Province must right its wrongs amid Red Hill Valley Parkway safety concerns

QUEEN'S PARK — In question period on Wednesday, Hamilton-area NDP MPPs Paul Miller (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek) and Sandy Shaw (Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas) called on the province to apologize for failing to disclose provincial friction tests on the Red Hill Valley Parkway, and to pay for a judicial inquiry into concerns about the parkway's safety.

Ontario performed friction tests every year on portions of the Red Hill Valley Parkway from 2007 to 2014 but the transportation ministry only publicly released the test results last month.

"Families want to know why the provincial government never said anything about its own reports, which showed that asphalt on the parkway was steadily getting less safe year after year," said Miller. "Between 2012 and 2015, there were twice as many crashes on the Red Hill Valley Parkway compared to the nearby Lincoln Alexander Parkway—and seven people lost their lives.

"Will the premier apologize to the people of Hamilton on behalf of the province for its failure to raise the alarm about the Red Hill Parkway?" Asked Miller.

Earlier this month, Official Opposition NDP Leader Andrea Horwath wrote Hamilton's mayor and council calling for a judicial inquiry into buried municipal and provincial friction test reports on the parkway and the questionable claims about its safety that followed.

"Hamiltonians deserve to know who knew about the problems with the Red Hill Parkway, who they told, and what they did about it," said Shaw. "Above all, Hamilton families need to know why they were kept in the dark while reports showed the roadway was getting more and more slippery every year.

Shaw put the question to the Ford Conservatives at Queens Park on Wednesday.

"Will the premier do the right thing and pick up the tab for the costs of a judicial inquiry, so the people of Hamilton can get the answers they deserve?"

No answers were provided by Ford's government.

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Audio: https://www.dropbox.com/s/33yjqa9n945urua/Q7A_Miller_03-20-2019.mp3?dl=0 https://www.dropbox.com/s/bcwf69ovtxp73d8/Q7B_Shaw_03-20-2019.mp3?dl=0

Video: https://www.dropbox.com/s/mmshjahof2uc8zq/Q7A_Miller_03-20-2019.mp4?dl=0 https://www.dropbox.com/s/1nwri1yuae92biz/Q7B_Shaw_03-20-2019.mp4?dl=0