Message

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
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Today's News

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Date: Monday, April 3, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

Industry News

News - 12 Results

List of public workers making over $100K in Ontario grows; top earner made $1.2M; List of public workers making over $100K in Ontario grows

Canadian Press - Fri Mar 31 2017
Byline: Allison Jones and Jessica Smith Cross

TORONTO - The CEO of Ontario Power Generation earned nearly $1.2 million last year, making him the highest-paid public-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more. Jeff Lyash tops the so-called ...

Sunshine List grows by 6.9 per cent; 123,410 public servants in Ontario made at least $100,000 last year

Toronto Star - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Robert Benzie, Rob Ferguson and Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star With Files from David Rider
Page: A2

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Page: A5

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Byline: Andre Marin
Page: A20

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Sunshine List should be indexed to inflation: Editorial

thestar.com - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Star Editorial Board

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Milton Canadian Champion - Fri Mar 31 2017
Byline: Julie Slack

Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown says the number one thing he hears about across the province is hydro. Despite the Liberal government's move to lower rates, announced earlier this year, Brown told guests at the Halton Hills and Milton ...

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Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Sean Chase
Page: A1 / Front

Area residents and businesses will benefit from a 25 per cent break in their electricity bill, according to the parliamentary assistant to the minister of energy who was in Pembroke Friday to sell Premier Kathleen Wynne's controversial ...

OPG answers concerns about nuclear waste

The Timmins Daily Press - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Lise Morton, ,
Page: A4

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) welcomes public comment on its proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project for storing low-and intermediate-level nuclear waste. But it hopes to see critiques based on ...

Apparently it's not the hydro, it's the humidity

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Anne Jarvis
Page: A10

Greenhouse vegetable growers in Essex County are bolting to Ohio because of "high levels of humidity" here, MPP Bob Delaney, parliamentary assistant to Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, stated during a visit. Let's ask people who know what they're ...

Hydro One Files Five Year Distribution Rate Application with the Ontario Energy Board

PR Newswire US - Fri Mar 31 2017, 8:42pm ET
Byline: Hydro One Limited

TORONTO, March 31, 2017 /PRNewswire/ - Hydro One Limited (TSX: H) and Hydro One Inc. ("Hydro One") announced today that Hydro One Inc.'s wholly-owned subsidiary, Hydro One Networks Inc., has ...

Clean energy is here, and it won't be stopped

The Globe and Mail - Thu Mar 30 2017
Byline:DAN WOYNILLOWICZ, MERRAN SMITH
Page: B4

Tipping points: those elusive moments when a technology goes mainstream. Much has been written in the debate over whether that moment for renewable energy has passed, is fast approaching, or is still a ways away. The true ...

Industry News

Full Articles

List of public workers making over $100K in Ontario grows; top earner made $1.2M; List of public workers making over $100K in Ontario grows

Canadian Press - Fri Mar 31 2017
Byline: Allison Jones and Jessica Smith Cross

TORONTO - The CEO of Ontario Power Generation earned nearly $1.2 million last year, making him the highest-paid public-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more.

Jeff Lyash tops the so-called sunshine list with $1,155,900 in pay and $9,800 in taxable benefits, but next year he could be making even more.

OPG wrote a letter this week to the Ontario government saying its CEO would be paid a maximum of $1.9 million, but it is not changing a $3.8-million compensation cap the premier had asked to be revised.

The board "took great care" in calculating the $3.8-million regulatory cap, board chair Bernard Lord wrote, but it has voluntarily set the maximum compensation much lower, with the target at $1.5 million.

As a wage freeze lifts, all broader public-sector agencies have until September to post their proposals for new executive compensation packages under a framework that caps salaries at the 50th percentile of "appropriate comparators." That means next year's sunshine list totals could be much higher.

This year there are 123,410 workers on the list, up from 115,431 last year, earning salaries and benefits that total nearly $16 billion.

The $100,000 threshold has not changed since it was introduced by then-premier Mike Harris in 1996. While the premier has suggested she won't be increasing it because that is still a lot of money, the government notes that if that were adjusted for inflation it would be almost $150,000 and 84 per cent fewer employees would be on the list.

The second highest earner - and the only other person on the list who made more than $1 million - is William Moriarty, the president and CEO of the University of Toronto Asset Management Corporation, at about $1,046,000.

The rest of the top 10 is rounded out with the executive vice-president and chief investment officer of the Ontario Pension Board, OPG's chief nuclear officer, and hospital presidents.

There were 59 people who cracked the half-a-million-dollar mark, including a radiologist at the Woodstock Hospital who made about $615,000. It also includes former OPG CEO Tom Mitchell, who left the company in 2015 but got a payout of $563,000 last year on top of the $1.59 million he received in 2015.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was paid about $209,000 - which is not the highest of legislative employees. The director of broadcast and recording services, the clerk and the sergeant-at-arms, all of whom retired last year, earned more. Wynne's own chief of staff, Andrew Bevan, made about $313,000.

