

MPP retracts accusations of false reporting against The News

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Mississauga-Streetsville MPP Bob Delaney has apologized to The Mississauga News after claiming the paper published a false report about comments he made at the end of March stating he was proud of Ontario's debt.

"I am sorry I suggested that your published record of my remarks was in any way incorrect. It was correct. It was my recollection that was incorrect. I have amended any public reference I made about your accuracy. Please accept this apology," he wrote in an emailed statement on Tuesday (April 3).

Delaney, a Liberal backbencher and member of parliament since 2003, was at a "budget breakfast" event on March 29 at Mondello Ristorante when a Mississauga News reporter asked him why his government had waited until two months before an elec-

tion to address Ontarians' concerns.

"With respect, bullshit," Delaney said, becoming visibly upset.

"For the past 15 years, I've been part of a government that has built this province," he continued. "We have tripled (the debt) and we're proud of it, because we can afford it. It's the responsible thing to do. It's the correct thing to do, it's what people have asked us to do and I would do it again and I would do it proudly."

Delaney spent part of Easter Monday speaking to Toronto radio denying he made the comment.

In an April 2 email Delaney sent to Global News Radio AM 640, obtained by The Mississauga News, he claimed he had made no such comments.

"Not only did I make no such statement, but when an individual at my Budget Breakfast in Streetsville tried several times to ascribe something like it to

me, I finally emphasized my disagreement with that statement by saying, 'Bullshit,'" he wrote.

He also took to social media with a sponsored Facebook post claiming the March 31 Mississauga News article included incorrect information.

He told The Mississauga News Tuesday (April 3) that he has now removed and cancelled the sponsored Facebook post making the false allegations.

In response to the denials and public accusations of false reporting made by Delaney, The News published unedited audio recordings of the event showing Delaney had made the comments word-for-word. The comments can be heard at the 54-second mark in audio file below.

In addition to his retraction and apology, Delaney attempted to clarify his original statement about being proud of his party tripling the province's debt. He says he misspoke and



Bob Delaney, Liberal - Mississauga-Streetsville



Following the Ontario Budget for 2018-19, I hosted my annual Budget Breakfast, at which a local reporter kept asking the same question. I was informed of the seriously inaccurate and incomplete account written in the local paper, and quoted in other media, on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Global News Radio 640 in Toronto for bringing me on-air to set the record straight. However, recognition is also an opportunity to tell the whole story of what difference Ontario's decade-long investment made, both here in Mississauga and Brampton, and Ontario-wide. I'm certain the neo-cons won't like this story either. Reality does that with ideology. Check it out.

Facebook screenshot

A screenshot of a sponsored Facebook ad by Mississauga MPP Bob Delaney claiming a report about him in The Mississauga News on March 31 was false reporting.

isn't proud of the soon-to-be \$325 billion in red ink, but rather the infrastructure and services it was partially accrued to build.

"I am proud of the comprehensive number of infrastructure projects and support programs that the

Province of Ontario planned and executed, and financed with debt capital, to get us through the recession," he said in a statement.

"I would advocate Ontario make those decisions we did, in those 2008-11 recession circumstances,

again. This was the statement as I meant to make it," he added.

Delaney also maintained his belief the province can afford the debt, and in his party's platform to run six more years of deficit spending before returning to a balanced budget in 2024. The Ontario Liberals plan would see the debt grow to an estimated \$400 billion by 2024.

Delaney, along with the rest of the governing Liberals, are hoping a raft of new deficit spending on initiatives including new dental, pharma, child and senior care programs will sway voters to elect them to a fifth consecutive term at Queen's Park this summer.

The new Liberal platform, which would see deficits hovering at \$7 billion for the next three years, is a big departure from promises of several years of balanced budgets promised even just a few short weeks ago.

Ontarians will take to the polls on June 7.