

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: October 23, 2017 8:59 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, Oct. 23, 2017

d\plain Good morning,

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d\plain Here's the summary of today's news clippings:

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d\plain Main highlights:

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[d\plain Financial Post: Tax savings should go to shareholders, not ratepayers, Hydro One argues](#) (Same coverage also found in [Calgary Herald](#)):

δ.:λ1720.:.φ1-360.:.πλ1ν • Story on Hydro One's notice of motion asking **OEB** to review its Sept. 28 decision and order, lays out in general terms Hydro One's argument why it believes the tax savings that came from its IPO should go to shareholders, not ratepayers

δ.:λ1720.:.φ1-360.:.πλ1ν • Quotes NDP MPP Peter Tabuns as saying that Hydro One will not accept regulation from **OEB** and will do what it can to claim profits for its investors at ratepayers' expense

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d\plain Other news of note:

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[Thunder Bay Newswatch: City hydro rate dropping – but you won't likely notice](#)

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλα1ν• Brief story on **OEB's** rate order for Thunder Bay Hydro that will decrease customers' bills by about 30 cents per month

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[CBC News Thunder Bay: Kenora Hydro holds public meeting on possible merger with Thunder Bay Hydro](#)

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλα1ν• Quotes CEO of Kenora Hydro as saying lack of customer growth and rising costs have made it challenging to operate in recent years

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλα1ν• Kenora Hydro CEO says it will prepare a report for city council on whether merger should proceed, but says “status quo ... is off the table”

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d\plainStoney Creek News: Alectra Utilities officials enters negotiations to merge with Guelph Hydro (Link not available – full story below)

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλα1ν• Says Guelph city council will make final decision on merger at Dec. 13 meeting

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλα1ν• Notes **OEB's** prior approval of Alectra's formation

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMorning News Clippings

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainDate: Monday, October 23, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainContact Editor](#)

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainClippings Summary

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainNews - 33 Results



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) **City hydro rate dropping – but you won't likely notice - TBNewsWatch.com**

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.tbnewswatch.com](#) - Sun Oct 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Ontario Energy Board has issued a rate order for Thunder Bay Hydro that will result in a decrease – albeit it a very small one – in customers' monthly bills.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) **Tax savings should go to shareholders, not ratepayers, Hydro One argues | Financial Post**

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainbusiness.financialpost.com](#) - Sat Oct 21 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat12\plainPaul Crawford noted on Saturday, October 21, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One Ltd. has begun a regulatory fight over expected tax savings generated by the Ontario government's privatization of the Toronto-based utility.



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Alectra Utilities officials enters negotiations to merge with Guelph Hydro](#)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainStoney Creek News - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$31

Reach: 31639 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNearly a decade after rejecting a proposed merger with Horizon **Utilities**, **Guelph** city council is preparing to vote on another merger, this time with the giant Alectra **Utilities**. Negotiations will begin ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Kenora Hydro holds public meeting on possible merger with Thunder Bay Hydro - Thunder Bay - CBC News](#)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.cbc.ca - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTwo utilities in northwestern Ontario are one step closer to becoming one, after a public meeting was held in Kenora, Ont. on Thursday evening about the proposed merger with Thunder Bay Hydro.



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain AG SOUNDS OFF](#)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,782

Reach: 222184 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk commenting this week on her Special Report on the Liberal government's **Fair Hydro Plan**: "The government's accounting treatment for the **Fair Hydro** ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain How Fair a Hydro Plan? | TVO.org](#)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaintvo.org - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Fair Hydro Plan: Concerns About Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Value For Money is a special report from Bonnie Lysyk, the auditor general for Ontario. In it, she lays out significant criticisms of the way the government has chosen to ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Toss 'Em Out!

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Dave Moon

Ad Value: \$881

Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainI read about Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk probing the government's "Fair Hydro Plan" and questioning a deliberate waste of \$4 billion ("No accounting for \$4B," Antonella Artuso, Oct. 18). The only benefit of ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Ontario's hydro shell game

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWaterloo Region Record - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$2,094

Reach: 63465 **Page:** A6

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThere are two things to remember as Ontario heads into a provincial election next year. First, Kathleen Wynne's governing Liberals will swear they have - after heroic effort - erased deficits from Ontario budgets. The books ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Liberals Under Fire For 'Cooking'Ontario'S Books; 'Fair Hydro Plan'undermines accountability standards

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$6,106

Reach: 222184 **Page:** A5

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario's Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk revealed this week that Kathleen Wynne's government hid the cost of its "Fair Hydro Plan" from taxpayers. The way they did it has raised concerns other governments across the ...