Pat Sorbara, who is on a leave of absence as Wynne's deputy chief of staff, made $156,000. She was charged late last year with two counts of bribery under the Election Act, charges that were laid after she had already started the unpaid leave effective Oct. 3.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown made $181,000 and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath made $158,000.

The PCs note that the former president of the Union Pearson Express made $231,000 despite resigning last March.

"As everyday Ontarians are working harder than ever before but continuing to fall further behind, the Wynne Liberals are handing out massive raises to public-sector executives," critic Todd Smith said.

The employer with the most workers on the list is OPG with 7,730 employees, including nuclear operators, senior technical engineers and electrical &control technicians. A janitor at OPG made $105,562 last year in salary and benefits.

The most common job is professor, with 5,790 on the list, followed by 3,725 associate professors. There are more than 15,000 police officers of different ranks on the list as well.

Meanwhile, the $4.5 million in pay received by Hydro One's CEO is not on the sunshine list, even though the province owns 70 per cent of the company. The government intends to sell up to 60 per cent of Hydro One.

As soon as the initial shares were sold, Hydro One was no longer subject to the public-sector salary disclosure. Financial filings only require it to disclose the salaries of its CEO, CFO and next three highest-paid executives.

NDP critic Peter Tabuns said that's not good enough.

"Ontario families struggling to keep up with rapidly skyrocketing hydro bills don't know just how many well-positioned people are taking home untold billions from Hydro One," he said.

Back to Top

Sunshine List grows by 6.9 per cent; 123,410 public servants in Ontario made at least $100,000 last year

Toronto Star - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Robert Benzie, Rob Ferguson and Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star With Files from David Rider
Page: A2

A record 123,410 Ontario public servants - from cops to politicians, teachers and bureaucrats - earned $100,000 or more last year, making the annual Sunshine List 6.9 per cent bigger.

That's according to the annual disclosure of civil service salaries released Friday at Queen's Park.

Some top the benchmark with overtime, such as a Toronto parking enforcement officer Lallman Lall, who more than doubled his base pay to $144,849 by handing out tickets.

Remember the sauna-like conditions on sweltering subway cars last summer?

There were just four "vehicle heating, ventilation, air conditioning repair persons" at the TTC. The busiest, Thomas France, made $156,459 thanks to overtime on the maximum base pay of $76,377 in that job.

It also paid to be a radiologist at the new Woodstock General Hospital, serving the small southwestern Ontario city, where Dr. Robert Vinson made $615,029.

But topping the list was Ontario Power Generation president and CEO Jeff Lyash, who earned $1.16 million for keeping the lights on in the province.

His predecessor, Tom Mitchell, who ranked highest in the salary sweepstakes last year with a $1,528,933 pay packet after retiring in August 2015, got another $562,957 in 2016 from pro-rated bonus pay that he had deferred.

The list was first issued under then-premier Mike Harris, a Progressive Conservative, two decades ago to shine light on public sector salaries and remains an annual fixture.

"It is important for our government to be a leader in openness, accountability and transparency," said Treasury Board president Liz Sandals, who earned $165,851, the standard cabinet minister's salary.

Premier Kathleen Wynne made $208,974, Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown $180,886 and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath $158,158.

All MPPs - who, unlike most government employees, do not have a pension plan - have had their salaries frozen since 2008.

Wynne said there are no plans to raise the threshold of $100,000, which has not changed since 1996.

With inflation, $100,000 then is the equivalent of $149,424 now and $100,000 today would have been $67,925 when the list began.

"One hundred thousand dollars is still a lot of money and so we're going to keep it at that level," Wynne said earlier this week.

If the threshold had been adjusted for inflation, the number of employees on it would have dropped by 84 per cent.

Growth in the list of almost 7 per cent should set off alarm bells, said Christine Ven Geyn, Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

"Pay and benefits for government employees is the largest chunk of the government's budget, and they can't keep expanding that line item at this pace."

With Files from David Rider

Back to Top

$100G Club Has Grown By 727% Under Liberals

Toronto Sun - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Antonella Artuso
Page: A5

The number of Ontario public servants making $100,000 a year or more has grown by 727% since the Liberals took power in 2003.

It's now routine to see teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses, paramedics, school "caretaking team leaders" and the like in the six-figure-salary club.

"We know that a $100,000 salary is a lot of money and that the people of Ontario have a right to know how their dollars are being spent. At the same time, we know our public servants provide highquality public services and we value their hard work," Treasury Board President Liz Sandals said in a statement Friday on the release of the annual Sunshine List. "The $100,000 threshold has not changed since the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act was enacted in 1996 and has not been adjusted to keep up with inflation."

