

Screen time in schools

Ms. Jess Dixon: Later on this afternoon, it will be my absolute honour and privilege to present a petition from Dr. Natasha Larocque and Dr. Sarah Khan. That petition is calling on banning the use of screens at mealtimes in schools. Dr. Larocque is a very busy doctor—radiologist—in Timmins and a mom. She ended up with her own children—increasingly hearing across the province about screens being used in schools during lunch times, sometimes with content that wasn't appropriate. It was often distracting kids to the point that they were not able to eat their lunch because they were excited about the show.

It is an incredibly worthwhile thing to focus on and something that is certainly near and dear to me, as I sometimes tell high schoolers that I'm the one that initially brought the motion to ban cellphones in schools; it doesn't always go that well. But what I wanted to focus on at this point in time is really commending Dr. Larocque, who is here in the gallery today, on her incredible work. As everybody knows, in the Ontario Legislature, petitions can't be done online; the signatures have to be collected physically. And despite being a doctor and a working mom, Dr. Larocque was able to collect over 2,600 signatures in person which she drove to my office— incredible work, incredible advocacy. Thank you, Dr. Larocque.

Education funding

Mr. Amarjot Sandhu: I rise today to recognize another major investment in the future of education in Brampton West.

Recently I was proud to attend the blessing and official opening of St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Elementary School, a nearly \$30-million investment that will provide 435 student spaces and four child care rooms for local families.

Speaker, when families choose a community, one of the first questions they ask is simple: Will there be a school for my child? In Brampton West, our government is making sure that the answer to that question is yes. From the opening of St. Carlo Acutis Catholic Elementary School, Red Cedar Public School and Malala Yousafzai Public School, to the construction of the new Mount Pleasant Secondary School and Brampton's first ever French-language Catholic secondary school, our government is making historic investments to ensure our education infrastructure keeps pace with our growing community. These projects are creating thousands of new student spaces, expanding access to child care and helping students learn closer to home in modern learning environments built for success.

Speaker, these investments are not just about building schools; they're about supporting families, strengthening communities and creating opportunities for the next generation.

Government accountability

Ms. Marit Stiles: This question is for the Premier. Yesterday he claimed that no one is more ticked off than he is over the \$200,000 in fees for his private luxury jet, but he didn't commit to paying it back, leaving the taxpayers on the hook once again for his shopping spree. The people of Ontario simply cannot afford this Premier's luxury, lavish lifestyle. Why does the Premier think it's fair for Ontarians to foot the bill for his lavish spending?

Hansard Tuesday, May 26, 2026
(Government Accountability, FOI, Heat in Schools)

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Response? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: As the Premier said, no one's happy about any penny extra that we have to pay, whether it's a \$29-million jet or a \$244-billion budget.

Madam Speaker, that's why, as I mentioned yesterday, I'm so proud that our collective efforts of building this economy, being fiscally responsible, has led us to get credit rating affirmations from not only Moody's, a global credit rating agency, but also Fitch Ratings, which affirmed Ontario's AA status. This is what's important to the people of Ontario, that we continue to manage not only the fiscal perspective of the province, but also the economy of the province and the good jobs in the province.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Well, Speaker, I'll tell you, I think what the people of Ontario care about right now is that life just gets more and more expensive, and this Premier and his lavish spending are costing us more and more every day, right?

Earlier this month, his friends at Metrolinx settled a \$500-million dispute with another buddy of his. Ontarians are literally paying for the air so that that guy who sat at the Premier's family table at the Premier's daughter's wedding can walk away with half a billion bucks. Why does this Premier keep wasting taxpayer dollars for his personal needs?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I'll remind the members to keep the questions relevant and consistent.

I recognize the Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria: That member knows that the Premier nor anyone in this government has any involvement in those proceedings that led to the expropriation.

What we are doing is we're committed to building the largest subway expansion in Canadian and North American history. That starts in a place like Scarborough, Madam Speaker, where we're building the Scarborough subway extension—a project that the Leader of the Opposition has opposed.

If the leader takes a look to the left of her, she'll realize that she has lost her deputy leader from Scarborough, and I wonder why. It's because they refuse to invest in projects and support projects that this province is putting forward like the Scarborough subway extension, like policies like One Fare that put \$1,600 back into the pockets of hard-working Ontarians and transit users, especially those in places like Scarborough.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: Speaker, back to the Premier: This question is again about the outrageous overspending of this Premier on his luxury needs on the taxpayer dime. I want to say that my commitment to the people of Ontario is that when I'm Premier, I'm going to be getting the money back from all of you.

