# Daily News - June 23

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Good Morning All,

Here's what's making news for the Minister today:

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- Wynning friends and influencing people – Toronto Sun
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- Outlook for Ontario's Electricity System Remains Positive over the Next 18 Months – Newswire.ca
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# MINISTER'S NEWS

**TheStar.com: Full impact of Ontario's controversial 25-per-cent hydro rate cut to kick in on Canada Day (Top Stories – Main Page – A8)**
The full impact of Premier Kathleen Wynne's controversial 25 per cent hydro rate cut will kick in July 1 after the Ontario Energy Board approved some final changes Thursday. That means the average monthly bill will have dropped about $41 this year to $121, including the 8 per cent HST rebate on electricity bills that took effect in January and other measures in place since May 1, the board said. **Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault** touted the price break as "real and significant relief" for Ontarians who have been hit hard by rising electricity costs as the system has been improved over the last decade. Opposition parties have been highly critical of the plan as short-term gain for long-term pain because of the billions in extra costs to amortize those improvement costs over the next three decades. Premier Kathleen Wynne has compared it to extending a mortgage to get lower monthly payments now. The province's independent Financial Accountability Office issued a report in May that found the government's "Fair Hydro Plan" will cost the province $45 billion over the next 29 years while saving ratepayers $24 billion, for a net expense of $21 billion. Under the changes, time-of-use electricity prices will drop July 1 to 13.2 cents per kilowatt hour, down from 18.5 cents now for peak pricing periods. For off-peak hours — after 7 p.m. and on weekends and holidays — the price drops to 6.5 cents from 9.1 now. Costs taken off hydro bills include the government's rural and remote rate protection program and the Ontario electricity support program for low-income households. Those costs will now be paid out of the general tax revenues. Wynne has promised to keep hydro rate increases to no more than two per cent a year for the next four years, getting the government past next June's provincial election. But the Progressive Conservatives have warned hydro prices will rise more sharply after once the four-year promise of limited increases is over. More will be known about the future direction of hydro rates when the government releases its long-term energy plan in the next few months.

**TorontoSun.com: Wynne wildly unpopular inside and outside Ontario: Poll (Top Stories – Main Page – A1 and A7)**
Ouch. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has the highest disapproval rating of any provincial premier in the country, a Mainstreet Research/Postmedia polls finds. The embattled Wynne has the unfortunate distinction of being the most unpopular premier in their own province, with only 19% of Ontarians expressing approval, and a full 70% unhappy with the job she's doing. "Nationally, she finds 38% approval and 48% disapproval — her disapproval rating nationally is the highest among all premiers, with Philippe Couillard close behind at 47%," Mainstreet Research president Quito Maggi said in a statement. The poll looked at premiers' popularity in their own provinces and across the country. Quebec's Couillard and Alberta's Rachel Notley are the most popular premiers in Canada, although their rating drops in their own provinces.

**TorontoSun.com: Wynning friends and influencing people (Top Stories – Main Page – A18)**
Recent polls suggest Ontario residents either no longer believe anything Kathleen Wynne says, or have

tuned her out. Despite a flurry of recent and costly pre-election spending promises designed to prop up her faltering, scandal-plagued government, a Mainstreet Research poll this week shows just 19% approve of the job the Premier is doing, and 70% disapprove. An Angus Reid poll similarly pegged Wynne's approval rating at 15%, but noted that's up from single digits earlier this year. Her dismal numbers are noteworthy because they come on the heels of a series of popularity-boosting announcements. They include a $45 billion to $93 billion "Fair Hydro Plan" to temporarily lower Ontario's crushing hydro rates by 25%; money for daycare; rent controls for tenants; a minimum wage hike and 7.5% pay hike for civil servants and managers. None seem to have rekindled much love for our Premier.