"If the salary threshold were adjusted for inflation, it would be $149,424 in today's dollars - reducing the number of employees included in the compendium by 84%," Sandals said.

The 2016 tally for Ontario public-sector salaries and benefits is almost $16 billion.

In 2003, when the Liberal government assumed power, there were 14,926 people who made the annual Sunshine List.

By 2016 that number had grown to 123,410.

These comp arisons included Ontario Power Generation (OPG) employees, but not Hydro One workers.

For several years during that 13-year period, public-sector workers and their bosses were under an official pay freeze as the government battled growing debt.

At the same time, inflation averaged 1.71% annually, so that you'd have needed $124,635 in 2016 dollars to buy what a $100,000 salary did in '03.

"The Sunshine List has continued to grow, despite it no longer including hundreds of employees at the now private Hydro One. The top earner on the list was Ontario Power Generation CEO Jeff Lyash, who made $1.16 million," Canadian Taxpayers Federation Ontario director Christine Van Geyn said in a statement. "When many Ontarians struggle to keep their lights on, it really rubs people the wrong way to see the head of OPG earning over seven figures, let alone the other 7,729 OPG employees on the list."

As hospitals laboured under flatlined budgets, some of the top execs brought home a healthy paycheque.

Catherine Zahn, president/CEO of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), for instance, took home $672,731, while University Health Network (UHN) president/CEO Peter Pisters was paid $753,992.

The take-home of Toronto District School Board teachers was creeping up on and, in some cases, passing those of principals.

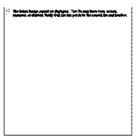
TDSB spokesman Ryan Bird said there were a number of reasons why the salary of some teachers topped $100,000, including working at summer or night school, or holding a position like program co-ordinator.

Meanwhile, the Fraser Institute's most recent comparison of private-and public-sector compensation found those working for the government enjoyed a 13.4% wage premium on average. aartuso@postmedia.com

WHO'S THE BOSS?

At some political offices, staff make more than their bosses: n Premier Kathleen Wynne $208,974 n Chief of Staff Andrew Bevan $312,542.05 n Toronto Mayor John Tory $184,666.04 n Chief of Staff Chris Eby $195,073.22 n Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey $110,968.33 n Chief of Staff Hasneet Singh Punia $142,110.85

Back to Top



Wynne's hydro chaos; How will she get us out of this mess?

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 2 2017
Byline: Andre Marin
Page: A20

Natural resources'development locked-in for 25-30 years by secret contracts protected by prohibitive penalties - just in case government was tempted to break them, and terms that are financially lopsided in favour of developers.

Well-versed and knowledgeable foreign resource experts appearing to run circles around lessinformed government bureaucrats.

Lofty promises of local jobs and other economic stimuli from natural resource projects that don't appear to materialize.

Sounds a lot like green energy in Ontario, doesn't it? It's actually what has been characteristic of the rich mining industry in African countries, many of which have been struggling seemingly forever to break the cycle.

The irony is that just over 5 years ago, Ontario's energy system, warts and all, didn't face this implacable situation.

But now thanks to former premier Dalton McGuinty, current Premier Kathleen Wynne and their cabal of successive incompetent Energy ministers, Ontario has been jettisoned into the worst possible hydro scenario, similar to what has plagued Africa's management of natural resources for many decades.

It's as if McGuinty and Wynne looked very hard for the worst possible model to exploit green energy, found it and foisted it on us.

It's difficult to imagine a public policy implementation that has been botched more by any government, anywhere in the western world than the hydro sector in Ontario under McGuinty and Wynne.

The government has allowed itself to be checkmated by its own ineptitude, combined with greedy multinationals more than willing to move in, and in the process throwing large numbers of Ontarians into energy poverty.

Ontario rushed in to sign long-term hydro contracts with the likes of South Korea's Samsung that we can't get out of without paying huge penalties for their lost profit.

With Wynne's freefall in public approval now at 12%, the pressure has been on Wynne to find a way out of the mess she got us into.

The best she can do is re-amortize our debt over a long period and pass it onto the next generation, no doubt an admission from her that there's no solution beyond waiting out 25-30 years while these exploitive contracts run their course while filling the pockets of foreigners, courtesy of Ontario's taxpayers.

And, of course, the promised new job boom from green energy never materialized either.

The Liberals, aided and abetted by some in the liberal press, keep pressing opposition parties about "their solution" to the hydro disarray.

So far, Patrick Brown and the Progressive Conservatives have kept their cards close to the chest.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath last week proposed her dubious plan for a 30% cut in hydro.

While well-intentioned, it's more "pie-in-the-sky" thinking than a tangible way forward, and the Liberals immediately pounced on the proposal.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault called the NDP motion "both short on details and long on hollow promises."

The nerve. It's not clear when the PCs will unveil their plan.

They should avoid taking the Liberals'bait and to change the channel from the real issue.

