

INSIDE QUEEN'S PARK

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GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

February 6, 2013

AT THE CUTTING EDGE: SO WHO REALLY WAS ON FIRST?

Until the last couple of weeks of the leadership campaign, information on the standing of the seven contenders was largely available only from the campaign managers and their spin-doctors, assorted pundits and others with axes to grind. It was in this phase of the campaign that the conventional wisdom put **Kathleen Wynne** ahead of **Sandra Pupatello**. Yet the latter's success in securing backing from party prominents and reportedly attracting disproportionate support from ex-officio delegates undermined the former's supposed lead in that category.

Wynne's claim to be in the lead was exploded when the party's published figures for committed delegate votes put Pupatello at 504, 41 votes ahead of Wynne's 463. Not a huge lead but one which did oblige Pupatello to abandon her previous spin about being content to be in second place. And then when uncommitted delegate numbers were added to give complete 1st ballot totals, Pupatello had acquired 95 more votes for a total of 599 and Wynne had gained 134 for a total of 597 – a sensational result which shaved Pupatello's leading edge to just two votes.

Pupatello added to that lead in the final phase of the 2nd ballot, gaining 218 votes for a total of 817, while Wynne added 153 to stand at 750 – 67 behind. The two women candidates remained close, with Pupatello taking 52% of the 1,500+ votes cast for the two of them while Wynne held 48%. But there had been almost 500 votes cast for **Gerard Kennedy** and **Charles Sousa** so it was clear that the winner would be the front-runner who attracted support from more of their delegates.

Seemingly not an impossible barrier for Pupatello to overcome, but with Sousa's supporters and most of Kennedy's followers taking the path blazed by **Glen Murray** prior to the convention itself, as well as by **Eric Hoskins** right after the first ballot results, Pupatello could not narrow the gap. And it was all over when she could only add 50 votes to bring her 3rd-ballot total to 866 whereas Wynne's final count grew by 400 – eight votes for every one mustered by her remaining opponent – to make her winning total 1,150.

Pupatello added to her standing within the party by her bravura performance on the convention stage, high-fiving Wynne and conceding graciously and with verve.

Anyone still hungry for behind-the-scenes clarification of the outcome of the leadership contest should watch **Susannah Kelley**'s brilliantly framed, two-part podcast for Ontario News Watch, *Doing Deals, Wooing Delegates*, with persuasive punditry by former Ontario LIB president **Richard Mahoney**.

ARE THE LIBs IN THE LEAD? OR ARE THEY IN 2nd-PLACE? EITHER WAY, IT'S CLOSE

The first poll since the LIB leadership, conducted January 27-29 and released January 31 by Innovative Research, shows Kathleen Wynne's party in the lead, albeit fractionally. The LIBs lead with 24%, with the PCs following with 23% and the NDP trailing at 20%. The Greens are at 7% with 14% undecided. For this on-line poll, sample size was 506 and margin of error 4.4%.

The LIBs are once again reported as behind both opposition parties in the second post-leadership poll, conducted January 3-15 and also released January 31 by Innovative Research. It shows the PCs in the lead with 36%, the NDP following with 32% and the LIBs trailing with 25%. The Greens are at 7% with 17% undecided. The sample size for this telephone survey was 446 and the margin of error is 4.6%.

The Innovative poll also placed the new LIB leader at the top of 'best premier' ratings: Wynne drew 24% with Hudak at 18% and Horwath at 13%.

We can anticipate that parties and pollsters will diligently pursue any evidence of a honeymoon effect for Wynne as well as the impact of her victory on the two opposition leaders and parties.

"IS THIS A CAKE-KNIFE I SEE BEFORE ME?"

As reported by the *Globe and Mail*, Pupatello says that she was invited by Eric Hoskins to visit him at home January 19 to discuss leadership support. (This was only one of several encounters in various locales between the two contenders involving various managers and minders.) She also tells us that she brought with her a pricey Dufflet cake and he poured glasses of wine, though the price-point of the libations has not been divulged. We are free to believe either her claim that he said he would support her leadership bid or his denial that he made any such promise.