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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Focus Ontario | Global News

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: Neutral

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMention of the AG report and hydro mentioned a few second in.



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Wynne's fiscal plan: Long-term pain for short-term gain](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,370

Reach: 222184 Page: A15

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Kathleen Wynne likes to talk about the "fairness" of children and grandchildren helping to pay for the **electricity** costs of their parents and grandparents today. It's the major justification of her so-called "**Fair** ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Ontario's electricity disaster | GUEST COLUMNIST | Columnists | Opinion | Toront](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.torontosun.com - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainA recent report from Ontario's auditor general slammed the Wynne government's "needlessly complex" plan to reduce electricity bills for Ontarians.



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Fair Hydro Plan provides relief for families](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPeterborough Examiner - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: \$575

Reach: 19693 Page: A4

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainI'm not surprised to see the Conservatives try to get in the middle of an accounting dispute between the government and the Auditor General for personal political gain. It's how they deflect without putting forward any policy ideas of their own. ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain What a difference a week makes | MARIN | Columnists | Opinion | Toronto Sun](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.torontosun.com - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIn last week's column, I lamented the sad state of oversight affairs in Ontario.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Tax savings should go to shareholders, not ratepayers, Hydro One argues | Calgary Herald](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaincalgaryherald.com - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One Ltd. has begun a regulatory fight over expected tax savings generated by the Ontario government's privatization of the Toronto-based utility.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Corrupt regime flip-flops](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Greg McLachlan

Ad Value: \$186
Reach: 12127 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo the editor: The performance of our prime minister and his inept finance minister is both embarrassing and disgusting. Justin Trudeau appeared as a stammering teenager, working to cover for the rookie Bill Morneau. After completely botching the ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Liberals corrupt](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLondon Free Press - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Susan Truppe

Ad Value: \$992
Reach: 77670 Page: A10

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainregarding the editorial **Fair Hydro** scheme will waste billions (Oct. 9). Ontario's auditor General revealed that because the Wynne liberals cooked the books to hide the costs of their **electricity rate** ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Wynne carries out threat to sue Brown; Premier follows through with libel action after giving PC leader weeks to apologize](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Star - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$16,371
Reach: 500678 Page: A6

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Kathleen Wynne has served Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown with a libel notice for claiming she's on "trial" in the **Sudbury** byelection bribery case. Having given Brown the

requisite six weeks to apologize for his ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Wynne moves to sue Brown for libel; Lawyers point to 'further defamatory statements'](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ALLISON JONES

Ad Value: \$10,826

Reach: 372649 Page: A17

[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario](#) Premier Kathleen Wynne has taken another step toward a defamation lawsuit against the province's Opposition Leader after he refused to retract comments suggesting she is personally on trial. Ms. Wynne's lawyer demanded in a ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Bill Kelly: Why do Ontarians support Wynne's flawed hydro plan? - Hamilton | Globalnews.ca](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThere seems to be general agreement with Ontario's auditor general, that the Wynne government's plan to reduce our hydro bills, is going to cost us a lot more money in the long run.



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Brown is making the Liberals Ontario's right-wing bad guys](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOttawa Sun - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$2,212

Reach: 36297 Page: A8

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntarians should not only disapprove of Quebec's new face-coverings law, the government should find a legal case to support to get it struck down, Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown says, continuing to harry the Liberal party from the ...



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[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Low gas prices weigh on energy sector ahead of earnings](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: \$14,531

Reach: 309154 Page: B1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOil patch spending is likely to stay flat as U.S. crude prices languish around \$50 (U.S.) a barrel and the outlook for **Canadian natural gas** darkens. Major producers are set to report financial results for the three ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain We must not get mired in the political pitfalls of carbon taxes](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: BJORN LOMBORG

Ad Value: \$19,156

Reach: 309154 Page: B4

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainA carbon tax is much discussed as a solution to **climate change**. It is simple and straightforward: A **climate** price tag makes industry and consumers take into account the implicit negative effects of their actions, ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain LEGER: Is Canada headed into a new period of national disunity? | The Chronicle Herald](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainthechronicleherald.ca - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFew political situations are as tricky to manage as those involving what we used to call "national unity," a vague concept more properly defined as "what Quebec wants now."



