

Morning Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction - July 19, 2017

From: Electronic Media <cab.amedia@ontario.ca>
To: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>, "Donelson, Philip (OPO)" <philip.donelson@ontario.ca>, "Bossin, Bryan (OPO)" <bryan.bossin@ontario.ca>, "Tomney, Genevieve (OPO)" <genevieve.tomney@ontario.ca>, "Jancik, Mike (OPO)" <mike.jancik@ontario.ca>, "@CAB-Trans CO" <cab-transco@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Baker, Carys (ENERGY)" <carys.baker@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.bodrug@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY)" <katherine.festeryga@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY)" <kate.moseley-williams@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY)" <mark.olsheski@ontario.ca>, "Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY)" <raynier.ramasra@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Tresise, Landon (ENERGY)" <landon.tresise@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Walman, Evan (ENERGY)" <evan.walman@ontario.ca>, "Hansen, Alice (ENERGY)" <alice.hansen@ontario.ca>, "An, Derrick (OPO)" <derrick.an@ontario.ca>, "Leisk, Madison (OPO)" <madison.leisk@ontario.ca>, "Porter, Maddy (OPO)" <maddy.porter@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>, "Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB)" <robert.digiovanni@ontario.ca>, "Law, Sally (CAB)" <sally.law@ontario.ca>, "Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB)" <jeffrey.stinson@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <som.gavin.halford@ontario.ca>, "Ma, Cesue (CAB)" <cesue.ma@ontario.ca>, Electronic Media <cab.amedia@ontario.ca>, "Selvadasan, Assumpta (CAB)" <assumpta.selvadasan2@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 19 Jul 2017 09:00:56 -0400
Attachments: 20170719 - Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction (Morning Scan).doc (74.24 kB)

Morning Media Scan: July 19, 2017

MEDIA SCAN HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

Click links below to view article:

[Print Coverage](#)

[Northern Daily News \(Kirkland Lake\): Alternative needed on electricity file; A4; 2017.07.19](#)

[Toronto Sun: Brown Has No Plan; A18; 2017.07.19](#)

[Tillsonburg News: Alternative needed on electricity file; A4; 2017.07.19](#)

Print Coverage

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) Alternative needed on electricity 2017.07.19

PUBLICATION: Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake)

PAGE: A4

DATE: 2017.07.19

SECTION: Opinion

EDITION: Final

SOURCE: - Postmedia News

KEYWORDS: slashing,exorbitant,rates,senior,hydro,executives

WORD COUNT: 414

Alternative needed on electricity file

Slashing the exorbitant pay rates of the most senior hydro executives in Ontario, as Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown promised last week if he wins next year's election, is a populist and symbolic measure.

We have nothing against populism which means addressing the concerns of ordinary people and salaries and benefits in the electricity sector need to be reined in generally speaking, but there aren't enough hydro executives to reduce hydro rates by longoverdue salary restraint.

In a bid to save the political hide of the Liberals in next year's election, Premier Kathleen Wynne has announced a 25 per cent average, temporary rebate in hydro rates, starting this summer. But it's all financed with borrowed money that will end up costing us even more.

Under Wynne's plan, hydro rates will also be artificially held to the inflation rate for four years, but will inevitably skyrocket later.

Wynne and her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, helped to create this mess when they blundered into unreliable, unnecessary, expensive wind and solar power, which had nothing to do with eliminating Ontario's reliance on coal-fired electricity. They did that with nuclear power and natural gas, meaning the billions of public dollars they have spent on wind and solar power were an unnecessary waste of public money.

That said, to defeat the Wynne government in the next election, voters will have to be convinced Brown has a better plan.

Brown needs to explain what that plan is. The PC leader, who opposes Wynne's almost \$2-billion-a-year cap-and-trade carbon price cash grab, says he will introduce a revenue-neutral carbon pricing plan, fair to all Ontarians. If so, the public needs to hear what it is and how it will work, sooner rather than later.

It's vitally important in the next election that voters have a clear idea of where the parties stand on the electricity file, which impacts everyone in the province financially.

This as opposed to the last election where Wynne not only said nothing about introducing a cap and trade scheme, but added she had no plans to introduce a carbon tax shortly after the election. (Disingenuous because cap and trade is a carbon tax by another name.)

Finally, taunts by the Liberals that the Tories have no electricity plan of their own are specious, given the shockingly reckless and irresponsible way they've handled this file since taking power in 2003.

But Ontarians need a responsible alternative. If Brown and the PCs want to win, they need to provide one.

