

Late Afternoon Media Scan: Cap and Trade - January 13, 2017

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Date: Fri, 13 Jan 2017 17:01:52 -0500
Attachments: 20170113 - Media Scan - Cap and Trade (Late Afternoon).doc (115.71 kB)

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Late Afternoon Media Scan and Trade

January 13, 2017

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[AM640 News : Protesters confront Premier Wynne in Oakville](#)

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[National Post : 'I feel like you've failed me': Single mom from rural Ontario blasts Trudeau and Wynne over hydro bills](#)

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[Waterloo Region Record : Ontario's climate change plan](#)

Online

2017/01/13 15:53 - PostMedia

thestar.com

Section: News | Toronto Star

Toronto Star WYNNE GETS COLD SHOULDER FROM P M ON HYDRO COSTS

Feeling more heat over hydro bills - and a cold shoulder on the touchy topic from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau - Premier Kathleen Wynne acknowledged her government has to do a better job curbing electricity costs.

Wynne was greeted Friday by protesters outside a luncheon speech in Oakville shortly after Trudeau was put on the defensive over hydro prices at a campaign-style stop in Peterborough.

"It is not enough," the premier said of her Liberal government's move to waive the 8 per cent provincial portion of the HST on electricity bills starting this month. ?

While Wynne was taking responsibility(<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/11/19/premier-wynne-calls-high-electricity-prices-her-mistake.html>) for hydro rates that have skyrocketed in recent years and left many homeowners and businesses struggling, Trudeau, under fire for a Caribbean Christmas vacation(<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/01/13/trudeau-reveals-he-rode-aga-khans-private-helicopter.html>) on a "listening tour"(<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/01/12/photos-trudeau-kicks-off-his-two-day-trip-through-ontario.html>) of the country, made it clear electricity prices are Wynne's cross to bear.

At a Peterborough town hall meeting, a weeping woman brandished her hydro bill for the prime minister, saying she earns "almost \$50,000 a year and I am living in energy poverty."

Trudeau, who has frequently campaigned with Wynne in a mutual support pact, praised the woman for speaking out publicly and tried to alleviate her concerns about the impact of looming carbon pricing on energy rates while insisting "hydro bills are provincial."

Speaking with reporters after that emotional encounter, the prime minister tried to dodge questions about Wynne's electricity policies.

"As a Quebec-elected MP I have been trained to be very, very careful about weighing in on provincial areas of jurisdiction. It's something that is important for positive working relationships with all provinces and I respect provincial rights and responsibilities to make determinations in their areas of jurisdiction," said Trudeau.

Wynne took credit for the Liberal government's upgrading of the electricity system since taking power in 2003 so "there are no more blackouts...no more smog days," but admitted "the cost of the changes has burdened people."

She told 440 people at an Oakville and Burlington Chamber of Commerce chicken lunch about a father of three who wrote to her at Christmas to say he had to scale back on presents for his kids.

"That is unacceptable to me," she said during a 25-minute speech, promising "to find more ways to lower rates and reduce the burden on consumers."

"I have heard the voices of the people of Ontario and it's the right thing to do," added Wynne, whose speech was briefly interrupted by a shouting protester in the lobby outside the dining hall.

"I acknowledge the concerns. I'm not exactly sure what her issue is."

Outside the conference centre, a smattering of hydro protesters were mixed in with United Steelworkers from Hamilton concerned the province isn't doing enough to safeguard their

pensions in the Stelco bankruptcy.

"I give wind turbines and solar panels a great deal of the blame for hydro costs," said Lorrie Gillis, who drove from her country home near Flesherton, northwest of Toronto, to hold a picket sign reading "hydro bills \$oar."

"She needs to go and we need someone who will start to put people first and put people over policy and money," added Gillis, who heats her home with a woodstove to save on electric heating costs.

"It's quite a chore to haul the wood. It's not hurting us, but at some point when will we have trouble doing that? When you get to be 75 or 80, how do you haul three bush cords of wood through the house all winter?"

Another protester, Imre Kenedi of Caledon, said Wynne's 8 per cent hydro tax break is a mirage(<https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/01/01/ontario-hydro-rebates-start-in-january-but-so-do-carbon-taxes.html>) because her cap-and-trade plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions is costing about \$5 extra a month on natural gas bills and 4.3 cents on a litre of gasoline.