(The title of this piece was suggested by a very droll reader of *IQP*. The borrowed and slightly revised phrase from *Macbeth* nicely underlines the intensity of this melodramatic transaction. Pupatello responded to Hoskins's denial by insisting that she had been double-crossed. Watch out, Dr. Hoskins: When your paths cross, expect her to look daggers at you.)

Certainly the candidates have to get involved before such a leadership alliance can be sealed with a slice of cake or a splash of plonk, but an experienced campaign manager would caution that canvass marks gathered by the person whose name is on the ballot are not reliable because voters are loth to say 'no' to a person they know. Better by far, then, that any pledges of support be explored by **Christine Bomé** with **Bruce Davis** or by

him with her. Minders handle this sort of transaction much more effectively than do candidates themselves.

WHO GETS INTO WYNNE'S CABINET?

There is always buzz about the allocation of cars and drivers and other aspects of the formation of a new government but Kathleen Wynne and her key advisors have held their counsel impressively since her January 26 leadership victory. History teaches that cabinet picks are leaked before a government is sworn in, often extensively and accurately and commonly at the last minute. But the premier-designate and her team have got through nearly two weeks without divulging more than the identity of a couple of key OPO staffers – **Tom Teahen** as CoS & **Anthony Bevan** as PS – so they may get lucky and present the overall Cabinet as they would prefer next Monday morning. The names which follow should be understood as intuited by, not leaked to, *IQP*.

A prefatory note: Expect Wynne to steer clear of demanding that the formation be termed “the Kathleen Wynne government”. In some respects her predecessor was quite a big-head; blessedly, Wynne is not.

A second note: Expect a bigger cabinet – maybe larger than McGuinty's pre-leadership 22. The symbolic value of having fewer ministers is outweighed by the need to salve contest wounds, accommodate rivals, reward campaign stalwarts and recruit new blood

Premier – Kathleen Wynn

Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs – Kathleen Wynne

Intergovernmental Affairs – Kathleen Wynne

Deputy Premier – Deb Matthews

Aboriginal Affairs – Yasir Naqvi

Attorney General – David Zimmer

Children & Youth Services – Soo Wong

Citizenship & Immigration – Reza Moridi

Community Safety & Corrections – Madeleine Meilleur

Community & Social Services – John Milloy

Finance – Charles Sousa

Economic Development – Glen Murray

Education – Deb Matthews

Energy – Eric Hoskins

Environment – Jim Bradley

Health – Laurel Broten

House Leader – Jim Bradley

Infrastructure – Linda Jeffery

Labour – Ted McMeekin

Management Board – Charles Sousa

Municipal Affairs & Housing – Glen Murray

Natural Resources – Mike Gravelle

Northern Development & Mines – David Oraziotti

Tourism, Culture & Sport – Michael Chan

Training, Colleges & Universities – Bob Chiarelli

Transportation – Brad Duguid

w/o Portfolio – Harinder Takhar

LIBs OVERCOME DONOR FATIGUE

IQP first suggested in our November 21 issue that

the per candidate leadership donations ceiling of \$500K could well exceed the willingness of the LIB activists and stakeholders in the Ontario political system to fork over large sums. Not for the first time, our assessment was wrong; and again, not for the first time we're willing to 'fess up to the error.

Real-time disclosure posted by Elections Ontario now totals just over \$2.4M, more than two thirds of the allowable total. By our count, that total has doubled over the last month, and further sums are in the donations pipeline. So the bags could end up containing \$3M or more.

For the record, Papatello's campaign heads the donations league table with \$644K, Wynne's raised \$539K and Sousa, \$493K. In the lower tier, Hoskins posted \$280K, Murray \$210K, Kennedy \$158K and Takhar \$76K.

IQP has also tracked the showing of 'big money' in the LIB leadership, which we define as single donations of \$10,000 and above. The landlords' lobby group, the Federation of Rental Housing Providers of Ontario, appears to be the most generous donor overall, giving \$20K to five contenders (including Murray but except for Kennedy and Takhar), for a total of \$100,000. Large donations were also directed by the Insurance Bureau of Canada, the umbrella group representing the property & casualty insurers, to four campaigns: \$25,000 to each of Papatello and Wynne, \$11,000 to Sousa; and \$10,000 to Hoskins, for a total of \$71,000.

