Message

From: John Cannella [/O=IMO/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JOHN CANNELLA5E4]
Sent: 2017-03-20 6:34:52 AM
Subject: Fw: Today's News - Monday, March 20, 2017

From: Infomart Newsletters <Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com>
Sent: March 20, 2017 6:22 AM
To: John Cannella
Subject: Today's News - Monday, March 20, 2017

Today's News

powered by:

Date: Monday, March 20, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

Industry News

News - 8 Results

269210776

Opposition infuriated by Liberals' hydro ads; Radio spots for rate cuts serve 'partisan purpose'

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 18 2017
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star
Page: A10

New ads promoting Premier Kathleen Wynne's promised 25-per-cent hydro-rate cut are a "partisan" abuse of taxpayers' money and should be scrapped, the Progressive Conservatives say. The demand came Friday as Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk ...

269194507

Government ads about hydro bill reductions a 'pat on the back': auditor; Hydro radio ads a 'pat on the back': auditor

Canadian Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Allison Jones

TORONTO - New taxpayer-funded ads from the Ontario Liberal government about its plan to cut hydro bills could be considered partisan, the auditor general said Friday. The two ads, running on radio stations across the province, tell ...

269214967

Wynne'S Ads On Hydro Don'T Cut It; Auditor general criticizes taxpayer-funded radio spots

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 18 2017
Byline: Shawn Jeffords
Page: A6

The Liberal government's new ads on hydro rate cuts don't pass muster with Ontario's Auditor General. However, Bonnie Lysyk says her office had no choice but to approve a slew of new taxpayer-funded radio spots from the Liberal ...

269213160

Wynne not first to rein in rates to retain power

The Chronicle Journal - Sat Mar 18 2017

By Martin Regg CohnÊ As big bangs go, it's big.
And it goes like this: get a bigger bang for the buck by borrowing money from future ratepayers - lowering the price for today's voters. The latest Liberal plan to blow up Ontario's ...

269311238

Energy Minister Rejects Ndp Stance; Thibault Rejects Local Mpp John Vanthof And His Fellow Ndp Hydro Proposals

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Mar 20 2017
Byline: Joe O'Grady
Page: A1 / Front

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibault responded to concerns expressed by Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof and his fellow NDP members about hydro costs, rejecting NDP leader Andrea Horwath's proposals as "short on details and long on ...

269148463

Chief applauds hydro fee cut

North Bay Nugget - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles ,
Page: A1 / Front

Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod applauds the province's decision to exempt onreserve First Nation households from hydro delivery charges. "There are so many cases where I hear delivery charges for electricity far ...

269148566

NEOMA, Vanthof talk hydro rates

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Ben Sherratt
Page: A2

The Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association is imploring the province to reduce the price of electricity. The association, which is headed by Kirkland Lake Mayor Tony Antoniazzi says the increased costs have "resulted ...

269312455

Cut hospital hydro rates: Motion; Fedeli argues staff cuts will be necessary due to high electricity costs

Sudbury Star - Mon Mar 20 2017
Byline: Gord Young
Page: A4

The province should provide hydro rate relief to cash-strapped hospitals, a North Bay councillor says. Mike Anthony intends to table a motion at North Bay council's meeting Tuesday calling on the province to give hospitals the same rate ...

Back to Top

0

0

Industry News

Full Articles

269210776

Opposition infuriated by Liberals' hydro ads; Radio spots for rate cuts serve 'partisan purpose'

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 18 2017
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star
Page: A10

New ads promoting Premier Kathleen Wynne's promised 25-per-cent hydro-rate cut are a "partisan" abuse of taxpayers' money and should be scrapped, the Progressive Conservatives say.

The demand came Friday as Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk described the radio spots as a "pat on the back" for the government and said she probably would have rejected them before the government curbed her powers in 2015, The Canadian Press reports.

The two ads include the line "we've heard you," a reference to complaints about high electricity prices, and promise hydro rates won't rise by more than the rate of inflation for at least four years.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault's office defended the commercials airing across the province, saying the government "has a responsibility to raise awareness and communicate information about programs and services that affect Ontarians."