"It is really time to get rid of the premier," said Kenedi, whose protest sign depicted Wynne with an electric outlet in place of her mouth.

"We need to heat our homes, we need light, we need energy to run our businesses."

Wynne defended her effort, in concert with Quebec and California, to cap greenhouse gas emissions as "four to five times" cheaper than carbon taxes, an alternative Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown has endorsed, although he has not provided details.

"Political winds will always blow in different directions, but fighting climate change is the right thing to do," Wynne said.

i P o l i t i c s WYNNIE NOT PARTICIPATING IN T RUDEAU TOUR

Trudeau may be trying to avoid a 'contagion effect' by keeping his distance, pollsters says

BJ Siekierski

Friday, January 13th, 2017

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attends a campaign rally with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne for Elizabeth Roy, Ontario Liberal candidate for Whitby-Oshawa, in Whitby on Tuesday February 9, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Fred Thornhill

<http://ipolitics.ca/2017/01/13/wynne-not-participating-in-trudeau-tour/>

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne won't be joining Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at any of the Ontario stops on his cross-country tour, a Wynne spokesperson confirmed Friday. And given the premier's persistently low approval ratings, pollsters aren't surprised.

A few days into Trudeau's town hall tour, the prime minister has already faced a number of predictable questions from Ontarians who remain frustrated about hydro costs in the province.

In Kingston Thursday, a man asked Trudeau what his "relationship" with Wynne was and how the province's cap and trade system would affect "ridiculous" hydro costs. Trudeau answered that he had a "strong and positive working relationship with all 13 of Canada's working premiers," including Wynne.

"The fact is, I see the concerns and the challenges around energy prices in Ontario and I'm certain that the province has ways to respond and deal with that and I know they're working on

it,” Trudeau said.

Later in Belleville, a small-business owner said Trudeau’s “positive relationship” with Wynne showed he was “out of touch with the private sector.”

Friday in Peterborough, a woman from Buckhorn, Ont. asked how she was supposed to afford a hydro bill that’s risen above \$1,000 a month. “I’m asking you to fix our hydro system,” she pleaded.

Though Trudeau acknowledged the federal government’s decision to put a price on carbon was causing “consternation,” he also said hydro bills are a provincial matter.

It would be hard to imagine him giving that answer with the premier standing beside him.

“The Premier is not participating in the Prime Minister’s tour,” a Wynne spokesperson told iPolitics when asked if she would be at any of the prime minister’s Ontario stops.

Quito Maggi, president and CEO of Mainstreet Research, said he wasn’t surprised by Wynne’s absence, since her approval rating has been below 20 per cent for the last 12 months.

“It’s no surprise to me that Trudeau would have wanted to be far away from Kathleen Wynne and provincial Liberals in general, at least for the foreseeable future, given Kathleen Wynne’s unpopularity,” he said.

“This issue of hydro ... I’ve probably not seen since the 1993 federal election, with the GST, where a single issue dominated people’s opinions in terms of how they were going to vote. This issue of hydro privatization and hydro rates — it’s the top issue in every poll we’ve done.”

EKOS President Frank Graves said he could only speculate, but it’s possible Trudeau’s team wanted to avoid a “contagion effect”.

“They definitely toured effectively together in the last election,” he said.

Trudeau also campaigned last February in Whitby-Oshawa with Wynne and local provincial candidate, Elizabeth Roy. The Progressive Conservatives ended up winning the riding easily.

“Maybe the thinking is, if this is an attempt to put the Trudeau 2.0 face out there, then maybe they want to do that without cluttering that with any concerns that voters have in Ontario with the premier and the Liberal party in Ontario. We’ve been doing some polling, and it’s not different from what anybody else is finding. The (provincial) Liberals are in serious trouble in Ontario,” Graves said.

In September, Wynne tried to address anger over energy costs in the province by announcing an 8 per cent cut in hydro bills through a tax rebate. She later took responsibility in November for not paying close enough attention to how electricity prices in the province were affecting Ontarians.

“People have told me that they’ve had to choose between paying the electricity bill and buying food or paying rent,” she said. “It is unacceptable that people in Ontario could be facing that choice. So our government made a mistake. It was my mistake. And I’m going to do my best to fix it.”