Sundry unions contributed \$73,000 in aggregate: \$30,000 to Murray; \$20,000 to Hoskins; \$13,000 to Sousa; and \$10,000 to Papatello. Labatt's donated \$17,500 to Wynne, and \$10,000 to each of Hoskins and Sousa, for a total of \$37,500.

BITS & PIECES

ROCKING THE BALLOT -- Perhaps remembering that delays in counting votes had extended their last provincial leadership convention, in 1996, through to 4:35 a.m., the managers of the 2013 event booked hard-to-ignore musical entertainment between rounds of voting. **Terri Crawford** & her band the Retro Rockets served up spirited rock covers of hits since the 1950s, highlighting her very powerful voice. Terri has been performing concerts for children as well as rock music for over 40 years with her husband and musical partner **Rick Johnson**. He took time out from playing his guitar to win the 2003 Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock by-election, defeating **John Tory** and fatally undermining his PC leadership

“NOT THAT OPENLY-GAY POLITICIAN!” – When Gerard Kennedy told his delegates of his decision to back Kathleen Wynne, he made it plain that they were at liberty to follow his choice or to support any other candidate. Erstwhile Kennedy backer **George Smitherman**, *IQP* hears, at once erupted noisily urging anyone within ear-shot **not** to back Wynne. She had supported Smitherman's mayoralty bid very strongly.

TODD SMITH, MPP

First elected in 2011 by defeating Education minister Leona Dombrowsky in Prince Edward-Hastings, Todd Smith was news director at Quinte Broadcasting. He is the PC critic for Small Business and Red Tape.

PROVINCIAL PROFILE

IQP: You were born and raised in Moncton and were taking Education at UNB with no great prospect of employment as a teacher when you switched to the Broadcast Journalism at Belleville's Loyalist College.

Smith: I was playing junior hockey and senior baseball in Moncton and a team-mate thought I'd be a pretty good sports broadcaster. He had gone to Loyalist College, which had a very good reputation. I made the jump and decided that I would attend the school with hope of becoming a sports broadcaster. Three months into the program I got a part-time job at Quinte Broadcasting, doing the overnight shift at a station that played elevator music – not the hippest gig for a man in his mid-20s, but a foot in the door. I quickly made friends with the news department and the sports director, and was soon working in sports in radio. I began as part-time voice for the Bellville Bulls of the Ontario Hockey League and eventually became the full-time play-by-play voice for the Bellville Bulls on television on a province-wide network. I moved quickly up the food chain at Quinte Broadcasting, started to cover a lot of news events, hosted some talk shows and was news director for the last several years.

IQP: Thoughts on the challenges now faced by mainstream media?

Smith: There's no question that the media world has changed a lot. The big companies have gobbled up a lot of the privately-held stations. Now you have radio, newspaper and television working together in the same newsroom. Social media has changed the business quite a bit as well. Everything became so instant with social media. Gone are the days when you sat around with your news staff and decided what stories we were going to cover that day or what kind of story ideas we would bring forward. Instead, the news was coming at us extremely quickly through social media and email. We didn't really have to go looking for news stories anymore; they came and found us in the newsroom.

IQP: Until you ran in October 2011, you had not had any political background or even taken courses in political science. Was that helpful or not?

Smith: My only experience with politics was local, covering municipal and regional councils and committees. Of course, I covered stories from Queen's Park and Parliament Hill, closely following the careers of our local MPPs and MPs.

IQP: How far did your election win turn on local opposition to wind turbines?

Smith: It was definitely a factor, especially in southern Prince Edward county, but not for the bulk of the riding. The municipal council and many residents don't want large industrial turbines. I think what wind turbines did was show that the interests of the MPP weren't those of her constituents; that she was

putting her political career ahead of the needs of local residents.

IQP: The LIBs have a new leader but they remain in government still short of a majority. How has the political landscape changed?