But Conservative Leader Patrick Brown said that "these ads serve a partisan purpose that aims to improve the government's standing among the public using taxpayer dollars."

Given that legislation required to implement the rate cuts has not yet been introduced or passed by MPPs, the government has "no authority" to run the ads, Brown charged.

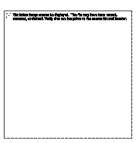
He has not yet released a plan to tackle high hydro rates, but has promised details in "the near future."

The NDP noted the hydro-rate cut isn't expected to kick in until summer and demanded the government reveal how much is being spent on the ad campaign, which includes social media.

"Not one dime has come off people's skyrocketing hydro bills and Wynne hasn't tabled legislation … yet she's spending more of people's hard-earned dollars on ads claiming the problem is solved," said New Democrat MPP and energy critic Peter Tabuns.

Both opposition parties have complained the Liberal rate cut will put a burden on ratepayers for more than a generation, because it will cost $25 billion in interest payments to spread the cost of electricity system improvements in recent years over the next 30 years.

Back to Top



269194507

Government ads about hydro bill reductions a 'pat on the back': auditor; Hydro radio ads a 'pat on the back': auditor

Canadian Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Allison Jones

TORONTO - New taxpayer-funded ads from the Ontario Liberal government about its plan to cut hydro bills could be considered partisan, the auditor general said Friday.

The two ads, running on radio stations across the province, tell listeners that people will receive an average of 25 per cent off their hydro bills this summer and rate increases are being held to inflation for four years.

"Ontario has made important investments in clean, reliable energy," the narrator says in one ad. "This has led to hydro bills that have become harder to pay. We've heard you and we're taking action with the fair hydro plan."

The Progressive Conservatives say the purpose of the ads appear to be to raise the government's standing in the eyes of voters, at a time when anger over rising electricity costs has contributed to their decline in the polls.

The ads likely wouldn't have been approved under old government advertising rules, said auditor general Bonnie Lysyk, who has said changes the Liberals enacted in 2015 reduced her office to a rubber stamp.

"Under the previous legislation it would likely not have passed because it does convey a positive impression of the current government and it's more like a pat-on-the-back type of advertisement," she said.

A spokesman for Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said the ads inform people and direct them to a website where they can learn more about the upcoming changes.

"The Ontario government has a responsibility to raise awareness and communicate information about programs and services that affect Ontarians," Colin Nekolaichuk said in a statement. "This includes informing Ontarians of changes to their electricity bills so that they can use this information to plan for the future as they manage their household budgets."

Lysyk said in her last annual report that she had cautioned the government that changing the rules would end up giving taxpayers the bill for millions of dollars in partisan advertising.

"Sure enough, the government walked right through that open door," she said.

The old rules banned ads as partisan if the intent was to foster a positive impression of government or a negative impression of its critics, but the new rules say an ad is partisan only if it uses an elected member's picture, name or voice, the colour or logo associated with the political party, or directly criticizes a party or member of the legislature.

Of the approximately $50 million in government ads during the 2015-16 fiscal year, Lysyk said she would have flagged several under the old rules as misleading or self-congratulatory.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown wrote Friday to the president of the Treasury Board, the department that controls the government purse strings, about the ads.

"Your government has no authority to be spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars on partisan radio and social media ads to promote a plan that has not yet been tabled, debated, and voted on in the legislature," Brown wrote to Liz Sandals.

"I am concerned that these ads serve a partisan purpose that aim to improve the government's standing among the public using taxpayer dollars."

Brown called on Sandals to release the cost of the ad buy.

The NDP said it was filing Freedom of Information requests to learn the cost.

"Not one dime has come off people's sky-rocketing hydro bills and (Premier Kathleen) Wynne hasn't tabled legislation, or even a credible plan to save us money, yet she's spending more of people's hard-earned dollars on ads claiming the problem is solved," energy critic Peter Tabuns said in a statement.

