

**From:** John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]  
**Sent:** 2017-05-02 6:14:30 AM  
**Subject:** Today's News - Tuesday, May 2, 2017



## Today's News

powered by:

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2017

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electric energy online - Mon May 1 2017

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www.sudbury.com - Mon May 1 2017

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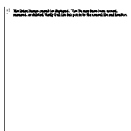


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### Explosions beneath grate on sidewalk shut down busy stretch of Toronto's financial district

News - National Post - Tue May 2 2017  
Byline: Jake Edmiston

TORONTO - A series of explosions beneath a sidewalk grate in Toronto's financial district on Monday sent thick smoke into the street, forcing evacuations and effectively shutting down one of the city's - and Canada's - busiest intersections in the ...



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## IESO Mentions

### Full Articles



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#### **Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance - Earnest energy efficiency programs will not engage millennials**

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Utilities and LDCs will have to learn how to woo millennials to get them to buy into energy efficiency which is why CEEA and IESO decided to investigate what millennials think about energy conservation. "It can be hard to get input in this sector," said Terry Young, VP at IESO. "We need some level of input and put structure around it as we build programs." The big reveal of the CEEA/IESO Engaging Millennials report came on April 19 at CEEA's Business Forum in Toronto. The alliance's Elizabeth McDonald agreed, saying the insights gathered will help Ontario with its Long Term Energy Plan, particularly since millennials can be hard to reach despite their constant use of smart phones.

Some of the key takeaways include that millennials have expectations that an EE program have clarity, that it make a difference and be grounded in verifiable fact - when you tell them something they will check to see if it's a true. Millennials are motivated by a desire for financial independence first, and then by environmental concerns. So energy efficiency is not rejected, it's just not a top priority (forgetfulness is a barrier for them).

In terms of current EE programs they are considered "okay", more of a something for everyone approach versus being niche-marketed to millennials. While the Save On Energy programs do appeal to millennials, earnestness does not work at all. Delivery must be mobile friendly - YouTube and Facebook are more relevant than a hard copy of The Globe and Mail.

This is a group that will translate their behaviour at home to behaviour at work. So there's potential there for energy efficiency programs to be even more effective if they target the home. But it must also resonate with them. Given forgetfulness is a challenge to take action apps will most likely be the way to open doors to millennials.

For a look at the statistics and more findings in Engaging Millennials go to Quick Facts. For the full study go to Reports.

The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance (CEEAA) is the country's leading independent advocate promoting the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. CEEAA works with the federal and provincial governments and stakeholders, to ensure energy efficiency is a priority for all sectors of the economy. By monitoring, examining and developing energy efficient public policy ideas, programs and standards, CEEAA is an effective resource for policy makers, businesses, consumers, energy companies and environmental groups.

CEEAA's members include large international corporations, Canadian utilities and a wide variety of energy efficiency associations including the Canadian Construction Association, ElectroFed, HRAI and the Mechanical Contractors of Canada. Representing almost 25,000 like-minded industry members, CEEAA is proud to advance a strong voice for energy efficiency.

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#### **Energy minister pressed on electricity rates in Thunder Bay**

[www.sudbury.com](http://www.sudbury.com) - Mon May 1 2017

THUNDER BAY – Going into a question and answer session with Northwestern Ontario municipal leaders, the province's energy minister knew he would be pressed on the "elephant in the room."

Sure enough, Glenn Thibeault was questioned by a number of Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association delegates on the state of electricity rates throughout the province at the organization's bear pit session on Friday, which closed their three-day conference.

Thibeault outlined a number of initiatives rolled out by the Wynne government, including the Fair Hydro Plan. That policy, announced in March, is projected to lower residential bills by an average of 25 per cent through a shifting of costs onto future ratepayers.

After the session, the energy minister was asked to address criticism the government has received that the restructuring won't be a true reduction.

"They're right. It is going to cost us more money over a longer period of time but at the end of the day, this is fair," Thibeault said.

"We're making sure that everyone who will utilize these generation assets and these transmission lines will actually pay their fair share. It's like your mortgage. If you

were to extend your mortgage, you actually lower your costs of the mortgage but pay it over a longer period of time which ends up costing you more."

The announcement of the Fair Hydro Plan, which will take effect on May 1, came after the eight per cent reduction of the provincial portion of the HST off bills wasn't enough to curb escalating costs.

There are a number of measures being introduced that will alleviate pressure on Hydro One customers, who are charged with some of the highest distribution costs in Ontario. An enhancement to the Rural Remote Rate Protection Plan will see \$60 per month taken off the bills of low density residential ratepayers.

Thibeault said historical underinvestment in the electricity system by all three Ontario political parties put the current Liberal government, which first took power in 2003, in a position where spending money on improvements was inevitable.

"We as a government, I think, have done a very poor job of talking about the investments we've made to make sure we have the grid we have when it comes to electricity," Thibeault told the delegates.

"If we go back to 2002 and 2003 as a province, the rolling brown outs and blackouts we were experiencing right across the province, we had to address that. We had to make a choice that we can fix that or we can continue to let that happen. We made the choice to fix it and that came at a cost of \$50 billion."