A M 6 4 0 N e w s ROTESTERS CONFRONT P REMIER W YNNE IN O AKVILLE

Rick Zamperin

January 13, 2017 02:16 pm

<http://www.640toronto.com/syn/66/97929/97929>

The Premier was greeted by a bunch of protesters in Oakville this afternoon.

A few dozen men and women, many with United Steelworkers Local 1005, voiced their concerns outside the Oakville and Burlington Chambers of Commerce luncheon today.

1005 president Gary Howe says he wants the province to put local steelworkers ahead of companies like Bedrock Industries in the Stelco restructuring process.

Howe says his members are “asking for what they deserve in terms of deferred wages and jobs moving forward.”

Jeff Ballingall, the found of the Facebook Group Ontario Proud says they have 62-thousand signatures on a petition asking the Premier to resign.

Ballingall says they are “sick of Kathleen Wynne’s hydro hikes, scandals and tax hikes.”

Wynne did not address the protestors directly, but mentioned that she is listening to the public’s concerns about issues like hydro prices and the province’s new cap and trade system.

When asked about how Ontario is getting ready for a Donald Trump led America, the Premier admits there are a lot of unknowns when it comes to the president elect.

Wynne says “from moment to moment we don’t know what Donald Trump is going to do.”

She adds the province needs to stay competitive and has reached out to state leaders, such as Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, to reinforce the importance of capitalizing on the trade partnership they’ve had for many decades.

Wynne says Ontario will “make it crystal clear” to Trump that those partnerships are critical to both countries.

Huffington Post Canada *ASKED TO JUSTIFY FEDERAL PRICE ON CARBON BY GRANDMOTHER*

The Huffington Post Canada | By Ryan Maloney

Email

Posted: 01/13/2017 4:10 pm EST Updated: 10 minutes ago

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/01/13/trudeau-carbon-price-kathy-katula-ontario-grandmother_n_14152556.html

A tearful Ontario grandmother feeling crushed by the cost of her hydro bill asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a town hall Friday to justify putting a federal price on carbon.

The woman, identified by CBC News as Kathy Katula of Buckhorn, Ont., sparked applause by sharing her struggle to make ends meet at a gathering in Peterborough. The prime minister, who is on a grassroots tour across the country, later embraced Katula.

“My heat and hydro now cost me more than my mortgage. I now not only work 75 hours a week, I stay and work 15 hours a day just so I don’t lose my home,” she told Trudeau, adding that she wears a leg brace and has epilepsy.

Katula said her hydro bill has reached as high as \$1,085, which put her into “energy poverty.”

“How do you justify to a mother of four children, three grandchildren, physical disabilities, and working up to 15 hours a day.... How is it justified for you to ask me to pay a carbon tax when I only have \$65 left of my paycheque every two weeks to feed my family?” she asked.

Trudeau lauded her strength and determination, suggesting it’s unfair she wasn’t able to focus instead on how best to spoil her grandkids.

The prime minister said that while hydro rates are a provincial matter, he understands his government's plans to price carbon is causing "consternation" among some Canadians.

As the world transitions away from fossil fuels, he said, it is important that those already feeling stretched "beyond the breaking limit" aren't penalized.

He noted that his government's plan does not kick in until 2018. If provinces or territories do not implement either a cap-and-trade or carbon tax by that time, the federal government will impose a carbon price in that jurisdiction of \$10 per tonne, rising to \$50 per tonne in 2022.

Any revenues generated will be given back to those provinces or territories.

'We need to make this transition'

"We are not taking any money outside of the jurisdictions that pay those carbon taxes so it will be up to the government of Ontario to ensure that you are not penalized," Trudeau said, adding he trusts all provinces to be responsible.

But Trudeau said the world needs to get off of fossil fuels.

"We need to make this transition," he said.

Ontario launched a cap-and-trade system this month. Alberta also ushered in a carbon tax.

But sky-high hydro rates have taken a toll on residents in Canada's most populous province, particularly in rural communities, as Ontario phased out burning coal to generate electricity.

Ontario's auditor general has said the electricity portion of hydro bills for homes and small businesses spiked 70 per cent between 2006 and 2014.

