

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - June 28, 2017

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Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2017 15:12:26 -0400

Good Afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- * OPINION: After the next election, your hydro bills are going to spike – Inside Toronto
- * OPINION: Wynne has done nothing to address root cause of hydro price increases – Inside Toronto
- * Union Gas Rates Increasing Again – Blackburn News
- * Ousted Senators president Cyril Leeder appointed to Hydro board – CBC Ottawa
- * Avalon to Receive Funding from Ontario Government for Separation Rapids Lithium Project, Kenora, ON – Investor Intel
- * Mohawk College will have one of the region's first net-zero energy institutional buildings – Building Design & Construction Network

Please see below Today in Twitter for news articles.

June 28, 2017

Today in Twitter

[@TBYPO](#) NDP Energy Critic [@Peter Tabuns](#) says Wynne has done nothing to address root cause of hydro price increases [#onpoli](#)

[@cmusician](#) Ontario NDP energy critic: "The government is borrowing billions for a small, short-term subsidy" .. [@OntarioNDP](#) [#leadership](#) [#hydro](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@OntarioCofC](#) Ontario Chamber Retweeted Milton Chamber Our Policy Analyst, Andrew Thiele, moderating a discussion with Ontario's **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault today at the [@MiltonChamber](#)

[@MPPIndiraNH](#) Pleased to welcome Minister of **Energy** [@GlennThibeault](#) to [#Milton](#) today to speak about Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. [#onpoli](#)

[@WindConcernsONT](#) Ireland should follow [#Ontario](#) example: a Green Energy Act solves all wind pwr developer problems. Erase democracy!

[@bruce_in](#) Best model for [#wind](#) [#energy](#) regulation is [#Alberta](#) [#EUB](#) - the breeze is a resource for all [#Ontario](#)

[@WindConcernsONT](#) That is completely FALSE. In AB, turbines distant from homes; in Ontario, huge power generators far too close to homes, schools, aged care

- [@bruce_in](#) Replying to [@WindConcernsONT](#) [#Ontario](#) needs 1000's more [#Turbines](#). Best regulatory model is [#Alberta](#) EUB regulation of oil and gas wells. Surface rights 2Nd to energy.
- [@ONenergy](#) [#DYK](#) low-income households can get help with their [#electricity](#) bills through the Ontario Electricity Support Program?
- [@can_climate_guy](#) CAN Climate Guy Retweeted Ontario's Energy Its called [#energy](#) poverty. Welcome to [#Ontario](#) ...here's your Hydro One bill and here's your welfair cheque.
- [@EnergyPlusInc](#) The **Ontario** Electricity Customer Panel is a new platform for public opinion. Join now <http://www.YourVoiceHasPower.com> [#ONEnergy](#)

Please click [here](#) for today's energy visuals.

[OPINION: After the next election, your hydro bills are going to spike](#)

Todd Smith
Inside Toronto
June 28, 2017

You're paying for a lot more than just electricity on your hydro bill.

And, under the Liberals' Unfair Hydro Plan, that's only going to get worse. After the next election, bills are going to spike. We know that because the province's budget watchdog told us just that.

Under the government's plan, your hydro bill will start to see increases after the next election — quickly rising to the highest we've ever seen in this province. You'll also end up paying for a lot of new things that have nothing to do with how much electricity you use, like government advertising.

You may have noticed the new envelopes or the flyers inside your electricity bill. You're paying for the cost of that advertising through your bill. Last year, the government used your tax dollars to commission a poll that told them you were more likely to trust their message if it came from your hydro company than if it came from Queen's Park.

A couple of months after that poll, the first government advertising cost started appearing on your hydro bill. It's all very sketchy: taxpayer gets the bill for the poll, the electricity customer gets the bill for the ads and the Liberals get to campaign on your dime.

But that's not all you're paying for under the Unfair Hydro Plan.

It cost the people of Ontario over \$188 million to sell Hydro One. That's what the budget says we paid bankers in fees and commissions. We actually paid lawyers over \$3 million on top of that as a part of the sale. On Jan. 1, Hydro One customers are facing another distribution rate increase. That's going to cost them \$141 per year by the time it's phased in.

According to the province's budget watchdog, you're going to be paying an additional \$4 billion to keep this plan off the government's books so that the Liberals can pretend that they've balanced the budget. That means every Ontario family will have to pay an additional \$800 just so the Liberals can have a talking point in next year's election campaign.

