

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - October 20, 2016

From: "Hendy, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.hendy@ontario.ca>
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Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2016 15:00:59 -0400

Good afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

Same old same old from Liberals – Southwesternontario.ca

Electricity prices to remain the same come November 1 – *Sault Online*

Kashechewan looks at renewable energy with Horizon Wind donation – *Sudbury.com*

- Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro scores high among Ontario power companies – *New Hamburg Independent*
- 3 high-rise apartment buildings still without power in East York – *CBC*

Please see below *Today in Twitter* for news articles.

Today in Twitter October 20, 2016

[@TArmstrongNDP](#) - Breaking News: Ontario gov't gave **Hydro One** 2.6 Billion tax break - OEB now decides if the \$ goes to investors or Ont families [#ldn](#) [#ldnont](#)

[@GeoffZochodne](#) Energy Minister [@GlennThibeault](#) referred to Environment Minister [@Glen4ONT](#) as "Single 'N' Glen" in scrums today. That is all.

Keith Leslie – Canadian Press

[@CPnewsboy](#) - NDP's [@AndreaHorwath](#) wants OEB to ensure \$2.6 billion tax break for **Hydro One** benefits ratepayers, not new private-sector investors. [#onpoli](#)

[@ CPnewsboy](#) - NDP Leader [@AndreaHorwath](#) asks again if Liberals will sell all or part of eHealth Ontario. Government assessing value of the agency. [#onpoli](#)

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[@ CPnewsboy](#) - PC Ldr [@brownbarrie](#) says feds spent \$8 million on lawyers to fight Windstream in court but province won't disclose its legal costs. [#onpoli](#)

[@ CPnewsboy](#) - Premier [@Kathleen Wynne](#) says Ontario + fed govt's reviewing possible appeal of \$28 million fine for cancelling Windstream project. [#onpoli](#)

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Ontario PC Party

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "The people of Ontario will pay for this government's loss of the Windstream lawsuit for years to come." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "The \$28 million judgement is just the tip of the iceberg. The tribunal stated that \$5.2 billion contract is still "valid and in force."

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "That means the Liberals have two choices: Build the project and pay out the \$5.2 billion." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Or enter in to settlement negotiations and try to convince Windstream to take less. Either way, Ontario is on the hook for billions."

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "When do the Liberals plan on handing over \$5.2 billion to Windstream?" [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Not only will we be on the hook for billions of dollars because this government had to save two liberal seats." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "And not only are we going to have to pay \$28M to Windstream. But there have been untold millions already spent fighting this case." [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "We know the Canadian government sent ten representatives to the tribunal and their legal bill was over \$8 million." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Ontario sent approximately 20 representatives to the tribunal. That must have cost

millions of dollars for those high priced lawyers."

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "First it was botching OESP and paying \$9 million dollars for high price consultants instead of low-income families" [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Now it's millions spent defending a lawsuit that cost us \$28 million." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Why won't the Liberals tell us how much they spent? What are they hiding?" [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "The Auditor General revealed that Ontario over paid \$9.2 billion for renewable energy contracts." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "The Ontario Liberal Party received \$1.3 million in donations from 30 companies that received renewable energy contracts." [@brownbarrie](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Why did Ontario over pay \$9.2 billion for renewable energy contracts?" [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

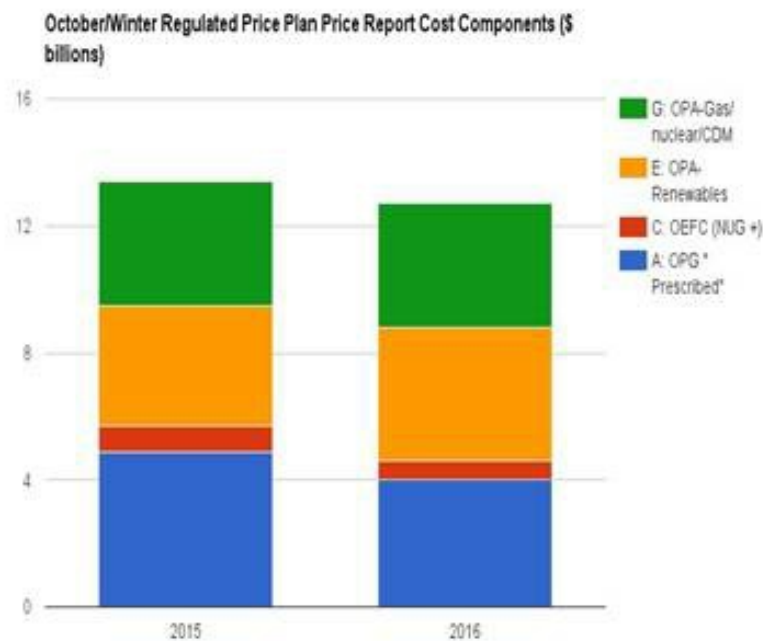
[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "\$12 million to pay for high priced consultants and ads for the Ontario Electricity Support Program." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Untold millions to lawyers defending the Windstream lawsuit. Over paying \$9.2 billion to renewable energy contracts." [@brownbarrie](#) [#onpoli](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "Why is it always the Liberal lawyers, Liberal consultants and friends that get rich while Ontario families bills go higher and higher?"