**CTVNews.ca: Remainder of hydro bill cuts to take effect July 1 (Top Stories – Kitchener News)**
Hydro bills in Ontario are set to drop July 1 as the remainder of cuts promised by the Liberal government come into effect. Some of the cuts came into effect May 1, but as of next month bills will be 25 per cent lower than last year, on average, including an eight per cent cut that took effect in January. The Ontario Energy Board says that will lower the average monthly bill by about $41 to about $121. The cuts will be reflected in lower time-of-use rates, which the government is achieving by taking $2.5 billion a year off the global adjustment charge -- to be paid back down the road with interest. The financial accountability officer has projected that Ontarians will be paying a net $21 billion over the next three decades to get short-term savings under the plan. The budget watchdog found that the government will spend $45 billion over the life of its hydro plan to save people $24 billion on their bills over the next approximately 30 years. Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade, due in part to Liberal government's green energy initiatives. **Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault** has said rising bills reflected the costs of building a more reliable system. "We did have to put some serious investments into the system to make sure that we could rebuild it," he said Thursday. "I know no one's going to have a ticker-tape parade for me going down the main street of any community in this province because we've lowered our bills." After this year, increases to rates will be held to inflation for the next four years. A Hydro One rate increase application, which the energy board is holding public consultations on this summer, has caused concern and Opposition outrage. **Thibeault** said the government's long-term energy plan is looking at more ways to take costs out of the system. It was originally due out in the spring, but **Thibeault** said the goal is now to unveil it in September.

**Newswire.ca: Outlook for Ontario's Electricity System Remains Positive over the Next 18 Months (Top Stories – Main Page)**
The Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) latest outlook for Ontario's power system says the province has enough power to meet the expected demand for electricity over the coming summer months, as Canada and Ontario celebrate their 150th anniversary. The latest 18-Month Outlook report covers the period from July 2017 to December 2018. About 1,550 megawatts (MW) of new supply – 500 MW of wind, 1,000 MW of natural gas, 50 MW of hydroelectric – is expected to be connected to the province's transmission grid over the Outlook period. Wind generation connected to local distribution networks over the same period is expected to exceed 600 MW, and distribution-connected solar generation will surpass 2,200 MW, continuing the growth of distributed energy resources across Ontario. "We expect another positive outlook for Ontario as the trend of declining peak demand continues," says Leonard Kula, IESO's Vice-President, Market and System Operations and Chief Operating Officer. "The decline in peaks is due to conservation savings, increased generation output on local distribution networks and the Industrial Conservation Initiative, which more than offsets underlying growth." Annual demand for electricity is also expected to decline slightly. Under normal weather conditions, Ontario's highest peak for electricity demand in 2017 is forecasted to reach 22,493 MW during July, which is lower than the highest peak reached in 2016 -- 23,213 MW on September 7. Ontario's all-time peak for electricity demand was set on August 1, 2006, when demand reached 27,005 MW. On August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse is expected to pass over parts of the continental United States and Canada. Although Ontario will see only a partial eclipse, this event is expected to cause a decrease in solar production that is similar to a cloudy day. The IESO has been tracking this event for some time and benefits from knowing exactly when the eclipse will

be happening and has planned power system operations so that there is no impact to consumers.

**News.Ontario.ca: Statement from Minister Thibeault on the Ontario Energy Board's New Regulated Price Plan Electricity Rate Announcement (News Release)**
Today, **Glenn Thibeault**, Minister of Energy, issued the following statement in response to the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) announcement to lower electricity prices for residential and small business customers on the Regulated Price Plan (RPP): “Premier Wynne committed to reducing electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for households across the province, and today represents the next stage in the implementation of Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan. The Ontario Energy Board Regulated Price Plan announcement means that the average 25 per cent reduction will be in place effective July 1 for all households in Ontario, providing real and significant relief on hydro costs. As many as half a million small businesses and farms will also benefit. The 25 per cent includes the eight per cent rebate, equal to the provincial portion of the HST that took effect on January 1, 2017. Our plan also holds any increases in electricity bills to the rate of inflation for four years. Low-income Ontarians and those living in eligible rural or remote communities will receive even greater reductions, as much as 40 to 50 per cent on their bills through the already expanded Ontario Electricity Support Program and the broadening of the Rural or Remote Rate Protection program, while the delivery charge portion of residential electricity bills will be removed for on-reserve First Nations communities. The OEB will continue to serve in its important role, which includes establishing reasonable rates and protecting energy consumers, while also ensuring proper investments are made to maintain long-term system reliability. Ontario’s 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan, to be released later this summer, will focus on taking additional costs out of the system, and address long-term affordability. Our government committed to providing significant and real relief on hydro bills for people across Ontario, and we have delivered on this pledge.”