With files from The Canadian Press

National Post FEEL LIKE YOU'VE FAILED ME': SINGLE MOM FROM RURAL ONTARIO BLASTS TRUDEAU AND WYNNE OVER HYDRO BILLS

David Akin | January 13, 2017 4:28 PM ET

More from David Akin | @davidakin

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/i-feel-like-youve-failed-me-single-mom-from-rural-ontario-blasts-trudeau-and-wynne-over-hydro-bills>

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — A single mom from a rural eastern Ontario community blasted both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne Friday for driving up the costs of electricity and driving her into poverty.

"I feel like you've failed me," Kathy Katula, 54, told Trudeau at a town hall question-and-answer meeting that was broadcast live across the country by several news networks. "I'm asking you here today to fix that."

Katula told the crowd of 350 she'd lived a tough life, had a disability, and yet had scrimped and saved to be able to buy her own home and raise four children

"I lived off Kraft dinner, hot dogs, whatever it took to survive but I bought that home and I'm proud. But something's wrong now, Mr. Trudeau. My heat and hydro now cost me more than my mortgage," she said. That brought loud applause in support from the crowd about 350 at the town hall meeting.

"How do you justify to a mother of four children, three grandchildren, physical disabilities, and

working up to 15 hours a day — how is it justified for you to ask me to pay a carbon tax when I only have \$65 left of my paycheque every two weeks to feed my family?”

Katula, from Buckhorn, Ont. was cheered several times in a sustained four-and-a-half minute broadside aimed squarely at the powers-that-be at both Queen’s Park and Parliament Hill.

“I don’t know much about Liberals or Conservatives or any of that,” said said. “I’m just a Christian, single, hardworking mom who lives in rural ... Ontario.”

It was a public lambasting the likes of which no prime minister in the last decade — and maybe more — has withstood from an everyday citizen in a public setting.

It also underlined a fact stressed by Trudeau’s handlers during his two-day, four-town hall swing through southern Ontario Thursday and Friday: None of the attendees at any of his public events were pre-screened and no questions put to the PM were vetted by the party.

Indeed, in Kingston, Ont., where there are many federal government workers, Trudeau took it on the chin for a computerized civil service payroll system which has left thousands of government employees with no paycheques for months.

His day in Peterborough began with a welcome from a local indigenous leader who used the opportunity to remind Trudeau that her community had no safe drinking water and was operating under a boil water advisory.

Others at these town halls complained that Trudeau was not keeping his promises to cut Canada’s dependence on fossil fuels.

But it was Katula’s emotional from-the-heart plea for help which was the most electric of Trudeau’s two days on the road.

“I’m asking you to fix our hydro system. I am asking you to fix Canada. I’m putting my faith in God in you that you’re going to make our country a place that we can prosper again, that I don’t have to wake up tomorrow and worrying whether I’m thriving or surviving.”

The crowd erupted at that point in cheers and applause and, for a spell, Trudeau appeared at a bit of loss to answer

But he did try to explain that, at least for now, the federal government was not adding to her woes.

“We haven’t brought in any carbon tax yet ma’am,” he said. “It doesn’t start kicking in for another few years.”

The high cost of electricity, he said, was something that the government of Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, would have to deal with. And when a federal system pricing carbon becomes law, Trudeau reminded the crowd that provincial governments, like Wynne’s, will be getting additional revenue which, he hopes, each will use to provide tax relief to those who need it.

“It will be up to the government of Ontario to ensure that you are not penalized. I’m trusting they will do that.”

The Peterborough Examiner Packed House for Trudeau Town Hall in Peterborough
By Joelle Kovach
Friday, January 13, 2017 3:00:39 EST PM
<http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2017/01/13/packed-house-for-trudeau-town-hall-in-peterborough>

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke to a packed banquet hall at the Evinrude Centre on Friday morning at a town hall meeting that covered topics such as safe drinking water for First Nation communities, hydro rates and carbon taxes.

One citizen choked up as she asked Trudeau how he can justify charging carbon taxes to people like her who can barely afford their hydro bills.

Kathy Katula, 54, said she is a personal support worker at Extendicare in Lakefield.

She said she's worked hard as a single mom - sometimes surviving on instant oatmeal - to afford to buy her house in Buckhorn.

