

Daily News - December 1

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MINISTER NEWS

TheStar.com: [New Hydro One bills give Liberals unfair advantage: opposition parties](#)

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault denied the accusation, saying it was Hydro One's choice to put that information on the bills, which also highlight the money owed and when it is due. "It's clarity," Thibeault told reporters. "We get questions in my office all the time saying 'I don't see the fair hydro plan on my bill.'..." "This was a wide open process that Hydro One did," Thibeault said. "It was an opportunity for them to do what they thought was best."

LOCAL NEWS

MyWestNipissingNow.com: [Energy minister says regulating gas prices doesn't work](#)

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says regulating gas prices would hurt consumers across Ontario. Thibeault says that's according to the Ontario Energy Board after he asked it to study the issue. Thibeault was responding to a motion from Northern Ontario New Democrat Gilles Bisson who is calling for uniform gas prices. Thibeault says three main reasons create price differentials across Ontario and they are transportation costs, the volume of gas sold and big-box stores that go after low margins. Thibeault says the OEB report found that Canadians in provinces where gas is regulated pay more at the pumps than others in jurisdictions where gasoline is not regulated. Thibeault says current gas prices are for the most part lower than they were 10 years ago. After accounting for inflation, pump prices are about six per cent higher nowadays compared to 1991.

TimminsPress.com: [City gradually reducing energy costs](#)

That was part of the message this week from Steven Schmidt, a consultant with VIP Energy Services, an energy management firm that is working to bring down energy costs for the city. As mandated by Ontario's Green Energy Act, the city must produce an annual report to show that active steps are underway to conserve energy.

SUDBURY ISSUES

Mining: [Mayor leads delegation to Ottawa to put mining in the spotlight](#)

Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Thunder Bay are competing to be the host community for Noront's proposed ferrochrome processing plant. Noront sent out request for proposal (RFP) package to the four cities in early November. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 2.

Labour: [Clients and workers suffering from strike at Sudbury Counselling Centre: Gélinas](#)

On Thursday, Nov. 30 Nickel Belt MPP France Gélinas called on the government to explain its inaction to the clients of the Sudbury Counselling Centre where the strike is entering its eighth week.