

Morning Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction - January 31, 2018

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MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

January 31, 2018

Click links below to view article:

[Print Coverage](#)

[Norwich Gazette : Provincial, municipal politics need cleaning; A4; 2018.01.31](#)

[Ingersoll Times : Provincial, municipal politics need cleaning; A4; 2018.01.31](#)

Print Coverage

NORWICH GAZETTE PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL POLITICS NEED CLEANING; A4; 2018.01.31

PUBLICATION: Norwich Gazette

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DATE: 2018.01.31

SECTION: Viewpoints

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SOURCE: Postmedia Network

KEYWORDS: ontarians,major,elections,elect,provincial,government

WORD COUNT: 360

Provincial, municipal politics need cleaning

Ontarians face two major elections in 2018 - on June 7 to elect a provincial government and on Oct. 22 to elect municipal councils across the province.

What voters are going to have to decide is, do we want more of the same? Some useful questions to ask are: Are you better off now than you were four years ago? Are you happy with the progress being made on major issues? Do the politicians who represent you spend their time working on things you care about, or they care about? After almost 15 years in power, Ontario's Liberal government is looking spent, a politically corrupt force that has left the province's finances in chaos.

It's so bad two independent, non-partisan officers of the legislature - the auditor general and Financial Accountability Office - say the books can't be trusted. That the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne is running a multibillion-dollar deficit, despite claims of a balanced budget.

Wynne's solution to massive hydro bills, created in large part by the Liberals'bungling of the electricity file, is to kick the problem down the road. Which will result in Ontarians paying billions of dollars more than necessary on their electricity bills over the long term, according to auditor general Bonnie Lysyk.

We know Wynne's re-election strategy.

Keep her allies in the big public sector unions happy with generous, already signed, labour contracts.

Spend millions of dollars of taxpayers'money on politically partisan government advertising that would not have been allowed, according to Lysyk, under a law Wynne scrapped.

Accuse Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown of being a right-wing ideologue (ridiculous given Brown's election platform) while warning a vote for the NDP's Andrea Horwath is a vote for Brown.

Municipally, the issue isn't just who will win the mayors'races, but what kind of councils will they have? Even more than in provincial elections, the rules for running municipally massively favour incumbents.

So without a major voter revolt, doing nothing will mean accepting the status quo.

We need politicians who care about what voters care about: Good public services delivered as efficiently as possible.

But we won't get it without a major political housecleaning in 2018.

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