

Afternoon Energy Media Summary - October 24, 2017

From: "Quartarone, Robert (ENERGY)" <robert.quartarone@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY All" <energy-all2@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Tue, 24 Oct 2017 15:01:09 -0400

Good afternoon,

Here is a roundup of the day's news:

- * New energy program won't bring 'ticker tape parade,' but it'll help people: minister – *CBC News*
- * Ontario Launches New Program to Help Reduce Electricity Costs – *SaultOnline.com*
- * Collingwood wants up to \$13M for Collus PowerStream shares – *CTV News*
- * Canada's most secretive local government agency: Toronto Hydro – *News Release (Canadian Association of Journalists)*

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

Oct. 24, 2017
Today in Twitter

[@CNoelSRC](#) - Why Wynne govt wants my personal info before giving me details for "Affordable Energy Fund" [@GlennThibeault](#) <https://www.services.hydroone.com/forms/AffordabilityFund.aspx> ... [#onpoli](#)

[@Bob_Chiarelli](#) - We're making it easier to do energy efficiency upgrades to your home or apartment. See if you qualify: <http://www.affordabilityfund.org/> [#onpoli](#)

[@ONWaterpower](#) - Opening keynote [@GlennThibeault](#) [@ONenergy](#) speaking to the value and importance of [#waterpower](#) 3/4 of [#renewable](#) energy in Ontario comes from [#hydro](#)

[@ONWaterpower](#) - Very interesting panel with [@IESO](#) [Tweets @ONenergy](#) [@SussexStrategy](#) [@PowerAdvisory](#) on Market Renewal and Ontario's Long Term Energy Plan [#LTEP](#)

[@GreenpeaceCA](#) - The [#Ontario](#) government has a duty to protect [#Toronto](#) residents from [#nuclear](#) risks. Email your MPP: <http://act.gp/2y1jYiJ>

[@sarahcpetreva](#) - Ontario launches \$100 million "Affordability Fund" to support energy efficiency in residential homes: https://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2017/10/ontario-launches-new-program-to-help-reduce-electricity-costs.html?utm_source=ondemand&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p ... [#onpoli](#)

[@WindConcernsONT](#) - The Ontario Energy Board's 2016 Yearbook doesn't make things exactly clear, says Parker Gallant. [@HydroOne](#) [#OnPoli](#)

[New energy program won't bring 'ticker tape parade,' but it'll help people: minister](#)

Samantha Craggs
CBC News
Oct. 24, 2017

Ontario's energy minister says he doesn't expect a "ticker tape parade" for how the Liberals have handled the hydro file. But a new program helping low and middle-class homes with energy-efficient upgrades is still the right thing to do.

Glenn Thibeault launched the Affordability Fund in Hamilton Tuesday. The \$100 million program will give

residents LED lights, heat pumps and even energy-efficient appliances to offset their energy costs.

The program is available to those who don't already qualify for low-income energy conservation programs. Thibeault foresees it helping "tens of thousands" of people.

Electricity rates have shot upward under Premier Kathleen Wynne. By Wynne's own admission, they've become hard for most homes to manage.

This year, the Wynne government launched the Fair Hydro Plan, which has reduced the average Ontario household electricity bill by 25 per cent from the peak in the summer of 2016. The Affordability Fund is part of that.

Thibeault said he knows the program won't fix people's anger over energy rates.

"Am I expecting a ticker tape parade down the main street of Hamilton? Absolutely not," he said.

"But is this the right thing to do, in many instances, for the people of Hamilton and right across the province? Yes, it is."

Under the new program, Alectra and other utilities will install LED light bulbs, power bars, better insulation, energy-efficient refrigerators and other tools for free to people who qualify.

Some will qualify for home energy kits, which includes light bulbs, power bars and/or faucet aerators they install themselves.

Others qualify for in-home visits, and possible energy-efficient appliances, thermostats and even heat pumps.

In a report this month, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk criticized how the program is being financed, saying the province is "improperly" accounting for the \$26 billion in debt it's taking on to cut hydro bills in the short term.

The Liberals called the controversy an "accounting dispute" with the auditor.

"There were no fast ones being pulled at all," Thibeault said this month. "We always said it's going to take longer to pay off and it's going to cost more."

Ontario PC energy critic Todd Smith called the Liberals' financing method this month "deceitful, dishonest and shady."

In May, NDP leader Andrea Horwath said Ontarians can't afford the plan, and called on the government to release all of its projections about how much the hydro plan will cost in the long run.