Back to Top

269214967

Wynne'S Ads On Hydro Don'T Cut It; Auditor general criticizes taxpayer-funded radio spots

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 18 2017
Byline: Shawn Jeffords
Page: A6

The Liberal government's new ads on hydro rate cuts don't pass muster with Ontario's Auditor General.

However, Bonnie Lysyk says her office had no choice but to approve a slew of new taxpayer-funded radio spots from the Liberal government about its plan to slash hydro rates.

Under the old rules, she could have spiked anything she deemed partisan. But since the Liberals changed the regulations in 2015, her office has little choice but to rubber-stamp back-slapping radio and TV spots.

"Our office approved the Hydro-related ads under the current version of the Government Advertising Act," Lysyk said in a statement to the Toronto Sun. "However, they would not have passed under the previous legislation because we feel that these ads have the objective of fostering a positive impression of the government."

The ads, which began running on radio stations across the province this week, tell listeners that the Liberals made important investments in clean and green energy. That has come at a cost and the rate cut is about addressing the impact on hydro bills.

"We've heard you," a narrator says in one of the spots. "Hydro needs to be fair for Colin Nekolaichuk, spokesman for Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, defended the ads saying it's the government's responsibility to communicate information about the program to Ontarians. He also stressed that the government's changes to advertising rules provided a "clearer definition" of partisan advertising.

Both opposition parties slammed the ads, calling on the Liberals to release the cost to taxpayers. Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown is also demanding Ontario's Liberals pull the plug on "self-congratulatory" spots.

"Your government has no authority to be spending hardearned taxpayer dollars on partisan radio and social media ads to promote a plan that has not yet been tabled, debated and voted on in the Legislature," Brown said in a letter to Treasury Board President Liz Sandals.

New Democrat energy critic Peter Tabuns said that party will file Freedom of Information requests to unearth the cost of the ads. He accused the Liberal's of using taxpayer money to buy support ahead of the 2018 election.

"Not one dime has come off people's sky-rocketing hydro bills ..." Tabuns said in a statement. "Yet, she's spending more of people's hardearned dollars on ads claiming the problem is solved."

Premier Kathleen Wynne rolled out her plan to slash hydro rates by 17% two weeks ago. When combined with an 8% HST rebate, the savings total 25%. That plan, which is supposed to take effect this summer, will cost taxpayers an estimated $25 billion in interest payments as the government re-amortizes electricity deals over 30 years to achieve the short-term savings. sjeffords@postmedia.com

Back to Top

269213160

Wynne not first to rein in rates to retain power

The Chronicle Journal - Sat Mar 18 2017

By Martin Regg CohnÊ

As big bangs go, it's big. And it goes like this: get a bigger bang for the buck by borrowing money from future ratepayers - lowering the price for today's voters.

The latest Liberal plan to blow up Ontario's electricity system will slash hydro bills by roughly 25 per cent, year over year. But it's not the first time politicians have tried to retain the reins of power by reining in the price of power.

With the 2003 election looming, then-Tory premier Ernie Eves froze hydro rates in a panic - piling on billions of dollars in debt. It didn't work out so well.

Eves paid a price on the campaign trail, going down to defeat. And ratepayers spent the next decade paying down the accumulated debt from his gambits (including a failed Progressive Conservative attempt to privatize electrical utilities), courtesy of the inherited and much-hated debt retirement charge on their bills.

All these years later, Kathleen Wynne faced a similar power crisis - electrical and political - but chose a bolder strategy:

On the eve of the 2018 election, with hydro prices boiling over, she went all in - not just freezing prices but cutting them back. Her Liberals are promising even bigger savings for ratepayers in remote areas, on reserves, or in financial need.

But like her predecessors, Wynne isn't cutting the cost of hydro much. She is mostly fiddling with the price.

That's not semantics but economics. The Liberal plan essentially refinances and rebalances fixed costs that remain unchanged within the system.

First, the refinancing: it's akin to extending the amortization period on your home mortgage from 20 to 30 years, easing the burden of high monthly payments today on the premise that you will still be enjoying that asset decades later. The trade-off, of course, is that you pay more in financing costs, adding $25 billion in additional interest payments spread over 30 years.