# Local News

**CBC.ca: Ontario government responds to Wapekeka First Nation emergency (Top Stories – Thunder Bay News)**
Ontario's Minister of Indigenous Relations says the province is working with the federal government as well as local and Indigenous leaders in response to a state of emergency in Wapekeka First Nation. The remote First Nation of about 400 people, located approximately 600 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, Ont., declared the emergency in the wake of a third 12-year-old girl's suicide since January and other reported attempts. The community asked for an immediate response from Ontario and provision of the necessary services for the community. The three girls, Jolynn Winter, Chantel Fox and Jenera Roundsky, were involved in a suicide pact, according to community leaders. A band council resolution from the First Nation declaring the emergency noted "another serious attempt" was made since Monday. "Our Ministry continues to play a coordinating role in responding to the declared social emergency ... drawing upon the support and expertise of our partners in federal government departments, provincial ministries and regional authorities," said a statement to CBC News from Minister David Zimmer. "When appropriate, we will also continue to engage directly with Wapekeka First Nation about how to best serve their individual community needs." According to community officials in Wapekeka, 15 young people died by suicide between 1989 and 1999 during a previous epidemic. Nearly 40 youth are currently considered to be at risk. That number represents about 10 per cent of the First Nation's population. "Ontario has been working closely with Wapekeka First Nation, the Shibogama Tribal Council, the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the federal government to identify needs and help coordinate the response for additional supports and investments," Zimmer's statement said. The province said last week, it committed $50,000 after a separate request by the First Nation for sport and recreation equipment along with wilderness supplies like canoes for youth. That's to support recreation and other outdoor activities. The money is also earmarked for other related costs like travel for families and other emergency measures, the province said. "Provincial and federal officials are also reviewing proposals submitted by the First Nation for a youth center," Zimmer's

statement continued, adding that that project is under the federal government's jurisdiction, as well as a three-year plan dealing with recreational activity for young people.

**TimminsPress.com:** City seeks freedom to support local suppliers **(Top Stories – Main Page)**
Timmins city council has given unanimous support to a motion by Mayor Steve Black that asks the province to give rural and remote municipalities the exemption to buy local goods and services regardless of whether it is the lowest bid. Currently in Ontario, most large purchases require the municipality to put out a call for tenders and if the municipality decides to accept the tender, it is generally obligated to accept the lowest tender. In the motion submitted for city council consideration this week, the document alluded to the importance of local businesses that pay local taxes, support other local businesses and contribute the well-being of the local economy. “The point of this isn’t to say that we’re always going to necessarily go with a local company where the bids don’t warrant us to do that. We’ve had a number of bids that were within hundreds of dollars of each other, that council has struggled with why we would not support the local business who is paying taxes,” Black remarked. He added that the concern is that new provincial policies are impacting the sustainability of small businesses located in remote and rural communities. “Over the last number of years we’ve had many discussions on the benefits of buying local and supporting local business,” said Black. “There’s been a lot of change over the last few months, provincially, through legislation which the small business community has also raised concerns over.” He noted that the next Ontario provincial election is scheduled to be held on or before June 7, 2018. Black said now is a fitting time to push the agenda for a Northern Ontario exemption in the Municipal Act, or to at least change the language that prevents municipal or geographic preference. “Given that we’re going into an election year and this is a clause within the Municipal Act that has caused us some discussion and agreement, I thought it would be appropriate to have this on which would request province remove the clause from the provincial legislation and leave that decision up to the individual councils to weigh the pros and cons of each tender as it applies to their community, and make that decision at the local level,” said Black. He asked council if anyone wished to make comments or ask questions. There were none. The vote was called. The motion passed unanimously. The motion will be circulated to municipal organizations across the North in a bid to get more support.