Because that's what the Unfair Hydro Plan really is at the end of the day. It's an election stunt packed with accounting tricks and taxpayer funded campaign material for the Ontario Liberals.

This is the kind of thing you do when you think that taxpayer money is really your money.

OPINION: Wynne has done nothing to address root cause of hydro price increases

Peter Tabuns
Inside Toronto

Kathleen Wynne has hiked hydro bills by 50 per cent on top of the 50 per cent increase by Dalton McGuinty — we can't let her do any more damage to our hydro system.

Ontario's New Democrats will lower hydro bills by up to 30 per cent and put Hydro One back in public hands. That's in stark contrast to Kathleen Wynne's privatization, and now a borrowing scheme that will see our bills skyrocket by another \$45 billion.

Here in Ontario, so many families, businesses, community organizations and institutions are close to the breaking point. They simply can't afford any more of Wynne's hydro hikes. Yet, in response to the crisis she created, Wynne's solution is to borrow billions for a small, short-term subsidy in hydro bills over the next few years — a subsidy that will be coming right back onto hydro bills — with interest — after the election.

Wynne's plan does nothing to address the root causes of hydro price increases: her bad contracts with private and foreign corporations, and her sale of Hydro One.

That small subsidy will do little to counteract the 50 per cent climb in hydro bills since Wynne has been premier. And it gets worse. While Wynne is hoping we'll all focus on her taxpayer-funded advertisements on her hydro scheme, the Ontario Energy Board is actually touring the province on the plan to increase Hydro One rates by 20 per cent.

So, the hikes continue. The pain for everyday families and Ontario businesses will continue. It's like Wynne has never had to open her own hydro bill. The only way to end this is to stop her and her privatization scheme.

The NDP's plan would lower hydro bills by up to 30 per cent through real, concrete measures we can do today. We will scrap unfair delivery costs, end mandatory time-of-use penalties, cap private profit margins, bring real oversight to electricity prices and use tax benefits to help Ontarians, instead of the well-connected.

Our plan will actually fix the system, today and for generations — and it actually undoes Wynne's privatization, returning Hydro One to public hands.

The NDP's plan helps people. Wynne's plan helps the well-connected. And the Conservatives haven't come clean on their plan since they last proposed selling off Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation.

The NDP plan will also put \$7 billion back into the province — money that can go into the public services we all depend on. That's a major contrast with the Wynne scheme that will cost \$45 billion.

We may be paying for Wynne's bad decisions for a long time — but there's still time to undo the damage done by years of Conservative and Wynne privatization and build a system that works for everyday families.

Union Gas Rates Increasing Again

Matt Wevernik
Blackburn News
June 28, 2017

Natural gas rates are going up across Ontario this weekend.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has approved proposed rate hikes for Enbridge, Natural Resource Gas, and Union Gas. The new rates will take effect Saturday, July 1, 2017.

The average residential Union Gas customer in the South and North East regions will see their bills go up by about \$40 per year. At the same time, though, rates for the North West region will be decreasing by about \$1.70 per year.

The OEB's decision cites higher-than-expected gas supply commodity costs as the main factor driving the increase.

Since July 1, 2016, natural gas rates for Union Gas customers have gone up by about \$200 per year, steadily increasing every three months with the biggest single increase taking place on January 1, 2017.

[Ousted Senators president Cyril Leeder appointed to Hydro board](#)

CBC News Ottawa
June 28, 2017

Ottawa city council approved adding former Senators president Cyril Leeder to Hydro Ottawa's board of directors Wednesday, and re-affirmed former mayor Jim Durrell as the board's chair.

Leeder is no stranger to the halls of power, having led the city's unsuccessful bid for the Canada Summer Games. He was also president of the Ottawa Senators for years before being fired earlier this year by owner Eugene Melnyk.

Mayor Jim Watson called Leeder "an excellent choice" for the board.

Board member Lori O'Neill was also re-appointed to a three-year term on the board.

Durrell, who is a former mayor and also a former president of the Sens, presented Hydro Ottawa's 2016 annual report to council.

The utility is fully owned by the municipality, and every year delivers a dividend to the city. This year, the dividend was \$20.6 million — not a huge surprise, considering that last year council decided the city would receive a guaranteed \$20 million each year from Hydro Ottawa.