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Scoring PM Justin Trudeau's campaign promises](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTHE NATIONAL - Fri Oct 20 2017, 10:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: JUSTIN TRUDEAU; PETER MANSBRIDGE; JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD; HILDA ANDERSON- PYRZ; MARILYN POITRAS; KELVIN GOERTZEN; JANE PHILPOTT

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainJUSTIN TRUDEAU (PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA): - DUNCAN MCCUE (HOST): Justin Trudeau campaigned on a long list of promises. Halfway into his mandate, we've got the score. Scoring the prime minister's campaign promises. Halfway into his mandate, how's ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Move away from oil](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Patrick Derochie

Ad Value: \$179

Reach: 12127 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo the editor: The demise of **Energy East** is good news for the **climate** and all Canadians concerned about the pipeline's risks to our land, water and communities. But the reason for TransCanada's cancellation of ...



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Notley says federal NDP pipeline opposition is irrelevant | Calgary Herald](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaincalgaryherald.com - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Rachel Notley said Friday that opposition to pipelines by the newly elected leader of the federal NDP has little bearing on the ongoing debate over the projects.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain SURETTE: Illusory, ill-fated pipeline sparks more megaproject panic | The Chronicle Herald](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainthechronicleherald.ca - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMaybe I should know better by now, but I still get flabbergasted at how energetically we can get our shorts in a knot in these parts when we contract a case of megaproject fever. I'm talking about the inevitably defunct Energy East pipeline.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, Rachel Notley take opposing sides on Trans Mountain | Globalnews.ca](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe newly-selected federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader appears to be at odds with Alberta's NDP premier on the matter of pipelines – specifically the now-dead Energy East pipeline and the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain expansion project.



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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Genuis: Government to blame for pipeline | Sherwood Park News](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.sherwoodparknews.com - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLike so many of you, I was deeply disappointed (though not altogether surprised) by the decision of TransCanada to cancel the Energy

East pipeline project.



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**d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Green energy a political liability;
Transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources unlikely to
occur any time soon**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLondon Free Press - Sat Oct 21 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: John Beeckmans

Ad Value: \$4,960
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A11

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIt is generally assumed that fossil **fuels** are inevitably going to be replaced by renewables, and well before their reserves are exhausted. this transition is deemed imperative because of the catastrophic consequences of greenhouse ...



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**d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Ontario's wind dictatorship; The
province's Liberal government continues to impose
unneded turbines on rural communities that don't want them**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Jimmcperson

Ad Value: \$5,948
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A16

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario Premier Kathleen Wynne's government recently authorized a multinational German **corporation** to build nine mammoth **wind** turbines in the Prince Edward County hamlet of Milford. Why? The project has been ...



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**d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Let's get caught up on Trillium Power
case**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainStratford Beacon-Herald - Mon Oct 23 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$428
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario government lawyers are making another run at dismissing a \$500-million lawsuit over the cancellation of a massive **wind-power** station that might have been built in Lake **Ontario** off ...

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainClippings Summary

Full Articles



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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainCity hydro rate dropping – but you won't likely notice - TBNewsWatch.com

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.tbnewswatch.com - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Ontario Energy Board has issued a rate order for Thunder Bay Hydro that will result in a decrease – albeit it a very small one – in customers' monthly bills.

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainBack to Top](#)



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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTax savings should go to shareholders, not ratepayers, Hydro One argues | Financial Post

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainbusiness.financialpost.com - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One Ltd. has begun a regulatory fight over expected tax savings generated by the Ontario government's privatization of the Toronto-based utility.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainAlectra Utilities officials enters negotiations to merge with Guelph Hydro

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainStoney Creek News - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$31

Reach: 31639 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNearly a decade after rejecting a proposed merger with Horizon **Utilities**, **Guelph** city council is preparing to vote on another merger, this time with the giant Alectra **Utilities**.

Negotiations will begin immediately on merging **Guelph Hydro Electric** Systems Inc. and Alectra **Utilities**, said Alectra's director of external communications, Eric Fagen. **Guelph** councillors will make the final decision on whether to agree to the merger at their Dec. 13 meeting.