**Nugget.ca:** Hydro rate cuts take effect July 1 **(Top Stories – Main Page)**
Hydro bills in Ontario are set to drop July 1 as the remainder of cuts promised by the Liberal government come into effect. Some of the cuts came into effect May 1, but as of next month bills will be 25 per cent lower than last year, on average, including an eight per cent cut that took effect in January. The Ontario Energy Board says that will lower the average monthly bill by about $41 to about $121. The cuts will be reflected in lower time-of-use rates, which the government is achieving by taking $2.5 billion a year off the global adjustment charge — to be paid back down the road with interest. The financial accountability officer has projected that Ontarians will be paying a net $21 billion over the next three decades to get short-term savings under the plan. The budget watchdog found that the government will spend $45 billion over the life of its hydro plan to save people $24 billion on their bills over the next approximately 30 years. Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade, due in part to Liberal government’s green energy initiatives. **Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault** has said rising bills reflected the costs of building a more reliable system. “We did have to put some serious investments into the system to make sure that we could rebuild it,” he said Thursday. “I know no one’s going to have a ticker-tape parade for me going down the main street of any community in this province because we’ve lowered our bills.” After this year, increases to rates will be held to inflation for the next four years. A Hydro One rate increase application, which the energy board is holding public consultations on this summer, has caused concern and Opposition outrage. **Thibeault** said the government’s long-term energy plan is looking at more ways to take costs out of the system. It was originally due out in the spring, but **Thibeault** said the goal is now to unveil it in September.

**NorthernOntarioBusiness.com:** A breath of fresh air for deep mining **(Top Stories – Main Page)**

A new attraction on display at Dynamic Earth in Sudbury is bringing a century-old invention to the modern age with the aim reducing the costs of deep mining. The Hydraulic Air Compressor (HAC) demonstrator was unveiled at the tourist attraction with much fanfare on June 21. The 100-foot-tall industrial scale system for testing and demonstrating air compression was installed in its own headframe in a former elevator shaft that used to be a part of Big Nickel Mine. “This project is going to do so much more than develop a new air circulation system, it's going to rewrite the textbook on thermodynamics,” said project lead Dean Millar in an interview. “This will make deep mining here in Sudbury, and ultimately the rest of the world safer, more cost efficient and greener.” The HAC Demonstrator project is a joint undertaking of a Sudbury research consortium involving the Ultra-Deep Mining Network (UDMN), MIRARCO Mining Innovation, Laurentian University, Electrale Innovation, Reasbeck Construction, Independent Electricity System Operator, Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and Dynamic Earth. Millar explained the technology is new but the concept is more than a century old. This project is based on the Ragged Chutes hydraulic air compressor plant designed by Canadian engineer Charles Havelock Taylor in 1910 for the Cobalt mining camp in northeastern Ontario. The Ragged Chutes plant included a dam on the Montreal River and a 9.5-foot diameter shaft blasted to a depth of 107 metres. Intake pipes at the top of the shaft introduced air into the water as it plunged down the shaft. The force of the water compressed the air, which was then piped to a dozen mines to provide pneumatic power. Ragged Chutes required no fuel, cost almost nothing to operate and ran continuously for 70 years with two brief interludes for maintenance. Unlike the Ragged Chutes plant, the demonstrator at Dynamic Earth will use a pump to re-circulate the water in the shaft. A strange thing happens to the air when it is compressed in the water, it cools, which Millar says is counter to how gasses behave when they are compressed as the water keeps it cool. Once the water reaches the bottom of the shaft the gasses would release, be mixed with the warmer air at the bottom in a circulation system and be pumped into the mine. At one point there were about 13 of these systems around the world, and they worked for decades non-stop. However, Millar said they were not popular with miners because a lot of the oxygen would stay dissolved in the water, causing the candles they used in the mines to burn dimmer. As well, at the time, electric power was much easier to sell to the mines. “It was a matter of marketing,” he said. “The electrical companies could move power further away from the source and have a marketable product. You can't move compresses air fast enough to where it will be consumed.” With the cost of power being a major issue for mines he said a system like this could cut costs as it is self-contained and uses much less energy.

