Ontario's 26th Premier - Unveils New Cabinet

No. 18/001 – June 29, 2018

ISSUE:

Doug Ford, Ontario's 26th Premier, was sworn in along with his cabinet at Queen's Park today by Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Consisting of 21 ministers, 7 women and 14 men, the Ford cabinet is 25% smaller than the 28 member executive council of Kathleen Wynne. The new cabinet reflects a good cross section of Ontario, representing urban and rural constituencies from all regions of the province.

Premier Ford's cabinet consists of the following portfolios:

Minister	Portfolio	Riding
Peter Bethlenfalvy	President of the Treasury Board	Pickering-Uxbridge
Raymond Cho	Seniors & Accessibility	Scarborough North
Steve Clark	Municipal Affairs & Housing	Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
Christine Elliott	Health & Long Term Care & Deputy Premier	Newmarket—Aurora
Victor Fedeli	Finance & Chair of Cabinet	Nipissing
Doug Ford	Premier & Intergovernmental Affairs	Etobicoke North
Merrilee Fullerton	Training, Colleges & Universities	Kanata-Carleton
Ernie Hardeman	Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs	Oxford
Sylvia Jones	Tourism, Culture & Sport	Dufferin-Caledon
Lisa MacLeod	Children, Community & Social Services & Minister Responsible for Women's Issues	Nepean
Monte McNaughton	Infrastructure	Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
Caroline Mulroney	Attorney General & Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs	York-Simcoe
Rod Phillips	Environment, Conversation & Parks	Ajax
Greg Rickford	Energy, Northern Development & Mines, & Minister of Indigenous Affairs	Kenora-Rainy River
Laurie Scott	Labour	Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Todd Smith	Government & Consumer Services, & Government House Leader	Bay of Quinte
Lisa Thompson	Education	Huron-Bruce
Michael Tibollo	Community Safety & Correctional Services	Vaughan-Woodbridge

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Jim Wilson	Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade	Simcoe-Grey
John Yakabuski	Transportation	Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Jeff Yurek	Natural Resources & Forestry	Elgin-Middlesex-London

Premier's cabinets are usually constructed to provide as much representational balance as possible, taking into account factors such as geography, gender, ethno-cultural and other demographic considerations. Doug Ford had much to work with as all regions of the province are included in this cabinet. There is also a good balance of veteran and new MPPs. While men outnumber women 2:1 at the cabinet table, with women holding core portfolios of Deputy Premier, Health, Attorney General and Education, they will have considerable influence when it comes to key issues.

Not surprisingly, Vic Fedeli has been appointed Ontario's new Minister of Finance and Chair of Cabinet. As finance critic he developed a considerable depth of knowledge of the province's finances. Minister Fedeli has been unwavering in his criticism of the Liberals' management of the province's finances. We can soon expect the pledged line-by-line review of Ontario's books to have the Minister front-and-centre before the public, reporting on the government's findings.

Also not a surprise is Christine Elliott's appointment as Minister of Health and Deputy Premier. Having played a significant role during the election campaign, Minister Elliott has substantial support among PC Party members. A passionate advocate for the health care portfolio and seasoned political veteran, Minister Elliott is expected to be a prominent member of the Ford government.

Caroline Mulroney has been appointed Ontario's new Attorney General. One of the new Minister's first orders of business will be challenging the federal government on its carbon tax regime. Given the prominence of the Premier's pledge to do away with the cap-and-trade system, this is an important appointment and AG Mulroney will be expected to deliver results; both by the Premier and voters.

As the new Minister of Labour, veteran MPP Laurie Scott's first job will be to undo the Liberal government's next hike to the minimum wage. A number of other employer concerns stemming from the Liberals Bill 148 will also likely get attention from the Ford government. However, this will take a delicate touch and Minister Scott will play a central role in managing the relationships the new government has with labour stakeholders.

The new Ministry of Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, and Minister of Indigenous Affairs falls under the responsibility of Minister and former federal MP Greg Rickford. A native of Northern Ontario, Rickford was Minister of Natural Resources to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. His past experience should prove helpful in navigating his new responsibilities – top of which is Premier Ford's promise to "clean up the hydro mess".

Steve Clark has been appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Clark is a former municipal politician. Equally important, his home and riding are in eastern Ontario which should help provide some clarity on his housing and municipal responsibilities – removing some of the extra pressures created by the GTHA region. A political veteran, he should do well.

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Newly elected Ajax MPP Rod Phillips has been appointed Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. It is important to note that "Climate Change" has been dropped from the name of the ministry. Phillips will have a busy start to his new career as his responsibilities will focus first on dismantling Ontario's cap-and-trade regime; managing the fallout of the cancellation of the Green Ontario program; negotiating some form of deal with Quebec and California for leaving the cap-and-trade market, and dealing with Ontario companies who have already spent hundreds of millions of dollars on carbon credits who will now be looking for answers about what they are supposed to do with them.

Monte McNaughton has been appointed Minister of Infrastructure. First elected in 2011, he has held the Infrastructure and Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure Critics roles. While familiar with the portfolio, McNaughton will have a lot on his hands managing the execution of Ontario's new Long Term Infrastructure Plan and managing the difficulties that come naturally to the business conducted by core agencies, such as Infrastructure Ontario and Metrolinx. Streamlining of procurement is never as easy as it appears.

John Yakabuski has been named Minister of Transportation. The 15 year provincial veteran has briefly held the Transportation critic's role (2004-05) before taking on caucus leadership responsibilities as Opposition House Leader and Chief Opposition Whip. Yakabuski's municipal and provincial experience will help him lead in this role.

In sum, this will be a busy cabinet guided by strong direction from senior staff in the Office of the Premier that is led by veterans of both the former Harper government and Queen's Park. We can expect the Ford government to be driven and disciplined given the early tone being set by the new Premier.

The remainder of the Ford government caucus will be sworn-in in the coming days and Parliamentary Assistants have already been named. Opposition party and other Members of Provincial Parliament will follow suit in the coming days. It is expected that the legislature will be called back for a summer session that will see the selection of a Speaker and the tabling of a Throne Speech as early as July 9th. CEO will provide additional information as it becomes available.

CEO POSITION:

Today's swearing-in ceremony marks the final turn in Ontario's departure from 15 years of Liberal rule. Importantly, Premier Ford's government has maintained separate ministries for Infrastructure and Transportation. While this is an encouraging development, these portfolios will have challenges maintaining prominence in a government that has a number of substantial election promises to fulfill.

Ontarians signaled with this election that they were more concerned with day-to-day issues impacting their lives rather than grand plans for the future that were the norm of the Wynne government. Big issues took over the public discussion leaving people feeling sidelined. This can be a problem for the infrastructure sector and those responsible for designing and building the foundations for the better Ontario of tomorrow.

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By their very size and scope, Ontario's needs on issues such as core infrastructure have overwhelmed the capacity of average people to relate to their everyday lives. What became the regular talk and spin of multi-billion dollar projects, planned out over decades with no immediate impact was at first exciting and inspirational; particularly during the economic uncertainty of the great recession. However, it quickly became tiresome.

Going forward from today it is the role of CEO and its members to redefine and refocus the importance of fulfilling existing infrastructure commitments for this new government. It is contingent upon us to reassert the imperative for investment as a result of proper planning, informed by evidence-based decision making and executed through industry best practices to ensure innovation and value are achieved from those investments.

CONCLUSION:

CEO encourages members to familiarize themselves with the key ministers of the new Ford cabinet. More detailed information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

Should you have any questions about this bulletin or any other industry issue, please contact David Zurawel at dzurawel@ceo.on.ca or 416.620.1400 ext. 222.