She said it isn't fair that the Prime Minister is about to impose a carbon tax that, in addition to Ontario's new cap-and-trade program, may force her out of her home.

"I'm very honoured to be a Canadian ... But I feel you've failed me," she told Trudeau. "How is it justified for you to charge me a carbon tax?"

Trudeau praised her "strength and determination," and called Katula an inspiration. Then he talked about how this is a time of "transition" from the use of fossil fuels to greener energy - for the good of the planet.

"We have to change our behaviours, in a way that doesn't penalize our least fortunate," he said. "It will be up to the government of Ontario to make sure you are not penalized."

Trudeau was also asked when he'll take action on poor water quality in First Nation communities

Curve Lake Chief Phyllis Williams also brought it up when she was asked to speak at the outset, before Trudeau took the podium.

"Curve Lake is - ironically and sadly - a boil-water community," she said.

Trudeau's government has already promised money for better water quality in indigenous communities, but he didn't mention it.

"Canadians have been asking for years now to start fixing the centuries-long mistakes and inadequacies," he said.

Then he spoke more about his government's commitment to improving the environment generally by decreasing the use of fossil fuels over time.

"Are we there yet? No, we're not," he said. "Are we going in the right direction? Yes."

Global News JUSTIN TRUDEAU CONFRONTED BY EMOTIONAL ONTARIO WOMAN UPSET OVER COST HYDRO BILL

By Andrew Russell

National Online Journalist, Breaking News Global News

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3179769/justin-trudeau-confronted-by-sobbing-ontario-woman-over-cost-of-hydro-bill/>

Justin Trudeau was confronted by the tearful pleas of an Ontario woman upset about the cost of her hydro bill during a town hall forum in Peterborough, Ont., as the prime minister continued his cross-country tour Friday.

"Something is wrong now Mr. Trudeau. My heat and hydro now cost me more than my mortgage," said Kathy Katula, of Buckhorn, Ont., to a round of applause. "I now not only work

75 hours a week, I stay and work 15 hours a day just so I don't lose my home."

Katula — a mother of four, with three grandchildren — asked Trudeau how she was supposed to afford a hydro bill that has risen above \$1,000 a month and asked him to justify the federal government's planned carbon tax.

"I make \$50,000 a year Mr. Trudeau and I am living in energy poverty," Katula said through tears. "Please tell me how are you going to fix that for me and all of us in rural Ontario?"

Trudeau pointed out while hydro prices are a provincial matter his government's plan to put a price on carbon pollution was necessary to fight climate change.

"We are a country in which anyone with a quarter of your strength, of your drive should be thriving and focused on how are you going to spoil your grandchildren with all of your energy as opposed to how are you going to get through the week or the day," Trudeau said.

The prime minister was in Peterborough as part of his campaign-style road trip to connect with Canadians amid controversies over so-called cash-for-access political fundraising and questions about vacation at a private island in the Bahamas belonging to the Aga Khan, the well-known billionaire, spiritual leader and philanthropist.

"Hydro bills are provincial, but as you point out the federal government's decision to put a price on carbon is something we have moved forward with and it's one that is causing consternation amongst a broad range of people," he said.

An ongoing investigation by Global News has examined how skyrocketing electricity prices in Ontario are squeezing the overstretched pocketbooks of residents and businesses and how a growing number of households are being disconnected for failing to pay their bills.

The Liberals announced in the fall they will price carbon pollution nationwide at \$50 per tonne of carbon dioxide by 2022. The Liberals have said the plan will be revenue neutral and that taxes will remain in provincial coffers.

Trudeau said he has left the carbon pricing plan in the hands of the provinces — four of which already have plans to price carbon, including B.C., Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

"We need to realize that we are in a time of transition right now, that the world is moving off of fossil fuels because that. The extreme weather events that are coming are going to be incredibly expensive not just for our communities but for our agriculture, for people in the north, people right across the country," Trudeau said. "We are not taking any money outside of the jurisdictions that pay those carbon taxes."

In 2015, the most recent year for which data is available, Ontario utility providers disconnected nearly 60,000 customers from their electricity services for non-payment. Many of these customers, upwards of 95 per cent, were reconnected within two business days. At the end of 2015, more than 565,000 customers in Ontario were behind on their hydro bills to the tune of \$172 million.