**BayToday.ca: Should the province help cities 'buy local' (Top Stories – Main Page)**

Timmins Mayor Steve Black wants provincial legislation changed to help municipalities more leeway in buying local. He had a resolution drafted and placed on this week's council agenda for a vote. It stated that local businesses generally contribute positively to the quality of life in their communities, pay taxes, and provide employment and that a stronger emphasis on buying local should be an option for municipal councils. The resolution's impact would extend beyond the city of Timmins, as much of the resolution aims to empower small and rural communities as well. It said that outside bids for projects in rural areas often come with little or no positive impact to the local community or its economy. It's been a hot topic in North Bay as well. "Over the last number of years, we've had many discussions on the benefits of buying local and supporting local business. Obviously, there's been a lot of changes over the last few months provincially, through legislation which the small business community has also raised concerns over," said Black, citing an increasing concern province-wide for the sustainability of small businesses in small and rural communities. However, he explained that local companies would not suddenly become the 'de facto' winners of tender bids, a policy which could potentially lead to price gouging of the municipality. "The point of this isn't to say that we're always necessarily going to go with a local company, where the bids don't warrant us to do that. But we've had a number of bids that are within hundreds of dollars of each other that council has struggled with why would not support the local business who is paying taxes and supporting our community and doing other charitable causes through their business of supporting local service clubs, local organizations." Formally, the request is for the Government of Ontario to remove any language preventing 'municipal or geographical preference in municipal purchasing' throughout provincial legislation.

An alternative idea included in the resolution is an exemption for Northern Ontario as well as rural Ontario regions.

**NorthernNews.ca: Work on brown water solution continues (Top Stories – Main Page)**
An official from the Ontario Clean Water Agency says the company continues to work on a solution to help alleviate Kirkland Lake's brown water problem. OCWA Operations Manager Anthony Danis says their engineering department are working in a number of different areas and with different technologies to come up with what they feel will be the best prosposal they can present to council. In a previous presentation to council Danis stated "they are looking at two possible solutions. The first would be to install a Clorine Dyoxide System into the plant. He said by doing this the manganese, which is the culprit, would be completely removed. He said the downside is, in the summer months with the rise in water temperatures there could be some by-products to deal with. To install the system, its an estimated $200 thousand. And the possible associated costs could run another $200 thousand. A second possible solution, which was discussed at the March 21st meeting, is to raise the level of the intake pipe. Danis cautioned though that, again in the summer months there could some unwanted by-products. The best way of doing it would be having a double intake system. That way it can be determined throughout the year, which pipe is best to use, and the other one is shut off. The potential cost for this system is in the same $400 thousand range." He also pointed out during that meeting "no matter which way council chooses to go, it won't eliminate brown water from happening 100 per cent of the time. There are too many factors, including old infrastructure, that can cause water discolouration." Danis is hopeful they will be able to present their report to council sometime this summer, likely closer to the fall.

# Sudbury Issues

**Culture and Tourism: Place des Arts step closer to reality**
La Place des Arts - a multi-use centre that will cater to the francophone community and the arts and culture sector -- says it has raised half of the funds needed to complete the project. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund on Thursday announced it is investing $5 million in the project. That's on top of the $3.25 million the Ontario government already committed through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. In total, the provincial government is kicking in $8.25 million for Place de Arts. The funding announcement was made at a press conference at Fromagerie, on Elgin St, not far away from the future site of the La Place des Arts, on 27 Larch St. "I'm excited, emotional, and very, very galvanized," Stephane Gauthier, President of La Place des Arts. "This is our 50 per cent mark. This is perfect. It's the perfect storm. We have the municipal level done, the provincial level, 100 per cent of what we asked (for). And now we're at the federal level." It was also announced La Places de Arts' capital campaign through private donations reached the $1-million mark in three months. "This is just terrific," Gauthier said. Now, organizers of La Place des Arts await to see the amount of funding they will receive from the federal government. La Place des Arts is asking for $9.6 million from the federal government, plus $3 million from FedNor. "The biggest ask is at the federal level," Gauthier said. Gauthier is confident the funding will come. "We're very confident," he said. "They've been on board for quite a while and they're the only level of government that has a specialized program committed to this type of infrastructure. They have augmented their budget for these types of infrastructures in their last budget, so we're on the map. We haven't seen this type of investment from the federal government in awhile in Northern Ontario, and with our elected officials working hard, we're quite confident." Sudbury MP Paul Lefebvre and Nickel Belt MP are members of the Liberal government in Ottawa. "The federal government has everything they need," Gauthier said. "I think it is a priority. That's the sense we're getting. We're quite confident that before the end of the summer we'll have a positive answer."