Hansard Tuesday, May 26, 2026
(Government Accountability, FOI, Heat in Schools)

A \$30-million luxury private jet for the Premier, unknown millions to pay for his friend for air—for air, Speaker—all these costs and then a half a trillion-dollar debt on top of it all. This Premier, he's just too expensive. When will this Premier start putting money back into people's pockets instead of into his friends' pockets?

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy: Madam Speaker, through you to the member opposite, I think I heard the word debt. May I remind this House that we have the lowest debt in over 15 years relative to our economy without increasing taxes, by cutting taxes. Don't listen to me; listen to S&P, the global ratings agency which upgraded the province of Ontario—a credit rating upgrade to AA.

Don't listen to just them; listen to DBRS Morningstar, which upgraded the province, again, to AA.

Madam Speaker, this government is proving it's not either/or—you can be fiscally responsible, have the lowest deficit-to-GDP in the land, the lowest debt-to-GDP in the land, get credit rating upgrades, cut taxes and build Ontario through unprecedented infrastructure, \$230 billion, putting many men and women—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the Leader of the Opposition.

Freedom of information

Ms. Marit Stiles: Well Speaker, I have news for the Minister of Finance, because for most people out there, what they care about is that life has never been more expensive for people in the province of Ontario.

Speaker, my question again is for the Premier, because this Premier claims: "No one respects judges or the courts more than I do." That's a direct quote from him yesterday.

Well, the courts ordered the Premier to hand over his phone records. He appealed that decision. His appeal was rejected. I think you can see where I'm going with this.

So back to the Premier: Is the Premier actually going to respect the courts and turn over his phone records like they have ordered him to do?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I recognize the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement.

Hon. Stephen Crawford: I've certainly highlighted the reason why we made the changes we did in the budget, which made updates to our privacy legislation, aligning ourselves with other jurisdictions across Canada and the federal government, including NDP provinces like Manitoba and BC.

But we had constituency week last week. What I heard from the people of Ontario, what they care about, is something that you touched on, which is affordability. Now, unfortunately, the opposition has not supported us in our measures with respect to affordability. In the budget we just passed a few weeks ago, we made a massive tax reduction for new home buyers which is going to spur building in this province, get new homes built, and you voted against it.

So when you speak about affordability, you're all talk when the camera is on, but when the cameras are away, you're voting against it.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): A reminder to direct your comments through the Speaker.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms. Marit Stiles: We'll go back and check the record on that one.

"I'm the most transparent Premier in history." Those are the words of this Premier. They are laughable, because he is so desperate to hide his personal phone records and whatever is on them that he has gone ahead and changed the law to keep them away from the people of Ontario. He actually took away the people's right to access government records so that he could hide his own phone records.

Now, I don't know who he thinks he works for, but on this side of the House, we know that we work for the people of Ontario.

So I want to say to the Premier and ask him if he is going to release those records. Is he going to tell us today? Or why is he trying so hard to hide them?

Hon. Stephen Crawford: It is true: The Premier of Ontario is and has been the most accessible Premier this province has ever had. And again, I encourage the Leader of the Opposition—the people of Ontario are watching—share your phone number. Let them give you feedback if you care about the people of Ontario and you want to hear from them.

Because what the people are saying is they care about building an Ontario economy, about protecting Ontario—and that's exactly what we're doing, Speaker. Whether it's in the areas of finance, where we have an incredible financial community located here in Toronto—we're working hard to get that defence bank right here in Toronto. Day by day, we're going to continue supporting workers in that sector. Whether it's the tech sector in Ontario, where we have 450,000 tech workers—we're getting new AI companies set up here in the province of Ontario. We're supporting them through buy-Ontario legislation where we can.

We're going to continue supporting the businesses of Ontario while you just stand here and criticize and don't have an open door policy to the people of Ontario.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Final supplementary?

Ms. Marit Stiles: It's so outrageous it would be actually laughable, Speaker. I mean, the most transparent Premier, the most phone calls in the world, in the universe—you know, this Premier is so outrageous. If he wasn't running from the law, it might actually be funny, right? Calls from his rich buddies—that's who's calling him; calls from developers; calls from the guys that he's making deals with at family events—but we may never know, because this Premier will not hand over his personal cellphone records. That's the truth.

So I want to ask the Premier again to stand in his place and admit he has no intention of following the court order to hand them over.

Hon. Stephen Crawford: Again, I want to encourage the Leader of the Opposition—I'll give you this opportunity: Share your number with the people of Ontario. Share it so they can give you

Hansard Tuesday, May 26, 2026
(Government Accountability, FOI, Heat in Schools)

feedback and hear what we're hearing, because you're not hearing anything. I encourage you, please.