Smith: I don't know that it has changed all that much. Yes, there's a new boss in town. There's still a lot of things to be determined. It's like that song by The Who: "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss". I think the Kathleen Wynne government, when it is formed, could end up turning even further to the left than McGuinty did. At least McGuinty, for whatever reason, eventually decided that there was a problem with our deficit and our budget and took on the teachers' unions. That was the first time that we realized that Mr. McGuinty had any kind of knowledge about where the state of the province was financially. I'm not so sure that Kathleen Wynne has realized what her predecessor belatedly grasped – because one of her stated first priorities as the new premier is to mend those fences with teachers. It will be interesting to see how much making that one of her priorities will cost our province financially.

IQP: Tim Hudak named you PC critic for Small Business. What are the key issues facing this sector?

Smith: There are many, but they're fairly predictable. I've traveled the province over the last 14 months or so, especially over the summer. I was on a summer tour from border to border, touching on some northern ridings and municipalities as well. The main three things I heard over and over again were: energy and the cost of energy, taxes, and red tape. Of the three, red tape was the biggest. Small business owners tell me they're spending way too much time on government paper work. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, whom I meet fairly often, says that the average small business owner has to devote six to ten hours a week dealing with government papers and regulations. And CFIB calculates that government regulation is costing us \$12B a year in Ontario. That's impeding growth for our small businesses and preventing job creation.

IQP: Finally, Red Tape. We've been hunting this beast for many years now. Have we even winged it?

Smith: Some progress was made back in the late 90s but it's still a huge problem. The red tape commission that Mike Harris put together with Frank Sheehan and Steve Gilchrist actually cut the number of government agencies, boards and commissions – from 225 to 150. Unfortunately, under McGuinty the number of ABCs has ballooned to 630. There are 380,000 different regulations in the province, and we need to eliminate some of them. By creating a larger government, we've created more and more regulations.

PEOPLE

Named to the board of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority as chair is **Elizabeth Dowdeswell** and **Judith Wolfson** as vice-chair.

William Coley and **Gerry Phillips** have been named to the board of Ontario Power Generation Inc.

Jim Cyr, **Roydon Kealey**, **Barbara Naegele**, **Murray Segal** and **Thomas Verny** have been named to the Ontario Review board.

Sylvie Rivard has been named to the French Language Health Services Advisory council.

Named to the Physician Payment Review board are **Nancy Ferguson** and **Navdeep Nijhawan**.

Named to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (Social Justice Tribunals Ontario) are: **Suzanne Gilbert**, **Aida Gatfield** and **Maurice Green**.

Named to the board of Metrolinx is **Frances Lankin**.

Remy Boulbol has been named to the Citizens' council.

Adrian Betts has been named to the board of the Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS.

Anne Golden, **Joan Green**, and the **Hon. Sydney Robins** have been appointed to the Order of Ontario.

Named to the board of the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation are **Leslie Smith** and **Michelle Young**.

FOR YOUR DIARY

- Feb 7 Todd Smith's Annual Toronto Fundraiser; Gilda's Club, 24 Cecil Street, Toronto; 6:00 p.m.
- Feb 13 Vic Fedeli's Second Annual Toronto Fundraiser Luncheon; Albany Club, 91 King St. East; 12:00-1:30 p.m.
- Feb 13 Political Speaker Series with Tim Hudak, Leader, PC party; Toronto Board of Trade, 77 Adelaide Street West entrance, 4th floor Ballroom; 11:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.
- Feb 19 Join Michael Mantha for a "Taste of Algoma-Manitoulin" with special guest speaker Gilles Bisson; The University Club, 380 University Avenue, Toronto; 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Feb 20 "enviroWAVE: An evening with PC Environment Critic, MPP Michael Harris"; Commerce Court West, 199 Bay Street, Suite 2901, Toronto; 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Feb 28 Cocktail reception fundraiser for Dr. Kellie Leitch, MP for Simcoe-Grey, with special guest Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance; Norton Rose LLP, Royal Bank Plaza, South Tower, Suite 3800; 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Mar 5 Garfield Dunlop's Hockey Night at Hart House Fundraiser; University of Toronto's Hart House – Debates Room; 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 19 "Cocktails and Conversation with MPP Lisa Thompson"; Brassaii, 461 King Street West; 6-8 p.m.

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