**Culture and Tourism: Zulich shares his musical dream**
The people behind the True North Strong Centre on The Kingsway presented their vision Thursday for an

arts and culture hub and music tourism destination in downtown Sudbury, located in the current barn on Elgin Street. Dario Zulich, who owns the land on The Kingsway on which he would like to build the True North Strong centre, said Sudbury is poised to become a destination for more than just sports. It should also tap into the arts and culture industries, and could become host to many excellent acts, including the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra, touring performers and the comedians who visit Sudbury as part of the comedy festival. "I have a dream to put together a music hall," Zulich told those assembled at a press conference. "We're trying to give (the Sudbury arena) a new life. ... We were able to divide the space up into a 1,200-seat auditorium that can accommodate symphonies, comedies or any kind of live entertainment. The other space can be used for a number of things, and that's where we can dream a little. It could be used for meetings or conferences, but it could also be used for the art gallery/library. It could really work for us in our downtown." Zulich said the arena location could also accommodate a hotel. Zulich's vision is just a concept at this point. He has not costed out the project or approached the city about his idea. Right now, it is part of his empire-building exercise. "We're trying to bring something to our city, something positive," Zulich said. "I think it's a great day. ... It's in the dream stage, but you have to dream for a dream to come true." Zulich said that he will find a way to make his dream come true, as long as the will is strong enough to make it happen. "If we want this, we can make it happen," he said. "It hasn't even been priced out, but it's possible." Music City, the centre that Zulich envisions, would incorporate a theatre, lounges, a convention venue and office space. Councillors Michael Vagnini, Robert Kirwan and Lynne Reynolds were at the Zulich press conference to learn more about the project. Jeff MacIntyre of Downtown Sudbury was also there. He said Zulich made his case for him -- that the events centre and arts hub should be in close proximity to one another. "I don't see how someone would want to take a $50 cab ride across town to go back and forth from one venue to another," he said. MacIntyre said Zulich's vision looks a lot like the Synergy Centre, which council will be discussing on Wednesday.

**Culture and Tourism:** BIA: Music city plan proves arena should be downtown
Downtown Sudbury chair Jeff MacIntyre says he likes Dario Zulich's so-called music city proposal for downtown Sudbury – but he liked it better when it was called the Synergy Centre. "It basically looks a lot like the Synergy Centre, stuck in the old Sudbury Arena," MacIntyre said Thursday, minutes after Zulich made his pitch at Fromagerie Elgin. "I'm ecstatic! They just made the case for the downtown events centre. They showed that the demand is here for the urban growth. They showed that hotels are willing to build in our community, which helps pay the cost of the new events centre." Zulich, who wants to see the new arena/events centre built on land he donated to the city on The Kingsway, said part of the old arena could become a 1,200-seat venue for music and comedy acts, while the rest of the building could house a new art gallery or library. That's similar to the Synergy Centre proposal, which city council also supports. Vital to the centre's business plan is having a new arena built downtown. "A style of building like this, or the Synergy Centre, as it's been called for the last 10 years, really goes well with an events centre," MacIntyre said. "There's a huge opportunity for having a music tourism centre right next to an events centre that's also going to host massive concerts. You can tie together the festivals." What doesn't make sense is splitting the two up, he said, which would discourage tourists from coming here. "I just don't see why someone would want to take a $50 cab ride across town to go back and forth from one venue to another if you're a tourist," MacIntyre said. "I don't think this makes sense, separated. I think if you have a massive events centre on one end of town and you've got a music tourism section in another section of town, you lose all your tourist benefit. Tourists are not going to want to drive back and forth, go to a concert in one end of town, and a hockey game in another." But, as Zulich showed Thursday, there's demand for hotels and other amenities to compliment a downtown events centre and arts centre. "It's great to see there's demand for hotels downtown. That's how you pay for this thing. And they just proved it."

