

Evening Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - May 25, 2018

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MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

May 25, 2018

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TV Transcripts

None

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Welland Tribune: Promises from Ontario's three main political parties on hydro bills

By: The Canadian Press
May 25, 2018 06:46 PM

<https://www.wellandtribune.ca/news-story/8631189-promises-from-ontario-s-three-main-political-parties-on-hydro-bills/>

Here's a glance at some promises Ontario's three major political parties have made on hydro prices:

LIBERALS: Implemented the Fair Hydro Act, adopted in 2017 to lower hydro rates by an average of 25 per cent, following rising anger at the Liberal government over high prices. The plan partly lowers rates by letting customers off the hook for a portion of the global adjustment — a charge consumers pay for above-market rates to power producers — for the next 10 years. In the meantime, producers will continue being paid the same, so Ontario Power Generation has been tapped to oversee the debt used to pay that difference. Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk has accused the province of underestimating and misrepresenting the financial impact of the plan and shifting the increased cost to a new generation of rate payers.

NDP: Bringing primary power transmission agency Hydro One back under public ownership — 53 per cent of which was sold by the Liberal government — reducing bills by 30 per cent by eliminating time-of-day pricing, capping private profit margins, setting the same delivery rates for urban and rural users, exempting First Nations communities from electricity delivery charges.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES: Lowering hydro bills by an average 12 per cent by returning Hydro One dividends to customers, taking the cost of conservation programs off hydro bills and shifting the burden to taxpayers, and halting new energy contracts and renegotiating new ones. They would also fire the CEO and board of Hydro One.

Global News: London-Fanshawe candidates square off in 980 CFPL's second Ontario election debate

By: Liny Lamberink
May 25, 2018 4:47 pm

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4231933/london-fanshawe-candidates-square-off-in-980-cfpls-second-ontario-election-debate/>

Four candidates vying to represent constituents in the riding of London-Fanshawe argued about hydro rates, health care, and the rising cost of living during 980 CFPL's second provincial election debate.

Progressive Conservative Eric Weniger, Liberal Lawvin Hadisi, New Democrat Teresa Armstrong, and the Green Party's Lisa Carriere attended the debate Friday morning, moderated by 980 CFPL's Craig Needles.

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"We just need to get through the bureaucracy in the health care system. I mean, there's vice presidents, there's committees, the money just isn't getting down to the front line health care. It's not getting down to where the care is needed."

Hadisi fought back, saying she's unsure what Weniger means by "the bureaucratic system," and that the Liberal party is focused on "all aspects of health care."

She also emphasized her party's accomplishments, pointing out that healthcare has increased every year the Liberals been governing.

Carriere spoke of the Green Party's commitment to preventative health care and social support services, while Armstrong of the NDP said that party would put the focus back on the people and families who've struggled to get support in overcrowded hospitals.

Twice, Carriere commended the NDP. She first complimented Armstrong, the current MPP, for her representation of Londoners at Queen's Park, following criticism from Weniger that London-Fanshawe constituents weren't being heard.

"I think we're more on side with the NDP's childcare plan," the Green Party candidate said later.

Hydro rates, and what each party would do in its approach to electricity, was another question that sparked some heat.

"We're going to stop building the windmills," Weniger said. "It's something that we're overgenerating. We continue to build, we continue to sign new contracts, and it just doesn't make any sense. Things are getting worse. [The Liberals] are going to say they saved you 25 per cent on your hydro bill, but they borrowed about \$100 billion to do it."

Hadisi argued back that her party created an asset by investing in infrastructure and the hydro system.

"And that infrastructure is now an asset that we hold, as a province."

You can watch the full debate [here](#), or you can listen to it [here](#).

The next debate, between candidates in the London-West riding, can be watched live on Facebook or listened to on 980 CFPL, starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

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