

Energy conference to hear from Chiarelli and opposition energy critics

October 6, 2014

QP Briefing

A conference this week will look at the the "transformations and innovations" affecting the province's energy system but will also hear complaints from the opposition parties about the high cost of power under the Liberals' green energy policies.

The Ontario Energy Association's 2014 conference will start Tuesday with speakers looking at the economy and markets. Former finance minister **Dwight Duncan** is slated to talk about "the changing ownership landscape in Ontario" in a speech on Tuesday afternoon.

On Tuesday evening, Energy Minister **Bob Chiarelli** is expected to discuss the government's Long-Term Energy Plan. That plan unveiled late last year focuses on expanding wind, solar and gas-fired power, boosting conservation and refurbishing nuclear plants instead of building new ones to meet the power needs of the future.

On Wednesday, the opposition parties' energy critics – Tory **John Yakabuski** and New Democrat **Peter Tabuns** – will speak at the conference. Both parties have criticized the Liberals' energy policies for sharply raising the price of electricity and hurting consumers and businesses.

The Tories, particularly, say high power prices have been a big squeeze on the economy and have slowed down expansion and job creation.

The conference is being held at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts in downtown Toronto.

"The energy sector and the government's recently released Long-Term Energy Plan recognize the importance and need to consider and integrate all energy sources to support and drive economic growth in Ontario," said **Steve Baker**, the Union Gas president who co-chairs the conference. "This year's conference will explore the sector and the transformations and innovations that are underway and shaping its energy future."

-