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "There are still 355,000 low income families in Ontario that have yet to receive the Ontario Electricity Support Program" [@brownbarrie](#)

[@ OntarioPCParty](#) - "And then there are \$1.2 million rural families in Ontario that the Liberals have excluded from the Rural or Remote Rate Protection."



Scott Luft (@ScottLuft) · 4h

Electricity rates held steady by Ontario's inept energy regulator morecorktown.wordpress.com/2016/10/20/electricity/



Same old same old from Liberals

By: Ted Arnott – MPP Wellington-Halton Hills

For: Southwesternontario.ca

On: October 20, 2016

The high cost of hydro continues to be the Achilles' heel of Kathleen Wynne's government.

Electricity prices in Ontario have been skyrocketing in recent years, mostly due to conscious and deliberate policy decisions which the government has made.

Our local electricity distribution companies (LDCs), like Halton Hills Hydro and Centre Wellington Hydro, are not responsible for the massive increases in your hydro bill. The Liberal government at Queen's Park is.

In January of this year, I launched a petition calling upon the government to immediately take steps to stabilize hydro rates. The response was tremendous, with hundreds of people coming forward to help gather signatures around our riding, and thousands of people signing in agreement.

I began tabling the petitions that were returned in the Ontario Legislature when the House resumed in February, and continued to do so as the year progressed. The petitions are still coming in, and I am still reading them into the record.

On Sept. 1, with the loss of what had been a safe Liberal seat in a byelection in Scarborough, the government woke up at last.

First, they panicked, proroguing the Legislature without seeming to understand the implications of shutting

down the session. All the government bills, at their various stages in the legislative process, died on the Order Paper.

Then, they claimed a new session would herald a “reset,” with a new Throne Speech outlining a new agenda. In fact, there was very little that was new, other than a modest step to rebate the provincial portion of the HST on hydro bills. This reduction is estimated to be about 36 cents a day. The irony that the Liberals themselves had imposed this tax on hydro, starting in 2010, seemed to be lost on them.

When the Liberals were booed over hydro bills at the International Plowing Match on Sept. 20, the government seemed stunned. Exactly a week later, they cancelled the next round of a planned procurement of new solar and wind electricity projects, implicitly admitting that their so-called “Green Energy” program was putting significant upward pressure on electricity rates.

At the end of September, a poll commissioned by the Ontario Energy Association demonstrated the unprecedented anger of Ontario residents about hydro rates. Fifty-four per cent of respondents said they believed the government to be on the wrong track, according to a published report.

What’s the bottom line in all this?

Hydro bills have become unaffordable for many households. Industries have left, taking thousands of good-paying jobs with them.

If you are concerned about hydro and want to have your say, please contact our riding office and add your signature to our petition.

Enough is enough.

...

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments.

He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366.

[Electricity prices to remain the same come November 1](#)

By: Craig Huckerbury
Sault Online
October 20, 2016

If the thought of your hydro bill going up again on November 1st has you worrying about keeping the lights on – fear no more!

For the first time in a decade, elect

ricity prices in Ontario will remain unchanged come November 1st.

The Ontario Energy Board announced yesterday that it will not increase electricity rates for at least six months.

The prices are set by the OEB twice a year, in May and November.

The monthly cost of electricity for the average Ontario household using around 800 kWh monthly has gone up by about \$30.76 a month Since May 2012. That amount doesn't include the 10 per cent increase that households saw when the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit was eliminated in January.

The Ontario Liberals defend the high cost of electricity but consumers from all over the province have clearly had enough and the Wynne government is starting to listen.

Yesterday the government passed legislation to cut the 8 percent HST on power bills, that will come into effect January 1st, 2017

However, the new carbon tax also comes into effect on January first. Homes using natural gas will see their bills climb another 5 dollars a month to start and 4.5 cents will be added to gas prices. Both new taxes will also have the HST added to it.

[Kashechewan looks at renewable energy with Horizon Wind donation](#)

Doug Diaczuk

Sudbury.com

October 20, 2016

THUNDER BAY - A northern First Nation community will be looking at the potential of wind energy after it receives a donation from a Southern Ontario company.

Horizon Legacy, more commonly known locally as Horizon Wind Inc., is a renewable energy and development company based in Toronto. It will be donating a 60-metre wind testing tower to Kashechewan First Nation.

