

News Update - May 12

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MINISTER'S NEWS

TheStar.com: [Electricity prices to soar after four years, says secret Liberal cabinet document](#)

The average hydro bill will jump almost \$10 a month in 2022 and soar to \$195 by 2027 under the Liberal government's hydro plan, according to a leaked cabinet document obtained by the Progressive Conservatives. It was provided to the Star as **Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault** prepares to unveil legislation Thursday to enact a promised 25 per cent cut to skyrocketing electricity costs, keeping increases to 2 per cent annually until 2021. But that's when the breathing room for ratepayers ends for the better part of a decade, suggests the document. Average monthly bills will rise 6.5 per cent a year from 2022 to 2027 and are forecast to jump 10.5 per cent the year after when they will hit \$195. That's up from \$123 this year with the promised cut, lowering bills from an average \$158 in 2016.

NationalPost.com: [Ontario Liberals roll out legislation to lower hydro bills for 10 years — but consumers will still pay for it later](#)

Ontarians will see lower hydro bills for the next 10 years, but then pay the price for that decrease for the following 20 years under new legislation introduced today. Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade, and have sparked increasing anger among Ontarians, leading to plummeting approval ratings for Premier Kathleen Wynne. Ten weeks after announcing a plan to lower hydro bills, the Liberal government has introduced its legislation to lower time-of-use rates, take the cost of low-income and rural support programs off bills and introduce new social programs. Time-of-use rates are being lowered by removing from bills a portion of the global adjustment, a charge consumers pay for above-market rates to power producers.

TorontoSun.com: [Ontario hydro rates to soar: Liberal document](#)

Ontarians are in for a hydro shock. An internal cabinet document leaked to the Progressive Conservatives shows that electricity rates in the province will spike come 2022. The document, which breaks down the Liberal government's recently announced plan to slash hydro rates by 25%, shows that prices will begin to rise for the average homeowner following this year. The government plans to cap the rate increases to 2% a year, but then they spike when that cap expires in 2022.

LOCAL NEWS

BayToday.ca: [Wynne talks hydro rate reductions, wants 'shovel in the ground' at Ring of Fire](#)

During a question and answer period involving Premier Kathleen Wynne and the northeastern municipal delegates, one woman in the crowd brought up the subject of hydro rates. Said the woman: "Why do we in Northern Ontario pay such high delivery charges for our hydro?" After the applause from the audience subsided, she continued by asking, "Why must this aging population, living on a pension, have to make a decision between paying the hydro bill or buying food?" Wynne replied, "We are making changes, residential ratepayers will see a 25 per cent reduction by summer. A number of utilities where the distribution charges have been very high, those are coming down. People who are paying those high distribution charges in the rural and remote communities will see up to a 40 or 50 per cent reduction because the distribution charges will be taken down to what they would be paying in a large urban centre."

Canadian Press: [10 years of lower hydro bills to be followed by 20-year payback period](#)

Ontarians will see lowered hydro bills for the next 10 years, but will then pay higher costs for the following 20 years, under new legislation tabled Thursday. Ten weeks after announcing its plan to lower hydro bills, the Liberal government introduced legislation to lower time-of-use rates, take the cost of low-income and rural support programs off bills, and introduce new social programs. It will lower time-of-use rates by removing from bills a portion of the global adjustment, a charge consumers pay for above-market rates to power producers. For the next 10 years, a new entity overseen by Ontario Power Generation will take on debt to pay that difference.

MyNorthBayNow.ca: [ONTARIO PC LEADER PATRICK BROWN VOWS THE CONCERNS OF NORTHERN ONTARIANS WILL BE HEARD IF HE'S ELECTED PREMIER](#)

Ontario PC leader Patrick Brown's speech to the FONOM Northeastern Municipal Conference wrapped up day one, and he spoke about forestry, mining, the provincial budget, and the Hydro One sell off. Brown says Ontario's Liberal government has taken the North for granted, and they don't understand the day-to-day concerns in Northern Ontario. He says the region's economic potential is extraordinary, but the Liberals have never prioritized Northern Ontario. Brown talked about the challenges facing residents in Northern Ontario, and said as someone who grew up in North Bay, their problems would no longer be unheard if he's elected Premier in 2018.

SooToday.com: [Fair Hydro Plan isn't so fair, says Ross Romano](#)

"It turns out Kathleen Wynne's so-called 'Fair Hydro Plan' isn't fair after all. Starting next year, hydro rates will rise again, and by 2024 Ontarians will be paying a record high," said Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown. "The Liberal scheme isn't about making life affordable for Ontario. It's about Kathleen Wynne's short-term goal of re-election in 2018."

"Debbie Amaroso, Wynne's local spokesperson in Sault Ste. Marie is being extremely disingenuous by describing the Liberals desperate short-term relief scheme as a plan. It is clear that the Liberals are continuing to try to deceive the people of Sault Ste. Marie for their own partisan gain. Sault Ste. Marie residents will see through this charade" stated Ross Romano the PC Candidate in the Sault Ste. Marie by-election.

SUDBURY ISSUES

Politics: [Northern Ontario municipalities 'can no longer continue to bear increased costs'](#)

Leaders across northeastern Ontario are meeting this week in North Bay for a three-day Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities conference. They are expected to discuss how to improve infrastructure and wireless technology. The delegates will also share best practices. But top of mind will be how municipalities can find other revenue tools besides raising taxes. "Our hands are tied right now and it certainly is more difficult to increase or raise those dollars for needed infrastructure projects," Greater Sudbury Deputy Mayor Al Sizer said.

Employment: [Millennium1 Solutions looking for 200 Sudbury workers](#)

Millennium1 Solutions says it's well on its way to hiring more than 200 people for its new Sudbury centre. "We've been very pleased with the amount of interest demonstrated by local job seekers," Tom Band, CEO, said in a release. "Our first wave of new employees joined us on May 1 and we will be hiring continuously throughout the year as we work to maximize our facility capacity." The Sudbury facility is offering more than 250 new jobs, with approximately 200 positions targeted to be filled by this fall. Future expansion to as many as 350 jobs is projected, the company said.

Business: [Sudbury business owner mad at city](#)

Darryl Lampkin, owner of Echo Rental and Supply Ltd. on Kelly Lake Road, is hopping mad about the impending construction work that is set to begin on June 5 along the thoroughfare. "Last Thursday, there were letters dropped off to businesses on Kelly Lake Road, regarding the culvert at Junction Creek," Lampkin explains. "They dropped off a letter to businesses only if your door was open." That is the first problem. Lampkin says many of his neighbours along Kelly Lake Road did not receive the notice, simply because they were out doing jobs and had shuttered their businesses.

Health: [Drinking water advisory for Killarney residents](#)

The Sudbury & District Health Unit has issued a drinking water advisory effective immediately for the residents of Killarney. A drinking water advisory means that people who take their water from the municipal system should not use it for drinking; making juice, infant formula, or ice; cooking; washing uncooked fruits and vegetables; or brushing teeth. Boiling the water may not make it safe for drinking. For these purposes, water from an alternate source, such as bottled water, should be used. The water can be used for laundry and bathing (excluding small children who could swallow the water).

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