You get what you pay for - short-term relief. And you pay for what you get - via long-term debt.

Second, the rebalancing: it's about expanded financial relief - for the poor, rural residents and people living on reserves - transferred from the electricity system to the provincial treasury, on the grounds that social programs are more properly paid through a progressive tax system.

We won't know if it all adds up until voters pass judgment on the plan in the months ahead. But given the rising hostility over hydro rates, the Liberals knew they couldn't afford to wait any longer.

History, however, suggests hydro therapy rarely calms voters.

Former premier Dalton McGuinty brought in a 10-per-cent "Clean Energy Benefit" ahead of the 2011 election to trump opposition demands for an HST holiday. Yet subsequent polling showed most voters were oblivious to the giveaway, giving the government no credit for the cut - which is why Wynne ultimately phased out the $1 billion-a-year program.

But under renewed pressure, the premier revived that benefit in January, this time dressed up as straight 8-per-cent rebate on the provincial portion of the HST. Yet once again voters seemed unmoved by a fleeting tax break, forcing Wynne to go back to the drawing board last month to come up with a further 17-per-cent reduction on hydro rates.

Taken together, the financial engineering pushes her over the psychological hurdle of a 25-per-cent cut - not quite a Boxing Day or Black Friday discount, but it won't go unnoticed. How will the government pay for it?

The remortgaging - essentially a second mortgage - will be hived off to Ontario Power Generation, the government-owned business enterprise that is one of the successor organizations to the old Ontario Hydro. For better or for worse, OPG boasts decades of debt experience. Conveniently, the borrowings won't show up in the government's annual budget, which is no small thing given the provincial debt now exceeds $300 billion.

Another chunk of the rate relief will be absorbed by the treasury. But the government still intends to meet its pre-election goal of eliminating its annual budget deficit this spring, thanks to robust revenues in a recovering economy.

Paradoxically, the government will be bolstered in its goal of a balanced budget by fresh revenues from partially selling off - cannibalizing - the transmission assets of Hydro One, another piece of the old Ontario Hydro (split up by the Tories in their own abortive privatization plan). Wynne went further than the Tories ever dared with her Hydro One sell-off and is paying a political price - but also cashing in on the financial windfall when she needs it most.

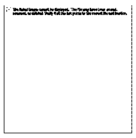
Despite the dubious economics, will the latest rate relief prove to be smart politics? We live in a world - and a province - of increasingly transactional pocketbook politics.

The government isn't counting on the public to bow down in gratitude, or banking on the latest discount to serve as a magic channel changer. But if it dials down the volume or cuts down the static, the plan may at least give them the space to talk about something beyond Ontario's perennial plague of high hydro rates.

And it will throw into sharp relief what really ails the party, amid the wave of public hostility over hydro that has driven down its support: are people angry at Wynne because of high rates, or are they apoplectic about electricity costs because it serves as a convenient proxy for their antipathy to the premier?

Martin Regg Cohn writes for the Toronto Star. mcohn@thestar.ca

Back to Top



269311238

Energy Minister Rejects Ndp Stance; Thibault Rejects Local Mpp John Vanthof And His Fellow Ndp Hydro Proposals

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Mar 20 2017
Byline: Joe O'Grady
Page: A1 / Front

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibault responded to concerns expressed by Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof and his fellow NDP members about hydro costs, rejecting NDP leader Andrea Horwath's proposals as "short on details and long on hollow promises."

"Many of her proposals rely on a vague and yet-to-be-determined 'expert panel' that will be convened in the future, as well as pie-in-the-sky negotiations with the federal government," Thibeault said. "These offer little to Ontarians in the short-term, compared to the real and meaningful relief our government's Fair Hydro Plan will provide to everyone.

"Unlike the NDP, our plan was presented at a comprehensive technical briefing, with experts including the CEO of Ontario Power Generation, Deputy Minister of Energy and accounting specialists available to answer questions. A wide range of thirdparty experts and stakeholders have since endorsed our plan, with Alectra Utilities calculating their customers will save 27 to 28 per cent because of it."