Fagen said issues such as dividends, and the governance structure can't be discussed publicly as the talks are underway.

Former Horizon **Utilities** officials have always said they were looking at opportunities to expand the **utility** company after the proposed merger between Horizon and **Guelph Hydro** was scuttled in 2008 when **Guelph** city council voted 8 to 5 against the deal. St. Catharines and Hamilton councils had approved it.

Alectra **Utilities** officials reiterated their willingness to merge with other **utilities** earlier this year after the **Ontario Energy Board** approved its merger.

In a news release, **Guelph** officials stated merging its 55,000 customers, which includes those in Rockwood, with Alectra's estimated 1 million customers would help to avoid a **rate** increase, provide a larger dividend to the city, lead to the establishment of an operations **centre** in **Guelph** and the creation of a Green **Energy** and Technical **Centre**. **Guelph Hydro** has about 130 employees.

Hamilton councillors approved the merger of Horizon with **Enersource**, **Powerstream** and **Hydro** One Brampton to former Alectra **Utilities** in Oct. 2015, becoming the second-largest municipally-owned **utility** in **North** America behind the Los Angeles Department of Water and **Power**. It employs about 1,600 people and stretches from Penetanguishene to St. Catharines with a total **rate** base of about \$2.5 billion.

Alectra officials have promised to Hamilton councillors the merged company will be able to cut **hydro rates** by six per cent over the next 25 years, resulting in savings of about \$40 for the average homeowner, and increase the dividends to Hamilton from \$13 million to about \$16 million.

Under the now merged Alectra **Utilities**, there are 13 board members, with two from Hamilton, including Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Paul Benson, **Enersource** has four representatives on the board, the City of Vaughan has three, Markham has two, while Barrie and St. Catharines have one each board member.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainKenora Hydro holds public meeting on possible merger with Thunder Bay Hydro - Thunder Bay - CBC News

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.cbc.ca](#) - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTwo utilities in northwestern Ontario are one step closer to becoming one, after a public meeting was held in Kenora, Ont. on Thursday evening about the proposed merger with Thunder Bay Hydro.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainAG SOUNDS OFF

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,782

Reach: 222184 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk commenting this week on her Special Report on the Liberal government's **Fair Hydro Plan**:

"The government's accounting treatment for the **Fair Hydro Plan** creates concerns of transparency, accountability and value for money." "I am not

speaking about the decision to provide **ratepayers** with temporary relief from high **electricity** bills. "That's a policy decision, well within the government's authority, and not something on which the Auditor General comments. "What I AM speaking about is the WAY the government has set up the accounting to implement this decision." n n n

"Allow me to cut to the chase. The government's structure will hide from Ontarians the real financial impacts of its **electricity rate** reduction. In order to do this, the government is proposing to use accounting that does not follow its own policy for preparing financial statements. The province has had a policy of applying **Canadian Public** Sector Accounting Standards. I want to stress that this is not, as some may suggest, a difference of opinion between accountants on some obscure rule of bookkeeping. This is far more serious."

"The province has brushed aside these standards, which are used by all the federal and provincial governments of Canada. And these standards are the law for municipal governments. The **Ontario** government has chosen to replace these standards, going so far as to create an asset in new legislation to avoid reporting the true cost of its policy decision on its financial statements. This is a significant issue."

"The accounting proposed by the government is wrong." "If **ratepayers** get a discount on their **hydro** bills, someone else will have to pay the difference. Someone has to pay the piper" "That "someone" is the province. So it can either raise revenue (for example, by increasing taxes or fees), or borrow to cover the shortfall. The government has chosen to borrow.' "The government's proposal is to treat that loss as an asset. That's like you treating your credit card debt as an asset in your own books. Does that sound right to you?"

"Internal records show that senior government officials were aware this approach to borrowing could result in Ontarians paying significantly more interest."

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHow Fair a Hydro Plan? | TVO.org

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaintvo.org - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Fair Hydro Plan: Concerns About Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Value For Money is a special report from Bonnie Lysyk, the auditor general for Ontario. In it, she lays out significant criticisms of the way the government has chosen to finance and report on the costs of the Fair Hydro Plan. Steve Paikin talks to Bonnie Lysyk about her report.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToss 'Em Out!