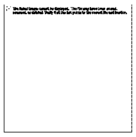
The Liberals got us into hydro chaos and desperately want to cling to power.

The real issue is how they'll get us out of this mess, beyond creating more debt spread over a longer term.

Maybe Wynne should start paying attention to what's now unfolding in Africa.

Countries here are sick of being taken for a ride and are working hard to break from the shackles of mining exploitation that greatly profit very few and leave the rest of the population

Back to Top



OPG says CEO will be paid up to $1.9M

Mykawartha.com - Fri Mar 31 2017

TORONTO — Ontario Power Generation says its CEO will be paid a maximum of $1.9 million, but the Crown corporation is not changing the proposed $3.8-million compensation cap the premier had asked to be revised.

In a letter to the government, OPG says its board "took great care" in arriving at the $3.8-million cap, but has voluntarily set the maximum compensation for the CEO at $1,937,500 — with the target at $1.5 million.

That comes as Ontario's so-called sunshine list of public-sector employees earning over $100,000 a year is set to be released today, with the head of OPG likely to top the list.

The letter from OPG board chair Bernard Lord says focusing on the regulated $3.8-million cap may lead to confusion and misunderstanding of the role of the caps and suggests less attention be paid to such numbers.

Instead, Lord writes that the focus should be on OPG's executive compensation program, which puts much more weight on performance bonuses than base salary, and will see executives earn far less than the regulatory caps.

All broader public-sector agencies have until September to post their proposals for new executive compensation packages under a framework that caps salaries at the 50th percentile of "appropriate comparators."

The Liberal government sent colleges back to the drawing board after concerns were raised about the comparators that they were using for proposals that would boost presidents' salaries by up to 50 per cent. Then after public outcry over the OPG salaries and a proposed raise of up to $118,000 for the head of transit agency Metrolinx, told all broader public sector organizations it expected increases to be "modest."

The current salary of the power agency's CEO is $1.5 million.

The power agency, which operates two nuclear sites and is responsible for more than $40 billion in assets, was granted permission by the government to use private-sector comparators because of its unique size and scope.

Meanwhile, the $4.5 million in pay received by Hydro One's CEO will not be on the sunshine list, even though the province owns 70 per cent of it. The government intends to sell up to 60 per cent.

As soon as the initial shares were sold, Hydro One instead became a private company and only has to disclose the salaries of its CEO, CFO and next three highest-paid executives.

New filings show that CEO Mayo Schmidt was paid $4.5 million in 2016 — an $850,000 salary plus bonuses — and those top five executives were paid a total of about $11.7 million.

The previous sunshine list showed 115,431 people were earning more than $100,000 — an increase of nearly 4,000 people despite the fact 3,774 Hydro One workers were not on the list for the first time.

By Allison Jones, The Canadian Press

Back to Top

Sunshine List should be indexed to inflation: Editorial

thestar.com - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Star Editorial Board

Pity Claudio Abballe. The city of Toronto "firefighter mechanical" made Ontario's annual Sunshine List (www.ontario.ca) of employees who make $100,000 or more each year by a mere $94.76.

If he'd earned $100 less he never would have made the list, along with other provincial public sector workers this year that includes nurses, police constables, teachers, college professors, legal aid duty counsels and bus operators. In other words: not what's normally thought of as "fat cats."

The point? The list, originally launched in 1996 to spotlight public workers earning six figures and up, needs to be indexed to inflation if it is to truly act as a check on public sector wages.

Consider that in 1996 only 4,576 names appeared on the list. This year it captured 123,572 names (www.thestar.com) , up from 115,431 last year.

But that doesn't mean public sector salaries are ballooning out of control.

The net is now actually capturing those who are earning the equivalent of $67,925 in 1996 dollars. Was the list really introduced to put a spotlight on pay packages at that level?

Indeed, the $100,000 paid back in 1996 is the equivalent of $149,424 now - almost $50,000 more, which your average nurse is definitely not making.

And all of those on the list may not even be making $100,000 in regular salaries. They are often captured in the net because of overtime or even because they are retiring and are being reimbursed for unused vacation credits.

More important for government transparency and accountability are the names at the top of the list, whose salaries Ontarians may well want to question.

The highest-paid person, for example, was Ontario Power Generation president and

CEO Jeff Lyash, who made $1.16 million in 2016. Another member of the million-dollar club was retired University of Toronto president and CEO William Moriarty, who was paid $1.05 million.

Even then, the list doesn't tell us what we really need to know. Are these people overpaid or do their pay packages truly reflect what is required to find someone with the skills to do those jobs?

And why should anyone making just over $100,000 appear on the same list as them?

It's not that $100,000 isn't a good salary. According to the 2011 census, the average salary for Ontarians who worked full-time was $61,495, though that surely will increase when 2016 figures are released in September.