The tower is owned by Horizon Legacy is located on property owned by the city of Thunder Bay. The tower was used by the company to test the potential for developing a wind park atop the Nor'Wester Mountain Escarpment in 2008.

Nhung Nguyen, vice-president of development with Horizon Legacy, said the company hopes the tower will assist the community in developing their own renewable energy resource.

"The chief of Kashechewan (Leo Friday) said he wants to do testing for wind at the new community location and maybe one day have their own renewable resource by way of wind power," Nguyen said.

"It allows them to measure the wind energy potential at the new community location. Based on that, they can determine with some calculation whether they can build wind energy at their new community."

Chief Leo Friday said in a release that the donation is significant for the community, which is in the process of deciding whether or not to relocate due to repeated flooding.

"I wish to thank Horizon Legacy for their generous consideration," Friday said. "The equipment will help us with our plans to generate our own power once a final location is selected and when the community

relocates.”

The tower, as well as equipment, labour, and services for monitoring is valued at about \$100,000. Nguyen said it should be in the community and operational in Kashechewan sometime in 2017.

“When we learnt about what happened in their community we were really touched and we wanted to do some small part to help them with the moving of their community,” she said. “This is a great opportunity for us and we are very happy to be contributing a small part.”

Horizon Wind attempted to construct a wind farm in Thunder Bay in 2008. However, after resistance from residents in the area and the provincial government cancelled its contract with the company to purchase the power, the project was shelved.

[Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro scores high among Ontario power companies](#)

New Hamburg Independent

October 20, 2016

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro has earned high performance marks on a scorecard released this fall by the Ontario Energy Board.

The local energy company said in an Oct. 20 press release that it's proud to have met or exceeded industry targets in all areas of the report for 2015.

The scorecard is a tool that measures how well Ontario's electricity distributors are performing each year. It scores the companies on the frequency of power outages, financial performance and costs per customer, as well as customer service and public safety.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro was well in the top-half for number of times that an average customer had to go without power in a year — the company scored 0.77 for 2015.

Over the last five years, the average number of hours that Kitchener-Wilmot customers have had power interrupted has dropped, from an average of one hour in 2011 to 0.57 hours in 2015.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro also had the sixth-lowest total cost per customer in the province out of 72 local electricity distribution companies. The figure of \$481 came through careful capital investments to manage its system and improve infrastructure to reduce power outages, the utility company said in its press release.

On the other hand, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro ranked in last place out of the 72 utility companies with 90.3 per cent mark for “New Residential/Small Business Services Connected on Time.” They still met the scorecard's baseline target of 90 per cent.

You can [click here](#) to see the Ontario Energy Board's full reportcard for 2015.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro has a staff of 182 people to serve more than 92,000 customers in a service territory of over 400 square kilometres. The company's distribution system includes more than 1,900 kilometres of overhead and underground powerlines, over 23,000 power poles, more than 10,700 transformers and eight transformer stations.

[3 high-rise apartment buildings still without power in East York](#)

CBC News

October 20, 2016

Three high-rise apartment complexes are still without power in East York after the electricity went out in the wee hours of Thursday morning.

Five customers — including a local school and a business — in the Thorncliffe Park Drive area lost power around 3:30 a.m., Toronto Hydro said. Three of those buildings had their electricity restored within four hours, but the utility cannot say how long it will take to get the lights back on inside the three apartment buildings.

Initially, Toronto Hydro had said that only two customers remained offline, but later clarified that two of the apartment buildings were considered one customer, which meant that three were still without power. Hydro crews laboured to restore power at Leaside Towers in East York Thursday after an outage happened at 3:30 a.m. (Linda Ward/CBC News)

It's unclear exactly how many people are still affected as Toronto Hydro said they don't have individual suite metres inside Leaside Towers, which sit at Overlea Boulevard and Thorncliffe Park Drive.

The utility said it expects to have power restored later in the afternoon.

Resident Mike Hussey awoke to the sound of a generator Thursday morning rather than his alarm.

"Then I discovered my phone needed charging, my coffee machine wouldn't work and that was a crisis," he said. "So it was off to Tim Hortons [because] we're left with no power inside."

The cause of the outage has not yet been determined, the utility said. Although Toronto Hydro initially said they had hoped to return electricity by 7 a.m., there's no longer a timeline for getting power restored to Leaside Towers.

[View image on Twitter](#)

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[Linda Ward](#)

✓ [@LindaWardCBC](#)

7am and no power yet at Thorncliffe Park high rises. 7am was [@TorontoHydro](#) estimated time of restoration

[7:04 AM - 20 Oct 2016](#)

A Toronto Hydro worker at the scene told CBC News that it will, in fact, be some time before power gets restored.

"We have a problem, it's going to be a while," he said.