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Dave Moon

Ad Value: \$881

Reach: 222184 Page: A19

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainI read about Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk probing the government's "**Fair Hydro Plan**" and questioning a deliberate waste of \$4 billion ("No accounting for \$4B," Antonella Artuso, Oct. 18). The only benefit of borrowing the money through **OPG** was purely partisan, and designed to keep that cost off the government books. **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said a decision was made that **hydro ratepayers**, not taxpayers, should carry the cost. Last time I checked, everyone I know is both a **hydro ratepayer** and a taxpayer.

He must have attended the "Bob Chiarelli School for **Energy** Ministers". I still feel all warm and fuzzy every time I open my **hydro** bill and find that leaflet from the **Ontario** Liberals crowing about how much I just saved last month. The 8% **HST rebate** is laughable, as it was our fearless leader, Dalton, who levied it in the first place. Cancelled **gas** plants, deleted emails, e-Health, **Sudbury** election scandal, etc., etc. Can't wait for an election and hopefully kick this bunch to the curb.

DAVE MOON

OSHAWA

(Obviously, you have a long memory)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain**Ontario's hydro shell game**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWaterloo Region Record - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,094

Reach: 63465 **Page:** A6

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThere are two things to remember as **Ontario** heads into a provincial election next year.

First, Kathleen Wynne's governing Liberals will swear they have - after heroic effort - erased deficits from **Ontario** budgets.

The books are balanced, they'll say, proudly patting themselves on the back.

The second thing to remember is that **Ontario** auditor general Bonnie Lysyk - who's responsible for reviewing government accounts - insists the Liberal claim is garbage.

There is a budgetary deficit, but the government is hiding it with an elaborate **hydro**-accounting shell game, Lysyk said last week.

It will be up to voters to decide who's right - the Liberals or Lysyk.

But the **public** should closely examine this dispute.

It speaks volumes about the lengths to which the Liberals will go to sweep away messy controversies and cling to the **power** to which, after 14 years, they feel entitled.

Two of the biggest knocks against the Liberals are that they're reckless spendthrifts and that, thanks to their mismanagement, **electricity** costs had more than doubled in **Ontario** to become the highest in Canada.

But the ever-resourceful Liberals discovered creative ways to handle both

criticisms.

Earlier this year, Wynne announced her government was cutting **electricity** bills by 25 per cent.

That move was initially popular.

Then it became clear this short-term **consumer** gain will be paid for by long-term **consumer** pain.

Yes, **hydro** bills will be lower than they otherwise would have been in coming years.

But the government will borrow heavily to make up the difference between what consumers are paying and the true **energy** costs.

And later next decade, the cost of repaying the debt with interest will go back onto **ratepayers**' bills, which will consequently be higher for nearly 20 years.

For now, of course, Wynne's happily wearing the mantle of **public** saviour. And she's also papered over the deficit controversy.

The way she did this, the auditor says, was to treat the billions of dollars borrowed to finance the **electricity rebate** as an asset to be sold to investors, and not as a debt.

Neither this new debt nor the additional revenue siphoned from future **hydro** bills to cover it will turn up in the government's financial books.

The Liberals say this is all kosher.

The auditor general says it violates **Canadian public** sector accounting standards.

Lysyk also says those temporarily cheaper **hydro** bills will, over time, cost Ontarians \$21 billion in accumulated interest. The unusual financing structure itself will cost an extra

\$4 billion.

Many Ontarians will gratefully enjoy their temporarily reduced **hydro** bills and not worry about a seemingly arcane dispute between the government and auditor.

But they should ask themselves whether they really feel better paying less for **hydro** today knowing they - and generations to come - will pay a lot more in future.

And they should ask themselves if **Ontario**'s finances are truly in better shape because the government was able to technically keep off its books a debt they'll still have to repay.

A resounding "no" should answer both questions.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLiberals Under Fire
For 'Cooking' Ontario 'S Books; 'Fair Hydro Plan' undermines
accountability standards

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d:\ntbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$6,106

Reach: 222184 Page: A5

d:\ntbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario's Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk revealed this week that Kathleen Wynne's government hid the cost of its "**Fair Hydro Plan**" from taxpayers.

The way they did it has raised concerns other governments across the country could follow suit and bury deficits.

Although **ratepayers** will get a temporary, 25% break over four years on their **hydro** bills, the **plan** will cost "up to \$4 billion more than necessary" in interest, Lysyk said.