And Premier Kathleen Wynne ($208,974 last year) is right when she says that "$100,000 is still a lot of money."

Still, it's not the $150,000 it would be if the Sunshine List had been indexed to inflation. It's time that was done so it will have the meaning it did when it was launched in 1996. The goal should be to have a deterrent on out-of-control salary increases, not put innocent workers in the glare of an annual publicity stunt.

Back to Top

Patrick Brown says hydro is number one issue for Ontarians everywhere he goes

Milton Canadian Champion - Fri Mar 31 2017
Byline: Julie Slack

Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown says the number one thing he hears about across the province is hydro.

Despite the Liberal government's move to lower rates, announced earlier this year, Brown told guests at the Halton Hills and Milton Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Thursday that the province still needs to address the structural problems that plague hydro.

"This is temporary relief," he said. "Our job creators are struggling to succeed here."

Brown told a packed house at Granite Ridge Golf Club that 600,000 Ontario families were unable to pay their hydro bills last year.

The MPP for Simcoe North spoke about Stanpac, a business with locations in Smithville and Texas. They plan to add a new plant and they told him they would not be building it in Ontario.

That's because they pay $650,000 more in hydro rates here than they do at a similarly-sized plant in the U.S., he claims.

He calls the Green Energy Act the bad contracts act.

"These are 20-year contracts," he added.

The former Barrie MP said Ontarians are paying the price for "extremely overpriced wind and solar power that we have to give away.

"We charge more to subsidize your competitors," he added.

He said that in 2015, Ontario "spilled" three billion KW hours of energy.

"There's 30 mega contracts to companies that donate millions to the Liberal party," he contends.

"What I had hoped when Kathleen Wynne made her (hydro) announcement was for a solution."

Brown, 38, further slammed the province on failed infrastructure projects.

He talked about gridlock, stating that it makes us less competitive. "It's horrible in the GTA," he said. "They need to be competitive on product to marketplace.

"I worry that what we're seeing in Ontario is an insincere commitment to infrastructure. It's easy to hold press conferences at Queen's Park and say they're going to invest in infrastructure. I want to see shovels in the ground.

"Remember when they had the Hydro One fire sale - they were going to sell Hydro One because they were going to put the money into infrastructure? Of the first $4.5 billion in shares that were sold, not a single penny went to infrastructure," he said.

"All of these signature infrastructure projects that were promised at election time are being delayed."

He claims the government made a commitment that they were "going to spend $160 billion on infrastructure, over 12 years, and we're not seeing it."

Here in Milton, two-way GO service isn't expected until after 2040, he said.

"Now Gord will still be the mayor, but Gord shouldn't have to wait that long," he said, bringing everyone in the crowd to laughter. "We could have flying cars by then before the Liberals even deliver for infrastructure in Milton."

He touched on the province's debt, which he said will "balloon to $350 billion by 2020."

The interest on debt alone is "more than we spend on health care," he said.

Brown also spoke passionately about the skills gap in the province and questioned why we graduated 9,000 teachers last year for 5,000 jobs.

"There's good jobs in computer coding right now," he said.

"If we don't adapt to the jobs that exist, we're selling (students) short."

Schools are closing, he said, adding that key programs such as shop classes are disappearing at a time when skilled trades are in demand of people.

He wants to see the Liberal government funding advertising which promotes skilled trades - not partisan ads promoting hydro.

Brown fielded some questions from the audience as well during the hour-long presentation.

One questioner asked whether he could potentially lose the next election, as his predecessor did, by only speaking about bad news or reality.

"I think you can speak the truth, you can tell people about some of the real challenges Ontario is facing," Brown said. "I think the public is prepared for that."

He believes public opinion is that people realize recently that the bill of goods they were promised in the last election is not happening.

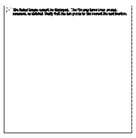
"They've seen job losses, credit downgrades, government having to sell assets, 1,400 nurses cut, schools on the chopping block," he cited. "Because they're seeing the Liberal plan not work out, there's more of an openness to change."

Brown said that he believes "sharing the truths" will make him successful.

He also promised a local nomination meeting for a PC candidate in the Milton riding.

Milton councillor Mike Cluett, who was in attendance at the luncheon along with several of his council colleagues, is seeking the nomination.

Back to Top



Power pricing plan; Parliamentary assistant to minister of energy drops by Pembroke to sell controversial 25% electricity bill break

Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Sean Chase
Page: A1 / Front

Area residents and businesses will benefit from a 25 per cent break in their electricity bill, according to the parliamentary assistant to the minister of energy who was in Pembroke Friday to sell Premier Kathleen Wynne's controversial plan.

Mississauga-Streetsville MPP Bob Delaney told members of the business community and local electricity providers, such as the Ottawa River Power Corporation, that people with low income and rural consumers would receive an even greater reduction to their electricity bill under Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

Residential consumers will get an average of a 25 per cent cut on their energy bills - when factoring in the eight per cent reduction implemented on Jan. 1 of this year - by refinancing over a longer period a portion of the global adjustment charge. Delaney noted this places the social costs back on the tax rate noting work on this plan began as far back as the fall.