Shuniah mayor Wendy Landry, who was elected NOMA president on Thursday, said electricity prices are a significant issue in her community and throughout Northwestern Ontario.

"Across the region Hydro One rates and distribution rates are high. That is a concern for everybody who is trying to pay all their bills all the time," Landry said.

As well, Thibeault was pressed by Nipigon Coun. Jim Foulds about the utilization of the Thunder Bay and Atikokan generating stations, who argued increasing their production could reduce the need for costly new transmission lines.

Thibeault said the former coal plants that have been converted to biomass are "important assets" in the region, especially with an anticipated need for additional power generation in Northern Ontario through new mining projects and an increased emphasis on electricity to meet climate change targets.

But that power isn't consistently required right now, he said, noting the two plants ran for "24 hours straight" last summer to meet peak demand.

"These are stations that are going to be needed. We need to maintain these stations but at the same time make sure they're only utilized when we need the power, especially in this region," Thibeault said.

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**Police say explosions in downtown Toronto caused by hydro vault fire; Hydro vault fire causes Toronto blasts:police**

Canadian Press - Mon May 1 2017

TORONTO - A busy intersection in Toronto's financial district was shut down Monday evening after a series of explosions that police said were caused by a hydro vault fire.

The first explosion was heard shortly after 5 p.m. and heavy black smoke was seen billowing from a set of grates outside a Royal Bank office building near King Street and Yonge Street.

The incident, which took place during the evening rush hour, resulted in police herding crowds away from the scene.

"Did you hear those sounds? Those are explosions," an officer was heard yelling to bystanders. "We don't know what's happening. So if you please head east, head north, head south, just come off of King Street."

Police said no injuries had been reported.

Toronto Fire Chief Matthew Pegg said the incident was related to a hydro vault fire that had been contained and controlled. Crews were dealing with smoke migration, he said.

Toronto Hydro spokeswoman Florence Gabriel said the utility was aware of a power outage at the building outside where the blasts took place and crews were dispatched to the scene.

The incident shut down a nearby subway station and caused several streetcars to take detours. Police cruisers blocked off streets in the area and officers were seen wearing surgical masks as smoke hung in the air.

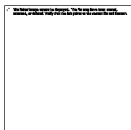
The Royal Bank office building and parts of an underground shopping concourse were evacuated due to heavy smoke, fire officials said.

Platoon Chief Kevin Shaw said the area will remain blocked off until the hydro vault is de-energized and the fire is fully extinguished.

"We don't know the cause, it could be dampness, water or an aging hydro vault, or all of the above," Shaw told reporters at a news conference at the scene Monday evening. "It all leads up to one of these fires."

He said he has seen worse hydro vault fires downtown, but added that crews had to take precautions because it happened at the beginning of rush hour.

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"You've got concrete, copper wire and steel - there's nothing else to burn."

With files from Canadian Press

#smoke ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com)) and more smoke at Bay and King #toronto ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com))  
[pic.twitter.com/QEErY9cgTc](https://pic.twitter.com/QEErY9cgTc) ([t.co](https://t.co))

- Katarina Lukich (@k\_lukich) May 1, 2017 ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com))

More from the scene at King and Bay. [pic.twitter.com/CXqX9o8evH](https://pic.twitter.com/CXqX9o8evH) ([t.co](https://t.co))

- Nick Boisvert (@nickjboisvert) May 1, 2017 ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com))

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## Ontario lowers projections for cap-and-trade revenues; Ontario projecting less cap-and-trade money

Canadian Press - Mon May 1 2017  
Byline: Allison Jones

TORONTO - Ontario is lowering its projections for how much money its cap-and-trade program will bring in this year and next to allow for market fluctuations.

The Liberal government estimated in last year's budget that the program would bring in \$1.9 billion per year, but this year's budget projected \$1.8 billion for this fiscal year, and \$1.4 billion annually starting in 2018-19.

The system aimed at lowering greenhouse gas emissions puts caps on the amount of pollution companies in certain industries can emit and if they exceed those limits, they must buy allowances at auction or from other companies that come in under their limits.

Environment Minister Glen Murray said the \$1.9 billion represented the revenue from the program if every auction was sold out, but the government is now budgeting for an 80-per-cent average of allowances sold at the auctions.

"It's a bit of a fool's game, but you have to put a number in the budget," Murray said Monday.

"In four or five years we'll have a better idea of what the norms are and what factors drive it... Right now they are, I think, relatively prudent projections, but I wouldn't bank anything on it."

The government has also learned that sales of allowances meant for future years must be counted in those years, Murray said. In Ontario's first cap-and-trade auction in March, three per cent of the 26 million allowances sold were for the year 2020, so those proceeds can't be counted in 2017-18.

The province's budget watchdog previously raised questions about the \$1.9 billion figure, saying it's too difficult to forecast those revenues with any precision. The Financial Accountability Office warned that cap-and-trade money could be used to boost the province's overall budget, if it went to previously planned programs. If

there is new revenue but no new expenses, it would reduce a deficit or increase a surplus, the office said.