The Liberals also "improperly" moved \$26 billion in **hydro** debt off their books, borrowing the money through **Ontario Power Generation**, and as a consequence **hydro ratepayers** will face increases for 30 years.

Lysyk argued that was like claiming your credit card debt is an asset.

Tory leader Patrick Brown was more blunt, accusing the government of "cooking the books" to "look good in an election year" "**Ontario's** Auditor General uncovered an appalling attempt to hide the true \$4 billion cost of Kathleen Wynne's **hydro rebate** scheme, a price which will be paid by **ratepayers**, Brown said in a statement.

"She concluded senior government officials knowingly ignored the government's own policy for preparing financial statements to create an unnecessary, complex, financing structure designed to keep the true financial impact of its **rate** reduction scheme off the province's books.

"More damningly, the Auditor General said the **Canadian Public** Sector Accountability Standards are the standard for all federal and provincial governments of Canada and that the Liberal Government "has brushed aside these standards," he said. "The unavoidable and very strong suggestion is that something highly improper has transpired."

Meanwhile, **Ontario's** budget slight-of-hand is raising questions across the country.

"Listen, if **Ontario** can legislate an asset in this case, and everybody thinks that's okay, then you can bet your booties Quebec will be right on the train following them and so will British Columbia," said Tim Besuchamp, the former director of the **Public** Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of Canada. "Anybody who's got a deficit - they'll just make it go away by creating an asset."

If **Ontario's** method of accounting for expenses spreads, taxpayers might never know if their government is truly in the red or black or even how big a debt has been run up, said Beauchamp, who's spent 27 years helping develop clear and open accounting standards so citizens can see what their governments are doing.

"And so the bottom line, everything balanced to zero," he said. "And that's just not the way it is."

For their part, **Ontario Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said the government wanted to make sure the borrowing costs for the **Fair Hydro Plan** were borne by **hydro** customers, not taxpayers.

Rate-regulated accounting is commonly used in the **energy** sector, he said, and cast doubt on the auditor's projection of \$4 billion in extra borrowing costs.

Colin Nikolaichuk, a spokesperson for Thibault, said in an email that "It was essential that we get the structure right (of the **Fair Hydro Plan**) while delivering the meaningful relief **Ontario** families needed," Beauchamp acted as a consultant for Lysyk but said she only asked him what he thought of the accounting **plan**, not to confirm her opinion.

Lysyk also canvassed Auditors General across Canada, and everyone agreed that **Ontario** was going down the wrong path, he said.

"If they get that through to the province's financial statements, then every province, every municipality in Canada, will take advantage of it," Beauchamp said. "It will destroy what the **Public** Sector Accounting Board has worked for ever since it started."

Public accounting standards, in the U.S. as well as Canada, mandate that governments not treat taxes yet to be levied as an asset, he said.

He dismissed the position of the **Ontario** government, that this is at its heart an accounting dispute.

"(This) is going to bleed through the whole **public** sector in Canada," Beauchamp said. "It sets a precedent... It's not two accountants sitting in a boxing ring having it out with each other." aartuso@postmedia.com

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFocus Ontario | Global News

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMention of the AG report and hydro mentioned a few second in.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWynne's fiscal plan: Long-term pain for short-term gain

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,370

Reach: 222184 Page: A15

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Kathleen Wynne likes to talk about the "fairness" of children and grandchildren helping to pay for the **electricity** costs of their parents and grandparents today.

It's the major justification of her so-called "**Fair Hydro Plan**" that she says will give today's **electricity** consumers a 25% reduction on their **hydro** bills for the next four years.

What she doesn't say is that **Ontario's electricity rates** will start to skyrocket - again - after that, and that her **plan** is really just a desperate attempt to help her survive the June, 2018 election.

In fact, Wynne's argument doesn't make any sense.

She's claiming since future generations of Ontarians will benefit from improvements the Liberals are making to the **electricity** system today, it's only **fair** they take on an appropriate share of the added costs over 30 years.

But her analogy - that it's like extending the mortgage on a house in return for lower monthly payments today - is absurd.

While a house retains its value over 30 years, today's generation of **electricity** generators will be obsolete in three decades.

What Wynne is really doing more closely resembles extending the payment period on a car loan, in return for lower payments today, as asset that, unlike a house, will have little or no value in 30 years.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk reported last week Wynne's **Fair Hydro Plan** - which simply kicks the problem of **Ontario's** high **electricity** prices down the road - will add \$4 billion in unnecessary **electricity** costs for **hydro ratepayers**.