"The 25 per cent didn't fall out of mid-air," he said.

Critics have accused the Wynne government of transferring hydro debt to future generations. The provincial Conservatives have argued that the plan will cost taxpayers billions in added interest costs over the next few decades. However, Delaney responded that electricity rates have risen due to decades of under-investment in the electricity system requiring the need to spend more than $50 billion in generation, transmission and distribution assets to ensure the system is clean and reliable. He explained that warnings when the province's power producing plants went online in the mid-1970s were not heeded.

"The people in the energy sector were saying don't walk away from this," he said. "You have to maintain it or over time they will decay and degrade and you will face a much bigger repair bill."

In this period of renewal as he called it, Delaney noted that in changing the refinancing of capital investments or amortization, the spreading of payments over multiple periods, the cost to pay for gas plants and hydro will be incurred not only by this generation at a fair rate but for those down the road who will use the same infrastructure over its lifespan, which in some cases could be 50 years.

"It's a responsible way of dealing with costs that have been incurred for assets that have been used for half a century," he said.

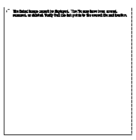
The province has been taking steps to retire the $38.1 debt incurred when Ontario Hydro was divided into several companies back in 1999. Delaney said that, to date, $21.5 billion of stranded debt has been paid off.

Locally, the plan will help consumers once it passes through the legislature and goes into effect this summer, he added.

"In this case we were able to generate a number of scenarios that helped us in areas like Renfrew County mitigate some of those distribution charges which I am hoping people will see," said Delaney.

During his Pembroke stop, Delaney, who is the parliamentary assistant to energy minister Glenn Thibeault, also met with the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce and was scheduled to speak with Renfrew County Warden Jennifer Murphy. SChase@postmedia.com

Back to Top



OPG answers concerns about nuclear waste

The Timmins Daily Press - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Lise Morton, ,
Page: A4

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) welcomes public comment on its proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) project for storing low-and intermediate-level nuclear waste. But it hopes to see critiques based on science, not political science.

International experts agree that a DGR is the best way to dispose of nuclear waste, the science case for the preferred site is robust and an exhaustive review by an independent Federal Joint Review Panel concluded it should be built.

While potential construction is still in the future, every step of the process is subject to the highest standard of study and rigour. The decision of the Joint Review Panel shows many of the questions she poses have been answered.

OPG has been safely transporting low-and intermediate-level waste on Ontario's public roads for 40 years - over 3 million kilometres travelled without an accident or threat. The shipments are highly regulated, monitored and safe. Low-level waste consists of items such as garments destined for incineration, and intermediate level waste is mostly resins and filters used to treat heavy water. Such waste has zero value as a terror target.

Simpson states that OPG's studies fail to take into account issues about land ownership and aboriginal sovereignty. However, the Bruce site is in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, to whom OPG has committed it will not build the DGR without their support.

Engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities, including Métis groups, is respectful and ongoing.

Simpson sees "no mention of the possibility that earthquakes, fires, tornadoes or human error could limit access to the underground chambers." The science case for the DGR was made in lengthy public hearings in 2013-14 and did indeed look at extreme scenarios of accidents and weather. It found no likely or even improbable set of circumstances that would result in a radiation release to the public - due partly to the great depth of the repository, ideal geology, and low seismic activity across vast spans of time.

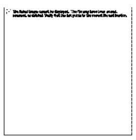
Similarly, Simpson's concern about the next expected period of glaciers is an argument for the DGR, not against it. The DGR rock at a depth of 680 metres has survived intact through nine glaciers in the last million years alone. Surface storage would not be immune to the next round of glaciers in 20,000 to 60,000 years - one more reason to bury the waste in a deep geologic vault.

She worries that no containers have been invented that will last hundreds of thousands of years. As the scientists who studied the DGR site and geology have shown, to the satisfaction of a federal joint review panel led by eminent experts, the rock - among the tightest in the world - is itself the impermeable container for the waste in the very long term. A molecule of water takes tens of thousands of years to move just one metre in this rock.

OPG is confident in the science behind the DGR and takes its responsibilities for protecting the environment seriously. The DGR is the responsible permanent solution for the waste for future generations.

Lise Morton, Vice-President, OPG Nuclear Waste Management

Back to Top



Apparently it's not the hydro, it's the humidity

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 1 2017
Byline: Anne Jarvis
Page: A10

Greenhouse vegetable growers in Essex County are bolting to Ohio because of "high levels of humidity" here, MPP Bob Delaney, parliamentary assistant to Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, stated during a visit.

Let's ask people who know what they're talking about.

