



## Vic Fedeli, MPP

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The Ontario PC caucus is extremely disappointed with this government's decision to introduce yet another omnibus bill – Bill 177 – in a bid to ram through unrelated legislation without proper debate and consideration in the Legislature in order to score political points against their opponents.

This is the same cynical approach the government has taken with Bill 174 dealing with cannabis sales, where unrelated legislation affecting e-cigarettes and school bus cameras was inexplicably attached to the cannabis-specific schedules of the bill.

Let me be clear – many of the schedules contained in Bill 177 have the full support of our caucus. For example, we are completely in favour of Schedule 43, which would establish a French language university in Ontario, something our Leader Patrick Brown led the charge on. We also support the recommendations in Schedules 2, 30 and 34 that stemmed from the inquiry into the Elliot Lake mall collapse that will improve safety in Ontario. As a matter of fact, Schedule 3, which deals with exceptions for child care providers, is based on an amendment the Ontario PC caucus proposed at Committee.

Bill 177 is a 168-page, 46-schedule omnibus finance bill, introduced by the Finance Minister, which ironically enough, has very little to do with the Fall Economic Statement.

The Premier would do well to follow the lead of her federal counterparts, who changed Parliamentary Standing Orders to prevent the use of omnibus bills that include a wide range of unrelated matters. In fact, earlier this month, the Liberal Speaker of the House of Commons ruled that four aspects of the federal budget bill, Bill C-63, were not part of the budget and needed to be introduced as separate bills.

The Ontario PC caucus is requesting that the aforementioned schedules of Bill 177, as well as all other non-Fall Economic Statement schedules, be removed and introduced in the Legislature as separate pieces of legislation. They deserve to be considered on their own merit. We will further push for amendments where necessary to the finance-specific schedules of the bill to try to improve the legislation.

We cannot support the financial direction of a government who has allowed debt to spiral out of control beyond \$300 billion.

Sincerely,

Vic Fedeli  
Ontario PC Finance Critic