**Culture and Tourism:** Rainbow Centre makes pitch for Sudbury library, art gallery
The owners of the Rainbow Centre want to be home to Sudbury's new library and art gallery. The city is searching for a downtown site for a multi-million-dollar replacement of the aging main branch library, and the Art Gallery of Sudbury. Vista Hospitality Group CEO Amin Visram says his company has met with the

city about moving into the downtown mall. He says his plan would bring more people downtown on evenings and weekends, attracting more than just the regular 9 to 5 office workers who support nearby businesses. "Vibrancy can be created by having people come into the core to use the library," says Visram, "or the art gallery, which will create a ripple effect. That will bring other tenants, other uses, other people into the core." Visram adds that those weekend and evening visitors would also find plenty of spots in the mall's parking garage. Choosing the Rainbow Centre will save Sudbury taxpayers millions of dollars on building and operating a standalone library and art gallery, Visram says. Especially if the city takes his company up on its offer of a multi-decade lease agreement. "Maybe far in excess of what a library and art gallery can be built for in our facility, which is already existing," he says. The Art Gallery of Sudbury has long wanted to move out of the Bell Mansion, and announced in 2010 its plans to build a new $25 million landmark gallery downtown. But after a few years of struggling to pull together the necessary public and private dollars, the gallery agreed to merge its plans with the city's dream of building a new main branch of the public library downtown, replacing the aging MacKenzie Street facility. While in the past they were focused on a standalone building, Art Gallery of Sudbury chair Josée Forest-Niesing says they are open to any downtown site that is accessible and visible. "If it means that we can take an existing building and renovate it in such a manner that we can meet all those elements, then we'd be quite happy to do that," says Forest-Niesing. She says the plans for the building have been streamlined down to 60,000 square feet. The cost has been estimated to be between $35 and $50 million, but Forest-Niesing says the art gallery portion should be around $11 million. Exactly where that money will come from isn't known yet, but city council will vote next week on spending $100,000 to begin the formal location search.

**Community Services: Sudbury Community Foundation awards $150,000 in grants**
For nearly 20 years, the Sudbury Community Foundation (SCF) has been handing out philanthropic grants — big and small — to local charities and community organizations. Yesterday, as the SCF awarded over $150,000 to some 20 organizations for the 19th time, executive director Brian Koivu paraphrased a bit of ancient Greek philosophy to illustrate the event. “Aristotle said 'to give away money is relatively easy — something anyone can do. But deciding to whom and how much is not an easy matter.',” said Koivu. Despite the challenge, the SCF managed to hand out 37 individual grants on June 21 ranging from $150 to $50,000. “Today, we celebrate community philanthropy — the philanthropy and vision of our donors who make our granting possible (and) the philanthropy and stewardship of our grant recipients who, through programs and initiatives, contribute to community progress,” Koivu said. The grants awarded spanned across health and wellness, environmental concerns, youth and education and arts and culture. The Sudbury Symphony Orchestra was one such organization, receiving a pair of grants totaling $8,500. “The gifts from the Ernie Impola and Slade Funds allow the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra to further their mission of increasing Sudbury's joy in the experience of classical music,” said executive director of the symphony Jennifer McGillivray. “By providing funds for free childcare at our performances, we are ensuring that young families face fewer barriers to concert attendance, helping to foster a culture of musical engagement for generations to come.” Among other grant recipients were the Art Gallery of Sudbury, Easter Seals Ontario, the NEO Kids Foundation, the Northern Cancer Foundation and YWCA Sudbury.

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