Mucci Farms has 180 acres of greenhouses in Kingsville that produce tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. It initially planned to expand there. Now the family-owned and operated company, started in 1963, is expanding in Ohio.

Mucci would like to stay in Ontario.

"That's where our home base is," project manager George Dekker told the Windsor Star's Doug Schmidt. "But we are reaching a breaking point." It's that humid here? Of course not. "Hydro is the No. 1 reason," Dekker said.

Ontario has the largest concentration of greenhouses in North America, with almost 2,880 acres under glass. Most of that is in Essex County. Is anyone here concerned about humidity? "I've never heard of that being an issue," Dekker said. Leamington Mayor John Paterson, whose town is at the epicentre of the industry, has been working with greenhouse growers since he was elected a councillor in 2006.

"In all of the discussions I've had with greenhouse owners, humidity has never, ever been mentioned," he said.

Here's Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips.

"I couldn't make an argument why Windsor and Essex County would be more humid than Ohio," he said. "The farther south you go, the more humid it's going to be. It certainly would be more humid (in Ohio) than Windsor."

Said Phillips: "Somebody's trying to justify something." So what about crippling hydro bills? Oh, yeah, that's a factor, Delaney admitted.

Oh, yeah, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk found Ontarians paid $37 billion more than market price for electricity over eight years and will pay another $133 billion by 2032.

Oh, yeah, the chamber of commerce calls hydro costs the No. 1 issue facing business and has asked the government to curb skyrocketing prices, warning some businesses could close.

Oh, yeah, the government's own polls show hydro is a top concern, according to The Canadian Press.

Agriculture Minister Jeff Leal announced the $19-million Greenhouse Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative last week. That's nice, Dekker said.

"But ultimately, it's still the discrepancy in the price of hydro. Cap and trade is another component. Those are the two critical components," he said.

Delaney was here to herald the Fair Hydro Plan providing residents and small businesses with a break on their bills. It's not clear if Mucci is eligible for this program or a different program.

More government programs - you can bet more paperwork - to fix a broken government program.

Greenhouse growers here fill a tractor-trailer every 10 minutes some months. They account for 65 per cent of the $1.3 billion in farm cash receipts from Canadian greenhouses. They employ about 10,000 people. They built 170 acres of greenhouses last year at $750,000 to $1 million per acre.

It's not only the greenhouses. It's fertilizer and labelling companies, trucking companies. Migrant workers spend $18 million a year in Leamington businesses. It is far-reaching. It is this region's second largest industry.

And it takes a great gob of gall to tell people paying the price for the government's botched policy that the problem in the region with the longest growing season in Canada is weather.

"I would take exception to that," Dekker said.

Delaney said he learned a lot about the potential of agriculture here. The government hadn't been hearing that, he said in another bit of nonsense.

"I don't know how much more yelling and screaming we need to do," Paterson said. "We're always showing (the government) the numbers and promoting the industry because we need them when it comes to infrastructure - hydro, gas, roads."

Don't blame the weather. Don't make unbecoming partisan jabs at local NDP MPPs. Own the problem, show some leadership and solve it, as Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Matt Marchand advised, before more greenhouses head to Ohio and plug into coal-fired power plants.
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Back to Top

Hydro One Files Five Year Distribution Rate Application with the Ontario Energy Board

PR Newswire US - Fri Mar 31 2017, 8:42pm ET
Byline: Hydro One Limited

TORONTO, March 31, 2017 /PRNewswire/ - Hydro One Limited (TSX: H) and Hydro One Inc. ("Hydro One") announced today that Hydro One Inc.'s wholly-owned subsidiary, Hydro One Networks Inc., has filed an application with its regulator, the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB"), seeking the OEB's approval of its Distribution Revenue Requirement for the period 2018 to 2022.

A copy of Hydro One's application is available at: (www.hydroone.com)

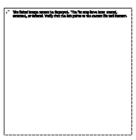
About Hydro One Limited:We are Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider with more than 1.3 million valued customers, $25 billion in assets and annual revenues of over $6.5 billion. Our team of 5,500 skilled and dedicated employees proudly and safely serves suburban, rural and remote communities across Ontario through our 30,000 circuit km high-voltage transmission and 123,000 circuit km primary distribution networks. Hydro One is committed to the communities we serve, and has been rated as the top utility in Canada for its corporate citizenship, sustainability, and diversity initiatives. We are one of only four utility companies in Canada to achieve the Sustainable Energy Company designation from the Canadian Electrical Association. We also provide advanced broadband telecommunications services on a wholesale basis utilizing our extensive fibre optic network. Hydro One Limited's common shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: H). For more information about everything Hydro One, please visit www.HydroOne.com.