Thibeault said the NDP's most expensive idea - buying back more than $4-billion in shares of Hydro One - will not take one cent off electricity bills. "What it will do is send billions to the stock market instead of making much needed infrastructure investments in communities across Ontario," he said.

Responding to widespread public outcry over skyrocketing costs, the Ontario Liberal government has announced Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, which will cut electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all families, with 8 per cent cut already and the rest to follow this summer. "It is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, helping families along with about half a million farms and small businesses," Thibeault said. "The Liberal plan will also keep rates consistent, holding them to inflation over the next four years. We will introduce legislation this session, with time for debate and public hearings at committee, ensuring real relief for Ontarians and a way to ensure greater fairness in our electricity system this summer. The NDP hydro proposal offers nothing practical or substantial when it comes to reduced electricity costs for Ontario families and small businesses."

Vanthof spoke in the legislature last week about the impact of high hydro rates on small businesses in Northern Ontario. He gave the example of Leis Wood Products, located in the Cobalt area, which is struggling to shoulder the costs of electricity. "They need some answers," he said."

Back to Top

269148463

Chief applauds hydro fee cut

North Bay Nugget - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles ,
Page: A1 / Front

Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod applauds the province's decision to exempt onreserve First Nation households from hydro delivery charges. "There are so many cases where I hear delivery charges for electricity far exceed the cost of the bill. Some delivery charges are more than $200," McLeod said Thursday. "It's a big deal when you're on a fixed income. Many of our residents, especially our elderly, are on fixed incomes and are having to choose to either buy food or turn their lights on."

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, confirmed Wednesday a provincial credit will cover 100 per cent of delivery charges to many First Nation and remote communities. The ministry says 21,500 onreserve customers will automatically qualify.

The Ontario Energy Board recommended the change after consulting with First Nations. It estimates that this would provide an average monthly benefit of $85. McLeod said hydro lines go right through traditional territory yet there's never been any compensation. He said he doesn't believe the payments will be retroactive. "At least this will stop the bleeding."

The government also is expanding its Ontario Electricity Support Program, which will provide additional support for some low-income First Nation ratepayers. Those who qualify for the lowest credit, will see an increase from a $45 per month subsidy to $65.

Those measures, along with a number of other credits to help lowincome Ontarians, will cost the government $2.5 billion over the next three years, Nekolaichuk said. Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day welcomed the news, saying it will reduce "energy poverty" in many communities. "Poverty, lack of opportunity and choosing to pay for electricity over food is a reality that affects our people," Day said.

McLeod said discussions are ongoing concerning off-reserve First Nation ratepayers.

Back to Top

269148566

NEOMA, Vanthof talk hydro rates

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Byline: Ben Sherratt
Page: A2

The Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association is imploring the province to reduce the price of electricity.

The association, which is headed by Kirkland Lake Mayor Tony Antoniazzi says the increased costs have "resulted hospitals, schools, municipalities, businesses, farms and industry being faced with unbudgeted and unanticipated increases in costs for this essential utility and forcing many residential users to actual ration the use of electricity."

They also say that in the District of Timiskaming it has also resulted in "valuable farmland being covered in solar panels and denied the vital agricultural crops that it would provide because of the excessive prices paid for this 'green energy' produced by these panels.

They go on to say the district has to pay the highest rate of delivery charge because of the low density levels in many areas of the district. The association is also asking Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof for support on this resolution.

Vanthof recently spoke in the legislature about the impact of high hydro rates on small businesses in Northern Ontario.

He gave the example of Leis Wood Products, located in the Cobalt area.

"Leis Wood Products takes shavings from our local planning mill, puts them in bags, and the bags are distributed throughout Ontario to horse farms and other people," said Vanthof. "It's a family business. Bruce helped out his kids, Andrea and Jason. It's a thriving little business, but it has the problems that other businesses in the province and in the riding share. I'd like to explain one of them."