Ontario Launches New Program to Help Reduce Electricity Costs

SaultOnline.com

Oct. 24, 2017

Ontario is launching a new program to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes, while reducing their electricity bills and carbon footprints.

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy, was joined by Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster–Dundas–Flamborough–Westdale in Hamilton today to launch the Affordability Fund. Part of the province's Fair Hydro Plan, the new \$100 million fund will support the free installation of energy-saving LED light bulbs, power bars, improved insulation and energy-efficient air conditioners and refrigerators. The program is designed to help people who do not qualify for low-income conservation programs and who are unable to undertake energy efficiency improvements without support.

Electricity bill savings for households participating in the program will depend on the types of measures installed. For example, a home energy kit with two LED light bulbs and a power bar can help a household save about \$10 on their annual electricity costs, while an energy efficient refrigerator can help save about \$90 in annual electricity costs.

Visit the Affordability Fund website to find out if you're eligible and how to apply.

QUICK FACTS

Whether a customer rents or owns, or lives in a house or apartment, they may qualify.

The different levels of support through the fund are based on people's total household income and average electricity bill.

The Affordability Fund is administered by an independent trust, which includes representation from electricity distributors and community organizations.

As of July 1, 2017, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan reduced electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province. As part of the plan, any increases to bills will be held to the rate of inflation for four years.

Through the province's Fair Hydro Plan, the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) was expanded, providing 50 per cent more support in the form of monthly credits for people with low incomes and increasing eligibility.

Collingwood wants up to \$13M for Collus PowerStream shares

CTV News

Oct. 24, 2017

The Town of Collingwood is getting out of the electricity business after council voted to sell its stake in the local utility company.

During a special meeting on Monday afternoon, the town made the decision to sell its share of Collus PowerStream. The town owns 50 per cent, while the other half is owned by Alectra Utilities.

"The purchase price and the terms established by the town will maximize the value of the shares and it's in the best interest of the Town of Collingwood," says Collingwood Mayor

The town is hoping to receive between \$12.5 million and \$13 million.

Council is hoping to sell the shares to an Edmonton based company called EPCOR. However, under the town's current agreement, Alectra gets the first option to buy the shares. They have 20 days to make a decision.

Alectra could also sell its shares to EPCOR, making it the sole owner.

Other terms of the sale include a 25 year lease on the utility's headquarters and some job retention guarantees for employees.

The transaction could take up to a year to finalize and also has to be approved by the Ontario Energy Board.

Canada's most secretive local government agency: Toronto Hydro

News Release (Canadian Association of Journalists)

Oct. 24, 2017

TORONTO, Oct. 24, 2017 /CNW/ - Toronto Hydro is the 2017 recipient of the Code of Silence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Government Secrecy in the category of local government departments and agencies.

The Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ), Centre for Free Expression at Ryerson University(CFE), News Media Canada and Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE) have joined forces to expand an award that the CAJ has for almost 20 years handed out to government departments, agencies or public bodies that put that extra bit of elbow grease into keeping any sunlight from reaching public attention.

The awards jury, which comprised representatives of the four press-freedom advocacy groups, "honoured" the Toronto Hydro with this citation:

Toronto Hydro has demonstrated remarkable resistance to openness and transparency in its long-running fight to block access to information requests regarding its communications and estimated costs associated with possible privatization. Toronto Hydro refused the initial request for this information, claiming it was frivolous and/or vexatious. Toronto Hydro vigorously fought the appeal of its refusal, even claiming that

disclosure would constitute insider trading—despite the fact that Toronto Hydro is not publicly traded. Toronto Hydro subsequently refused two new information requests—regarding how much it had spent on contractors to fight the initial requests, stating it was unable to confirm or deny the existence of such records, and that the requests were frivolous and/or vexatious.

In light of this persistent determination to deny information to the public, Toronto Hydro has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Code of Silence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Government Secrecy in the category of Local Government Departments and Agencies.

The CAJ, CFE, News Media Canada and CJFE will announce the Code of Silence Award winners in the Provincial and Law Enforcement categories in the coming weeks. They had previously announced the Federal winner – the Treasury Board of Canada.

All four organizations will continue to advocate for substantive reform to Canada's federal access-to-information law.

SOURCE Canadian Association of Journalists

For further information: James Turk, Director, CFE, 613.277.0488, james.turk@ryerson.ca

Robert Quartarone

Program Officer | Issues Management, Media Relations

Communications Branch, Ministry of Energy

Tel: 416-327-7226

BB: 647-622-4138