

OPINION

Time for a plan

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has drawn her proverbial line in the sand. She's demanding a budget that doesn't impose new taxes, tolls or fees on Ontarians.

And, with a tip of the hat to Tom Petty, Premier Kathleen Wynne says she won't back down. As MPPs returned to Queen's Park last week, Wynne vowed to push forward with plans to fund transit through unspecified "revenue tools."

So, it appears we're set on a crash course that will bring us a spring election. But, does that mean the people of Ontario end up with a different government?

Under Wynne, leader for a year, the Liberals have lost five of the last seven byelections, four in ridings previously held by the Grits. That's a bad omen.

But, while change may be in the wind, it's hardly a done deal.

For change to happen, Horwath still needs to clearly define her party's plan for the province.

For change to happen, Tory leader Tim Hudak needs to tone down his inflammatory anti-labour rhetoric.

The coming weeks will be an uncertain time for all three parties. But it's Horwath who has the most at stake. Both the Liberals and the Tories are waiting on the NDP to make a move.

Wynne needs Horwath's support to keep her government afloat. Hudak needs her support to take down the Liberals.

One thing is clear. Moving Ontario forward requires a focus on the future, not the past, with a heavy emphasis on economic stability and growth.

There may well be desire to punish the Liberals for their monumental screw-ups including eHealth, ORNGE and the cancelled gas plants. But we need a plan for the future that will be positive and productive. Without clearly defined plans from which voters can choose, a spring election will get us nowhere.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

Are you satisfied with Canada's performance at the Sochi Olympics?

Yes (94%)

No (6%)

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Letters to the editor

Give your letter carrier a break

Dear editor,

In my travels around the Acton/Georgetown area I noticed the large number of rural mailboxes that are buried in snow drifts.

I realize that these drifts are typically courtesy of our local snowplow operators but they have to swerve away from the ditch a bit to keep from knocking our mailboxes over.

The problem this creates is that the snow is deposited in front of your mailbox.

This makes the mail carrier's job so much more difficult so please take a few minutes after each snowfall to shovel the drift away so your mail carrier can make their rounds quickly and safely.

I know they will appreciate it very much.

Ray Lavender,
Acton

Where is the salt?

Dear editor,

I have to ask why basically any road west of Winston Churchill Boulevard is ice covered, but roads to the east are clear.

It is not due to a lack of effort by the snowplow drivers, as I see them out at all hours.

The incontrovertible evidence is that not enough salt is being used.

I cannot accept any excuse trotted out by works management or council, as the physical evidence is proof enough that they are not spending the money to provide the level of service we should expect.

There has been so much money poured into the coffers of Halton Region by all of the new developments, that money cannot be used as an excuse either.

We all know just how much sand there is at the sides of the roads when spring arrives to tell us that there is way more gravel than salt being used.

Temperature cannot be used

as an excuse either, as Brampton/Mississauga are dealing with exactly the same weather as us.

By not providing the work crews what is needed, the end result is that management is playing hard and fast with the community's safety.

I know that will not sit well with some people, but facts speak for themselves, our roads are dangerous at present.

Thanks for allowing me the chance to rant, but I know how things used to be 10 to 12 years ago in Georgetown, and it is not the same when it comes to winter roads

Dave Betchley,
Limehouse

Letters policy

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