He went on to say, "Leis Wood Products takes shavings from our local planning mill, puts them in bags, and the bags are distributed throughout Ontario to horse farms and other people. It's a family business.

"It's a thriving little business, but it has the problems that other businesses in the province and in the riding share. I'd like to explain one of them. They need some answers."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to table her promised hydro bill on Monday.

"Premier Wynne, has issued a news release and delivered talking points - now it's time to deliver a plan," said Horwath. "Ontario families, businesses and municipalities have a right to know what will happen to their bills and who will pay the price for $40 billion going to pay interest rather than investing in hospitals, schools, transit and roads."

Horwath said the media appearances and talking points have raised more questions than answers. There's confusion whether Wynne's borrowing deal will help all Ontario businesses, if there will be any relief on time-of-use premiums, or if hospitals, schools and municipal facilities like community rinks will qualify for relief.

Plus, noted Horwath, there have been no details around repayment of interest costs that could amount to as much as $40 billion.

"If Wynne is planning to sign Ontarians on to a $40-billion borrowing deal, she owes us all one heck of an explanation," said Horwath. "That's why I'm calling on her to table a bill Monday - so it can be properly debated by the legislature, by the public, and by experts."

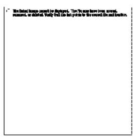
Horwath is concerned that the Liberals plan on tabling their bill close to the end of the legislative session, undercutting scrutiny and debate. "Kathleen Wynne might think such a strategy will be good for her and the Liberal party but it is yet another affront to the people of Ontario".

Horwath has already publicly released her plan to lower hydro rates by up to 30%. The extensive NDP plan includes immediate bill-cutting measures like scrapping time-of-use premiums and unfair higher delivery charges; and it repairs the hydro system for the long-term by reversing the sell off of Hydro One.

Horwath's plan will bring an additional $7 billion in dividends to the province - money that can be used in schools and hospitals - while Wynne's borrowing deal is expected to cost Ontarians as much as $40 billion more in interest payments.

The Conservatives have yet to provide their comprehensive plan when it comes to dealing with skyhigh hydro bills.

Back to Top



269312455

Cut hospital hydro rates: Motion; Fedeli argues staff cuts will be necessary due to high electricity costs

Sudbury Star - Mon Mar 20 2017
Byline: Gord Young
Page: A4

The province should provide hydro rate relief to cash-strapped hospitals, a North Bay councillor says.

Mike Anthony intends to table a motion at North Bay council's meeting Tuesday calling on the province to give hospitals the same rate relief it has extended to consumers or consider other measures to help them address rising energy costs.

The motion is in response to news Monday that North Bay Regional Health Centre must cut 30 to 40 more jobs to balance its budget and qualify for $7 million from the province's Working Capital Relief Fund. The hospital is forecasting a $5-million deficit for 2017/18 despite having eliminated 350 jobs over the past five years.

Anthony says his motion is supported by Paul Heinrich, the hospital's chief executive officer. But he notes - as does Heinrich- that hydro is only one of the financial pressures the hospital faces.

Heinrich has cited arbitrated wage increases worth $2 million and increases to staff health benefits, specifically long-term disability insurance in the amount of $1.7

million, as factors contributing to the budget shortfall.

The health centre is projecting a 12 per cent increase - about $200,000 - in energy costs between this year and next.

But the North Bay hospital is not alone, Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli charged Tuesday, citing examples of rising hydro costs at hospitals in Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, Collingwood, Barrie and Windsor.

"Hospitals are going to be faced with no other option but to cut staff as electricity rates continue to soar," Fedeli said in a statement. "These cuts will be Premier Kathleen Wynne's legacy."

Anthony, who has table a number of motions in recent years pertaining to energy and gasoline costs, says he hopes his latest call for action will be supported by council.

Anthony admits some people believe municipal councils are wasting their time when they lobby the provincial and federal governments.

But, he believes municipalities that continue to take a stance on important issues do have an impact.

Anthony points to the Liberal government's admission of mistakes in its handling of the energy file and the move to lower hydro bills as an example, noting municipalities were among the many voices that pressured the province.