Permission to branch out

Council also voted in favour of allowing Hydro Ottawa to enter into contracts with other municipalities and large institutions to provide "energy cost-saving solutions."

Durrell used Hydro Ottawa's partnership with the city to convert street lights to LED — which the utility said has reduced electricity use by 65 per cent in areas that have been converted — as an example of the type of service it could sell to other cities.

Ottawa Hydro usually has to get permission from the city to offer "direct or indirect" loans to any body outside of the utility or its subsidiaries.

Council has now allowed the Hydro Ottawa board of directors to approve financing arrangements "for the purposes of providing energy related services, where the payback of the up-front costs borne by Hydro Ottawa is expected to be fully funded through one or more of the following sources as a result of the products or services supplied."

[Avalon to Receive Funding from Ontario Government for Separation Rapids Lithium Project, Kenora, ON](#)

Investor Intel
June 28, 2017

June 28, 2017 ([Source](#)) – [Avalon Advanced Materials Inc.](#) ([TSX](#) : AVL) ([OTCQX](#) : AVLNF) ("Avalon" or the "Company") is pleased to announce that the Government of Ontario has agreed to contribute \$500,000 towards assisting Avalon with piloting and scaling up its proprietary process developed to recover high purity lithium hydroxide from the lithium mineral petalite produced from the 100% owned Separation Rapids Lithium Project, Kenora, ON. Lithium hydroxide is in increasing demand as a critical material in the manufacturing of lithium ion battery cathodes needed for rapidly growing energy storage and electric vehicle markets.

The funding by the Government of Ontario is being made through the *Northern Innovation Program* of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation ("NOHFC"). This program is designed to support the development and commercialization of new technologies that will contribute to future prosperity in Northern Ontario.

Avalon's President & CEO, Don Bubar commented, "Avalon is very appreciative of the support from the

NOHFC. This funding will provide significant financial support towards commercializing the innovative process we have developed to produce lithium battery materials from the Separation Rapids Lithium Project near Kenora.”

Mr. Bubar added that, “The NOHFC and the Government of Ontario are to be commended for recognizing that Northern Ontario’s mineral wealth can be leveraged to create the full energy storage supply chain in the province as it becomes a leader in taking advantage of the growing economic opportunities being presented by the transition to a low carbon economy.”

Successful completion of the pilot plant process optimization work supported by the NOHFC will allow Avalon to move forward on designing, financing and constructing its planned Phase 1 Demonstration Plant as contemplated in the [news release dated April 25, 2017](#).

[Mohawk College will have one of the region's first net-zero energy institutional buildings](#)

David Malone
BDCNetwork.com
June 28, 2017

A new 96,000-sf building designed by B+H Architects and mcCallumSather will provide students of Ontario’s Mohawk College with solar-powered state-of-the-art labs, workshops, open study spaces, and a lecture theater when construction completes in 2018. The Joyce Centre for Partnership & Innovation will become one of the first net-zero energy institutional buildings in the region. The architects worked with manufacturers and building scientists to develop a new curtain wall system that incorporates isolation gaskets in order to achieve the energy conservation targets. This new curtain wall system has an effective R20 thermal performance.

The new building will be powered by solar panel “wings” on top of the four-story structure. “We really wanted to elevate the concept of capturing the sun’s energy and making it a design feature as opposed to a series of panels that are going on the roof,” says Joanne McCallem, Director and Co-Founder of mcCallumSather. These solar wings become the most distinctive aspect of the design. Inside of the building, a large atria flows into modular classrooms that are organized around a central common area. The layout encourages social learning. The architects want the design to make people aware of the energy they use and force them to change their habits. For example, visitors will not be able to leave their laptop plugged in for hours on end throughout the day.

The Joyce Centre for Partnership & Innovation is expected to be ready for students for the fall 2018 term.

Visuals



Glenn Thibeault @GlennThibeault · 4h

Good morning Milton! Lovely to meet w/ @MiltonHydro along with @MPPIndiraNH to discuss the largest hydro rate reduction in Ontario's history!



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Indira Naidoo-Harris

@MPPIndiraNH

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Pleased to welcome Minister of Energy @GlennThibeault to #Milton today to speak about Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. #onpoli



Likes

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Indira Naidoo-Harris @MPPIndiraNH · 2h

Thank you @MiltonChamber @MiltonHydro #DufferinAggregates & @GlennThibeault for a great lunch and discussion about Ontario Fair Hydro Plan.



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