Speaker, what we're focused on is protecting Ontario, whether it's finance in Toronto, the technology businesses we're building at—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Order. Order.

I apologize to the minister—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Come to order or I will start naming people.

Back to the minister.

Hon. Stephen Crawford: Whether it's the financial businesses here in Toronto; whether it's technology businesses in Waterloo, Kanata, the GTA; whether it's manufacturing that we're bringing back—

Interjections.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The member from Waterloo will come to order. The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

Hon. Stephen Crawford: Speaker, we are re-energizing the Ontario economy in the threat of US tariffs. Finance, tech, energy—we're rebuilding energy like we've never seen in the province of Ontario. The first G7 small modular reactor is right here in the province of Ontario. We're going to keep focusing on what the people care about. That's building jobs and building—

Youth services

Ms. Jennifer K. French: My question is to the Premier. Friday night at midnight, the management at Murray McKinnon Foundation in Oshawa locked out its workers—locked them out of their jobs.

I spent Saturday afternoon in the rain with workers who support vulnerable youth, work with custodial youth—some who have spent 30 years doing community reintegration work or support the education of vulnerable young people. Their work matters. This Premier is responsible for underfunding and undervaluing the work that they do every day.

I met a worker who has worked in youth justice, supporting young people's education needs for 38 years, and this is the first time she's been out on the street instead of doing her job. Fix this.

Will the Premier fund our public service workers who are absolutely worth fighting for?

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

Hon. Michael Parsa: I thank my honourable colleague for the very important question.

Hansard Tuesday, May 26, 2026
(Government Accountability, FOI, Heat in Schools)

Madam Speaker, we thank and value the important work that's being done by every staff in every organization across this province. It's why we are supporting them, backing them by record historic investments right across every sector that this ministry supports. We have, in one sector alone—the developmental services sector—increased our investments this year to nearly \$4 billion. That is an increase of \$1.6 billion to better support people who rely on these supports and services.

Our message is very clear: We value the work that you're doing. That's why we're providing these historic investments. We expect both parties to get back to the table, get a deal to better—and continue serving those people.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Back to the member for Oshawa.

Ms. Jennifer K. French: Many of us stood with the developmental services workers yesterday in Toronto, and they are collapsing under the burnout. Record investment is not paying the bills.

Under Bill 124, this Ford government unconstitutionally stole workers' wages. They've been forced to pay back many workers across Ontario, but they still haven't paid back community public service workers who keep our communities running—

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): I will ask the member to withdraw.

Ms. Jennifer K. French: I will withdraw.

Workers in developmental services, child welfare, youth justice, children's treatment centres, community health care and agencies, and mental health and addictions deserve fair wages, safe workplaces and our thanks, for goodness' sake.

Will this Premier finally pony up the wages his government withheld so these valuable public service workers can get back to work?

Hon. Michael Parsa: Again, I thank the honourable colleague for the very important question.

And I'll just say this, Madam Speaker—this is the difference: Here on this side, as a minister, as a government, we will not be pitting parties against one another. We want to bring everyone together. It's to benefit every single person that's getting the support.

I encourage the honourable colleague's support in this space. The member said the investment doesn't matter. It does matter, Madam Speaker.

We have increased investment in the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services more than a billion dollars this year. Why? Because we want to make sure that nobody in this province is left behind. As I said, we highly value the great work of every single person and every organization in every corner of this province. That's why the developmental services sector has seen an increase of \$1.6 billion since we formed government, Madam Speaker. It's why we saw \$407 million of investment increase in this budget, \$310 million—

Fighting Extreme Heat in Schools Act, 2026

Ms. Pasma moved first reading of the following bill:

Hansard Tuesday, May 26, 2026
(Government Accountability, FOI, Heat in Schools)

Bill 123, An Act to amend the Education Act to provide for a maximum indoor temperature and other measures to fight extreme heat

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?
Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Would the member like to briefly describe the bill?

Ms. Chandra Pasma: I'd like to thank my co-sponsors, the MPP for Nickel Belt, MPP for Toronto–Danforth and MPP for Sudbury.

The Fighting Extreme Heat in Schools Act, 2026, amends the Education Act to require school boards to take certain steps with respect to fighting extreme heat levels in school settings. One of the requirements is for boards to develop a heat mitigation strategy for each school in consultation with the applicable joint health and safety committees. The bill requires the Minister of Education to review the boards' heat mitigation strategies at least once every three years and publish reports with respect to the reviews.

The Speaker (Hon. Donna Skelly): Just a reminder, and you did it perfectly, that when we do speak to the bills that we are presenting, we reference the explanatory note and do not expand it. It is not a time to debate the bill. It is a time to explain the bill.