The hydro crisis has become the No. 1 issue for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and led her government to remove the eight per-cent-provincial portion of the HST on hydro bills, effective Jan 1. It's expected to save the average homeowner about \$11 monthly, or \$130 a year.

However, those savings could be offset by new fees under Wynne's effort to fight climate change. Under Wynne's cap-and-trade system homeowners can expect to pay an extra \$80 a year on natural gas in 2017 and drivers have seen gas prices rise about 4.3 cents a litre.

My Kawartha PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PETERBOROUGH INCLUDES IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR HYDRO RELIEF

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau visited Peterborough on Friday, Jan. 13, where he answered questions at a town hall event

Peterborough This Week

By Jamie Steel

<http://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/7065269-prime-minister-s-visit-to-peterborough-includes-impassioned-plea-for-hydro-relief/>

PETERBOROUGH — During his visit to Peterborough, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was confronted with a desperate plea for help as a Buckhorn woman told him she was living in energy poverty.

According to Kathy Katula — who attended the town hall event on Friday, Jan. 13, as a last-ditch effort to save herself and others from the struggles of paying for hydro — the carbon tax promised by the Trudeau government is only going to make her life more difficult.

"I'm desperate," says Katula. "I need some answers. Every other obstacle I've faced in life, I've found a way out."

Already struggling to pay the bills, despite earning what is classified as a middle-class income, Katula says she's desperate for change. Her energy bills, she told the prime minister, cost more than her mortgage and she can't afford to continue this way, let alone have to face the added burden of the future carbon tax.

In his response, Prime Minister Trudeau sympathized with Katula, but explained the carbon tax is necessary as the nation transitions to a more sustainable energy model. He says all revenues collected through the tax will remain in the jurisdiction from which they were generated, meaning the carbon tax collected in Ontario will be spent in Ontario.

Exactly how it will be spent will be determined by the province, says Prime Minister Trudeau, noting his trust in the provincial governments.

Overall, the Buckhorn resident says she was satisfied that her prime minister seemed to listen.

"Maybe when he lays down to sleep tonight, he'll better understand the challenges we're facing."

Katula's question was one of many at the town hall event, for which more than 600 people registered to attend. Although some people say they were turned away due to space, organizers say they were able to accommodate the majority of people who wanted to participate.

Other questions posed to the prime minister included queries about the government's stance on oil pipelines, democratic reform, immigration and environmental policies.

With respect to the latter, Prime Minister Trudeau says the federal government is working on a national environmental plan with the provinces. Furthermore, he committed to redoing the Navigable Waters Act — which was amended under the former government — reducing the number of lakes and rivers protected by that specific piece of legislation.

Ashley Bonner, of Peterborough, says the event was an important opportunity to engage with the nation's leader and continue to ask crucial questions about Canada's future.

"I think it's important to be engaged. I think we need more young people engaged and asking these questions," she says.

"You don't often get a chance to ask your prime minister whatever you'd like."

Bonner says issues like hydro, democratic reform and protecting the environment need to continually be raised in order to enact change.

"These are the key questions that need to keep being asked until change is made."

Bonner also believes Prime Minister Trudeau needs to be held accountable to his promises to Canadians, and urges him to "stay true, though, to campaign promises."

One of the final questions posed by the public was from a young girl who simply wanted to know why Canada's top-ranking elected official decided to run for prime minister.

Speaking about how lucky he has been, Prime Minister Trudeau told the crowd he realized he need not feel guilty about the opportunities he was given, but rather he should work hard to earn those opportunities.

"We have to think every day about what we can do to be worthy of those chances," he says.

Knowing he needed to make real change, away from politics, is what led him to being a teacher. Realizing his capacity to bring people together, to listen and to learn from others, he says, is what led him back to politics.

The visit in Peterborough was the prime minister's third stop in the day, after a breakfast in Quinte West and a visit to Bewdley earlier in the morning. From Peterborough, Prime Minister Trudeau was set to meet with youth from the La Loche community at the Toronto Raptors training facility, followed by a town hall event in London the same evening.