Forward-Looking Statements and Information:

This press release and the application to which it refers may contain "forward-looking information" within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Such information includes, but is not limited to: expectations regarding developments in the statutory and operating framework for electricity distribution and transmission in Ontario including changes to codes, licenses, rates, rate orders, cost recovery, rates of return, rate structures and revenue requirements in both our transmission and distribution businesses and the timing of decisions from the OEB; expectations regarding our financing activities; statements regarding future capital expenditures and our investment plans; expectations regarding the timing of our projects; and statements regarding future pension contributions. Words such as "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "attempt," "may," "plan," "will", "can", "believe," "seek," "estimate," and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking information. These statements are not guarantees of future performance or actions and involve assumptions and risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed, implied or forecasted in such forward-looking information. Some of the factors that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from the results expressed, implied or forecasted by such forward-looking information, including some of the assumptions used in making such statements, are discussed more fully in Hydro One's filings with the securities regulatory authorities in Canada, which are available on SEDAR at www.sedar.com. Hydro One does not intend, and it disclaims any obligation, to update any forward-looking information, except as required by law.

SOURCE Hydro One Limited

Back to Top



Clean energy is here, and it won't be stopped

The Globe and Mail - Thu Mar 30 2017
Byline: DAN WOYNILLOWICZ, MERRAN SMITH
Page: B4

Tipping points: those elusive moments when a technology goes mainstream.

Much has been written in the debate over whether that moment for renewable energy has passed, is fast approaching, or is still a ways away.

The true tipping point will only become apparent in the rearview mirror, and it won't be defined by a single moment or breakthrough. It will be crossed at different times, in different countries, driven by different forces. But the clean-energy transition now appears irreversible, as we document in a new report at Clean Energy Canada.

In developed and developing countries alike, fossil fuels are falling out of favour as a source of electricity. They are being beat out by renewable power that is clean, increasingly cost-competitive and a fast-growing source of economic opportunity. Since 2011, annual investments in renewable electricity have exceeded those in fossil power - and total nearly $2.5-trillion over that time span.

The world's three largest electricity markets - China, the United States and India - have all aggressively pursued renewable power and were collectively responsible for half of global clean energy investment in 2016.

In both China and India, renewable energy offers a critical solution to the pollution choking fast-growing cities. Smog has become increasingly disruptive - socially, economically and politically - closing schools in Delhi, grounding airplanes in China and contributing to the premature deaths of millions of citizens.

In 2015, the amount of solar power installed in China set a world record. China smashed that record again in 2016, adding 30 gigawatts (GW) of new capacity - or roughly enough solar panels to cover three soccer fields every hour. In India, remarkably low-cost renewable auction bids drove new solar capacity (which more than doubled relative to 2015) to become the second-largest source of new power in the country. India also built the world's largest solar plant, covering 10 square kilometres and providing 648 megawatts (MW) of clean electricity capacity.

In the United States, the renewable energy sector has become a major job creator. Since 2009, the solar industry has created one out of every 80 new jobs, and the country's fastest-growing occupation is wind-turbine technician. While President Donald Trump promised on Tuesday to bring back coal jobs, he will no doubt find resistance - in both Congress and statehouses - should his efforts come at the expense of clean-energy jobs.

While total global clean-energy investment fell in 2016 from the record-breaking total in 2015, new renewable-electricity capacity rivalled the previous year. Sustained policy efforts by governments, coupled with the continued drop in clean-energy technology costs, have created the conditions for more clean electrons to be squeezed out of every dollar spent.

Global growth in renewable energy remains policy-driven, but increasingly that policy is harnessing the competitive forces of the market. This approach has further driven down costs and inspired technology innovation, new business models and market design. Competitive auctions for contracts to build new renewable-energy projects are leading to record-low prices that increasingly undercut their fossil-fuel competitors.

But the evolution of our electricity system is not without its challenges. They range from decentralizing supply, to integrating variable sources of power such as wind and solar, to building new transmission lines connecting power-rich regions with those in need of clean electrons. China serves as a good example: In some regions, wind farms and solar fields are being built faster than they can be integrated, leaving them stranded from the grid or forced to reduce output.

Investment in renewable power waned in Canada in 2016, as our electricity system is already dominated by power from fossil-free sources and electricity demand is relatively stable. But we know from experience how to harness and maximize the value of renewable electricity. We have a clean-energy technology sector that punches above its weight and companies hungry to sell their solutions beyond our borders. Helping other countries increase their use of renewable power may be where Canada finds its niche - and economic opportunity - in the global clean-energy transition.

As the U.S. government retreats from international climate diplomacy, clean-energy innovation and free trade, it leaves a gap that Canada is well positioned to fill. And it's clear that if we don't step up, somebody else will.

Dan Woynillowicz is the policy director and Merran Smith is the executive director at

Clean Energy Canada, a program at Simon Fraser University. The report The Transition Takes Hold: Tracking the Energy Revolution 2017 is available at cleanenergycanada.org.

Back to Top