Ontario's four-year climate change action plan is funded by cap-and-trade revenues and has planned for a range of between \$5.9 billion and \$8.3 billion. The money is set to go to green initiatives such as social housing retrofits, an electric vehicle incentive program and public transit.

Lower revenue wouldn't mean any of those programs would be cancelled, it would just mean a bit less money for each, Murray said.

For example, the plan budgets for between \$150 million and \$225 million on cycling networks, between \$380 million and \$500 million to retrofit social housing, and between \$400 million and \$800 million to improve energy efficiency in schools and hospitals.

Both opposition parties say there isn't enough transparency around how the money will be spent.

"If they're not bringing in the revenue, they're not going to be able to on the other side utilize it for the programs, but what we're worried about is we don't even see a path for them to disclose and be firm about where that money's going," NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said.

Murray insisted the cap-and-trade program has "the most transparent money in government."

The province's first quarterly auction in March sold out and brought in \$472 million. Murray has warned, however, that the market can expect some volatility, meaning not every auction will be fully subscribed.

Ontario plans to link its cap-and-trade system with a joint Quebec-California market next year. The most recent Quebec-California joint cap-and-trade auction saw just 18 per cent of allowances sold, with previous results of 88 per cent, 35 per cent and 11 per cent. Since 2014, the linked market has sold 74 per cent of its credits at auction.

Most large emitters in Ontario are receiving allowances for free until 2020, which the government says is meant to prevent them from moving to jurisdictions without carbon pricing.

The government is looking at a regulatory change that would lead to a "small" increase in the number of free allowances that get distributed.

Since Jan. 1, cap and trade has added 4.3 cents per litre to the price of gasoline and about \$80 a year to natural gas home heating costs, in addition to indirect costs that will be passed onto consumers.

The next auction is on June 6.

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## **Designs On The Sun; Builder sets out to create home that's beautiful and energy efficient**

Windsor Star - Tue May 2 2017

Byline: Julie Kotsis

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Custom homebuilder Gord Meuser's latest project is no ordinary house. But what really sets it apart is what it lacks.

The three-level, 5,000-squarefoot build has no furnace, no wood studs in the exterior walls, not a single pot light and no hydro payments.

Two years ago, Meuser, 62, set out to prove to himself that he could design and build a large home that was energy self-sufficient but also beautiful to look at.

"What I was trying to portray with this house is getting away from the idea that solar homes are sort of ugly and things are sort of afterthoughts," said Meuser, who has been in the building business for 36 years. "So it was important to me that the solar be an integral part of the design but not overwhelming in its initial look."

What he created is a traditionalstyle home - with a wraparound porch and open-concept living areas - that functions with cuttingedge technology.

That technology includes a thermal solar system that provides radiant in-floor heating for the entire house, an air handler to circulate and filter air and a heat recovery ventilator that pre-heats fresh air using warm air as it's exhausted.

"When you're trying to build a home to be airtight, suddenly it becomes unhealthy if you don't have a chance to exchange air," he said.

Energy is produced by rooftop solar panels discreetly tucked behind the roof line, visible only from the side of the house located in Kingsville's Timbercreek Estates subdivision. It collect 10 kilowatts of solar energy on the south side of the home.

Meuser said heat from the thermo solar collectors is circulated through an 80-gallon water tank that has a heat exchanger inside of it. That heat exchanger warms up water that feeds the hot water tank. Excess energy is stored in the home's three 80-gallon water storage tanks.

Thick, specially coated, highperformance glass reflects heat while ceiling-mounted LED lights brighten the space.

Exterior walls are constructed with six inches of solid foam sandwiched between oriented strandboard sheeting - an engineered lumber similar to particle board.

Meuser justified the home's large size by designing it so that three generations could comfortably live together. The first floor is outfitted with a separate suite that boasts a kitchenette, a bathroom with a barrier-free shower, walk-in closet, access to the porch and its own heating and cooling unit.

The main-floor master bedroom, with its full wall of glass, is accessed through an atrium, which opens to the lower level and floods it with natural light. The atrium's built-in planter is begging to be filled with pots of herbs and flowers.

Meuser envisions the lower level's large common area and two bedrooms being used by the youngest members of the family, while the top storey's bonus room could be used as a guest bedroom or a playroom for visiting grandchildren.

He tested his energy-efficient home over both winter and summer seasons to ensure it performed as well as he expected.

With his hydro contract that allows excess electrical power to feed the grid, he has received credits for the unused hydro plus delivery charges and HST. He said he hasn't had to pay for any electricity.

"I've seen the failures of what past construction methods were and I've tried to combine the things that I've learned ... into this home," Meuser said. "It has performed the way or even better than I assumed. If you can provide your own heat that's probably as good as you're going to find in home construction.

"I'm trying to work the idea that instead of just the size of a house, energy independence could be a status symbol."

The house will go up for sale around mid-May with an asking price in the \$1.5-million range. But before that happens, Meuser has invited high school students in to see the technology at work.

He also documented the entire process on his Facebook at ([www.facebook.com/TimbercreekEstates/posts/1329936780432646](https://www.facebook.com/TimbercreekEstates/posts/1329936780432646)). [jkotsis@postmedia.com](mailto:jkotsis@postmedia.com)

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