Edmonton Journal *FEEL LIKE YOU'VE FAILED ME': SINGLE MOM FROM RURAL ONTARIO BLASTS TRUDEAU AND WYNNE OVER HYDRO BILLS*

DAVID AKIN 01.13.2017

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/national/feel+like+99ve+failed+single+from+rural+ontario+blasts/12702798/story.html>

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. — A single mom from a rural eastern Ontario community blasted both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne Friday for driving up the costs of electricity and driving her into poverty.

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Katula told the crowd of 350 she'd lived a tough life, had a disability, and yet had scrimped and saved to be able to buy her own home and raise four children

"I lived off Kraft dinner, hot dogs, whatever it took to survive but I bought that home and I'm proud. But something's wrong now, Mr. Trudeau. My heat and hydro now cost me more than my mortgage," she said. That brought loud applause in support from the crowd about 350 at the town hall meeting.

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It also underlined a fact stressed by Trudeau's handlers during his two-day, four-town hall swing through southern Ontario Thursday and Friday: None of the attendees at any of his public events were pre-screened and no questions put to the PM were vetted by the party.

Indeed, in Kingston, Ont., where there are many federal government workers, Trudeau took it on the chin for a computerized civil service payroll system which has left thousands of government employees with no paycheques for months.

His day in Peterborough began with a welcome from a local indigenous leader who used the opportunity to remind Trudeau that her community had no safe drinking water and was operating under a boil water advisory.

Others at these town halls complained that Trudeau was not keeping his promises to cut Canada's dependence on fossil fuels.

But it was Katula's emotional from-the-heart plea for help which was the most electric of Trudeau's two days on the road.

"I'm asking you to fix our hydro system. I am asking you to fix Canada. I'm putting my faith in God in you that you're going to make our country a place that we can prosper again, that I don't have to wake up tomorrow and worrying whether I'm thriving or surviving."

The crowd erupted at that point in cheers and applause and, for a spell, Trudeau appeared at a bit of loss to answer

But he did try to explain that, at least for now, the federal government was not adding to her woes.

"We haven't brought in any carbon tax yet ma'am," he said. "It doesn't start kicking in for another few years."

The high cost of electricity, he said, was something that the government of Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, would have to deal with. And when a federal system pricing carbon becomes law, Trudeau reminded the crowd that provincial governments, like Wynne's, will be getting additional revenue which, he hopes, each will use to provide tax relief to those who need it.

"It will be up to the government of Ontario to ensure that you are not penalized. I'm trusting they will do that."

Waterloo Region :Record S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

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<http://www.therecord.com/opinion-story/7064843-ontario-s-climate-change-plan/>

Scientists agree: 2016 was the hottest year ever recorded. Whether it was higher costs due to a hotter summer or more severe flooding because of a faster spring melt, families and businesses — both urban and rural — felt the impact of climate change right here in Ontario. These same consequences are also being felt on a global scale. Recognizing this, governments, businesses and citizens from around the world are taking action to fight climate change by committing to significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas pollution we emit. As a green leader, Ontario is committed to doing its part.

Last fall, the federal government announced its plan to fight climate change that will soon see the entire country covered by a carbon price. Within that framework, Ontario is moving forward with our Climate Change Action Plan, which includes putting a cap on the amount of emissions businesses can release into the atmosphere.

We're taking this approach because it guarantees green house gas reductions at the cheapest price possible for families and businesses, unlike a carbon tax scheme which would cost four times more without guaranteeing any reductions.

Ontario is also reinvesting every dollar collected, allowing us to support up to \$8.3 billion in green projects that fight climate change like transit, electric vehicle incentives and housing retrofits. These investments will help families and businesses reduce costs and make the switch to non-polluting choices easier and less expensive. This is a fair, responsible approach that has the support of third-party experts, businesses and other governments.

We know that the longer we wait to act on climate change, the more it will cost us. Canadian business leaders agree, recently penning an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau calling the global shift to a low-carbon economy a "major economic opportunity and a vital environmental responsibility for Canada." Being a leader puts Ontario in the best position for long-term economic growth, allowing us to benefit from the opportunities and new jobs that will come with this transition. Our Climate Change Action Plan will help us do that.

With national carbon pricing being the new reality, we've worked hard to lead from the middle ground, balancing the need for action with what's best for Ontario families and businesses. Together with our Action Plan, we can make sure our children and grandchildren are poised for success in the new low-carbon economy.

Glen Murray

Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change