=====

Toronto Sun Brown Has No Plan; A18; 2017.07.19

PUBLICATION: Toronto Sun

PAGE: A18

DATE: 2017.07.19

SECTION: Comment

EDITION: Final

BYLINE: Glenn Thibeault

SOURCE: Toronto Sun

KEYWORDS: patrick,grits,corrupted,power,further,proof

DATELINE: ONTARIO MINISTER OF ENERGY

WORD COUNT: 349

Brown Has No Plan

Patrick Brown's op-ed ("Grits corrupted by power," July 17) is further proof that he has no real plan for Ontario's electricity sector.

Ontarians deserve better than someone who opposes everything without offering a credible plan of their own. Brown is doubling down on this approach, peddling misleading claims while refusing to offer anything close to a real plan. It's also no surprise that Brown is opposed to green energy, as he was at pains to point out in his op-ed. After all, the Conservatives have always opposed our efforts to move our province away from dirty coal towards cleaner sources of energy. In 2014, we closed our last coal plant in Ontario, marking the completion of the biggest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America. And yet despite the air we breathe now being cleaner and our electricity system being more reliable than ever, Brown continues to treat green energy as a boogeyman. The sad part is that while the Conservatives continue making these wild claims about the electricity sector, they have no plan of their own. Worse, they voted against Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. This plan is reducing bills by 25% on average, in part by spreading our investments over a longer time period, more fairly sharing the costs among all those who will benefit. Yet the Conservatives opposed this plan as well, going so far as to vote against this relief for Ontarians. That means they voted "no" to a 25% on average reduction on bills for every household in the province, along with as many as half a million small businesses and farms, "no" to savings of up to 40-50% for rural, remote, or low-income families, and "no" to our plan to hold rates to inflation for four years. Given Brown's track record, it should come as no surprise that he repeatedly refuses to offer anything of substance as he did in his op-ed. Nonetheless, it's disappointing - Ontarians deserve better.

GLENN THIBEAULT

ONTARIO MINISTER OF ENERGY (Election's coming, eh? We'll leave it to our readers to decide who's giving them the straight goods)

COPYRIGHT: © 2017 Sun Media Corporation. All rights reserved.

=====

Tillsonburg News Alternative needed on electricity file; A4; 2017

PUBLICATION: Tillsonburg News

PAGE: A4

DATE: 2017.07.19

SECTION: Opinion

EDITION: Final

SOURCE: Postmedia News

KEYWORDS: slashing,exorbitant,rates,senior,hydro,executives

WORD COUNT: 413

Alternative needed on electricity file

Slashing the exorbitant pay rates of the most senior hydro executives in Ontario, as Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown promised last week if he wins next year's election, is a populist and symbolic measure.

We have nothing against populism - which means addressing the concerns of ordinary people - and

salaries and benefits in the electricity sector need to be reined in generally speaking, but there aren't enough hydro executives to reduce hydro rates by long-overdue salary restraint.

In a bid to save the political hide of the Liberals in next year's election, Premier Kathleen Wynne has announced a 25 per cent average, temporary rebate in hydro rates, starting this summer. But it's all financed with borrowed money that will cost us more.

Under Wynne's plan, hydro rates will also be artificially held to the inflation rate for four years, but will inevitably skyrocket later.

Wynne and her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, helped to create this mess when they blundered into unreliable, unnecessary, expensive wind and solar power, which had nothing to do with eliminating Ontario's reliance on coal-fired electricity. They did that with nuclear power and natural gas, meaning the billions of public dollars they have spent on wind and solar power were an unnecessary waste of public money.

That said, to defeat the Wynne government in the next election, voters will have to be convinced Brown has a better plan.

Brown needs to explain what that plan is. The PC leader, who opposes Wynne's almost \$2-billion-a-year cap-and-trade carbon price cash grab, says he will introduce a revenue-neutral carbon pricing plan, fair to all Ontarians. If so, the public needs to hear what it is and how it will work, sooner rather than later.

It's vitally important in the next election that voters have a clear idea of where the parties stand on the electricity file, which impacts everyone in the province financially.

This as opposed to the last election where Wynne not only said nothing about introducing a cap and trade scheme, but added she had no plans to introduce a carbon tax shortly after the election. (Disingenuous because cap and trade is a carbon tax by another name.)

Finally, taunts by the Liberals that the Tories have no electricity plan of their own are specious, given the shockingly reckless and irresponsible way they've handled this file since taking power in 2003.

But Ontarians need a responsible alternative. If Brown and the PCs want to win, they need to provide one.