

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: October 20, 2016 9:20 AM
To: ##Executive Team; Christine Long; Ken Quesnelle
Cc: Martine Band; Elisabeth DaSilva; Nancy Mintz
Subject: Daily summary of the clippings- Thursday, October 20, 2016

d\plainGood morning,

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d\plainHere is the OEB news summary for Oct. 20.

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d\plainOVERVIEW

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d\plainPaul Bliss reported on RPP on CTV News last night, calling the flat rate announcement “suspicious” and “interesting”, saying the RPP announcement came one hour after the Liberal’s passed legislation to cut hydro bills by 8 per cent. He said government’s projects predicted an increase and suggesting the flat rate could mean there will be a greater increase at the next RPP in May. Peter Tabuns is quoted saying “It looks to me like there is a coordination between the OEB and the Premier’s office.” The online story CTV did was more factual and less suggestive than the TV report and included an infographic showing the RPP rate changes over the past several years.

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d\plainGlobal News’ Brian Hill did a lengthy story on RPP, also stating the decision comes on the same day the Minister announced the government passed legislation to remove the provincial portion of the HST from electricity bills. Later in the story, he points to the move to fixed distribution rates and suggests some customers may still see an increase in their bills as a result of the switch despite the RPP prices holding. This report again suggests those who use a great deal of electricity will benefit while those who have managed to conserve energy will see their bills increase.

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d\plainThe Canadian Press story on RPP was fairly straightforward and factual and was published across many outlets in Ontario.

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d\plainThe National Post wrote a piece on monthly billing and spoke with Toronto Hydro to get an estimate on the administrative costs that may be associated with moving to monthly billing and did a calculation based on that estimate to come up with a potential province-wide impact, which ended up at about \$10 million. Karen Evans is quoted in the story and the OEB press release on fixed distribution rates is also referenced.

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d\plainAnthony Furey continued his electricity series in the Toronto Sun, this time profiling residents across Ontario who sent in their anecdotes about the cost of their electricity bills and how their efforts to conserve seem to have minimal impacts on their costs.

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d\plainThe Canadian Press story on the SNC Lavalin fine was published across many outlets and was mostly factual except for quotes from opposition including John Yakabuski, who was critical of the time it took to determine SNC was operating without a license. He's quote: "When the government doesn't like the news it calls the OEB an arm's-length agency." NDP Leader Andrea Horwath was also critical in the same fashion. Her quote: "You have to wonder how much trust we can have in an agency that's had this debacle occur."

d\plainFLAGGED FOR DISCUSSION

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d\plain**The following items will be discussed by the communications team on the daily media and issues call.*

- Paul Bliss, Brian Hill RPP Stories
- National Post Monthly Billing
- SNC Lavalin

d\plainSOCIAL MEDIA

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d\plainPaul blissed tweeted about RPP making a similar statement to that in his news report. RPP stories were also shared frequently on social media yesterday.

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d\intbl\plainPaul Bliss ([@blissblogs](#))

[d\intbl\plain2016-10-19, 1:40 PM](#)

d\intbl\plainBREAKING!!! NO CHANGE TO HYDRO PRICES FOR WINTER. Coincidence this decision comes an hour after Libs pass bill to cut hydro costs? [#onpoli](#)

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d\plainThanks

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