That will increase the total cost to almost \$40 billion over 30 years, a staggering price for Ontarians to pay.

Another report released last week by temporary Financial Accountability Officer J. David Wake on **Ontario's** long-term fiscal outlook, illustrates the folly of what Wynne is doing in the context of the overall provincial budget.

Wake warns that as the giant baby boomer generation ages, requiring more health care, the provincial government will need to increase revenues or reduce spending by at least \$6.5 billion annually, starting next year.

If it doesn't, he warns, **Ontario's** debt-to-GDP ratio, a key indicator of overall economic health, will be a staggering 63% by 2050-51, far above it's already alarming ratio of about 40%, and light years beyond the Wynne government's goal of reducing it to 27% by 2029-30. Indeed, what Wake is saying is that the balanced budget Wynne is boasting about finally achieving this year, isn't enough.

The Liberals have to start recording annual surpluses if they're not going to unfairly dump the burden of stabilizing **Ontario's** finances onto future generations.

By contrast, Wynne's focus is on surviving the June, 2018 election, a mere eight months away.

The premier is pretending we can have a free lunch by passing on today's debts to tomorrow's generations, a recipe for economic disaster.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain **Ontario's electricity disaster | GUEST COLUMNIST | Columnists | Opinion | Toront**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain www.torontosun.com - Sun Oct 22 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

A recent report from Ontario's auditor general slammed the Wynne government's "needlessly complex" plan to reduce electricity bills for Ontarians.

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Peterborough
Examiner

Fair Hydro Plan provides relief for families

Peterborough Examiner - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: \$575

Reach: 19693 Page: A4

I'm not surprised to see the Conservatives try to get in the middle of an accounting dispute between the government and the Auditor General for personal political gain. It's how they deflect without putting forward any policy ideas of their own.

When **Ontario** families were asking for help, the Conservatives didn't share a single credible idea on how to lower **electricity rates**. When the time came to vote for real relief through the **Fair Hydro Plan**, they sat on their hands again, and voted against it.

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is the largest **rate** reduction in the history of the province. The average residential **ratepayer** has seen a 25 per cent reduction in their **electricity** bill. This **rate** relief was absolutely necessary - the cost of **electricity** had become too much for many **Ontario** families.

When we designed the **Fair Hydro Plan**, our intention was to lower **rates** and increase fairness. **Rates** had gone up because of investments we made in our **electricity** system - investments that were desperately needed. As a result, we now have a clean, reliable **electricity** system free from the brownouts and blackouts we were experiencing in the early 2000s.

The **Fair Hydro Plan** operates under a financial and accounting framework that is appropriate for its intended purpose. It is in accordance with **Public** Sector Accounting Standards and ensures the goals underlying the program are achieved in a cost-effective manner.

The accounting practices in the **Fair Hydro Plan** are well-established, and well-recognized within the industry. In fact, six of eight other **North** American **electricity** system operators use this kind of accounting.

Additionally, world-renowned third party experts like KPMG, EY and Deloitte all agree that the structure of the accounting is legitimate.

While the Conservatives argue that these changes should be on the tax-base - it is completely wrong headed. **Electricity** financing should remain within the **electricity** system. When **electricity** generators build **hydro** dams or **power** stations, we don't pay for them with provincial monies. So why should we start now? We need to ensure that we keep the cost of borrowing within the **rate**-base, not the tax-base, because that's the logical thing to do.

While we've lowered **electricity** bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms, the Opposition has yet to present a credible or realistic **plan** for our **energy** system.

Glenn Thibeault

Minister of Energy

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWhat a difference a week makes | MARIN | Columnists | Opinion | Toronto Sun

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.torontosun.com - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIn last week's column, I lamented the sad state of oversight affairs in Ontario.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTax savings should go to shareholders, not ratepayers, Hydro One argues | Calgary Herald

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaincalgaryherald.com - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One Ltd. has begun a regulatory fight over expected tax savings generated by the Ontario government's privatization of the Toronto-based utility.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainCorrupt regime flip-flops

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Greg Mclachlan

Ad Value: \$186

Reach: 12127 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo the editor: The performance of our prime minister and his inept finance minister is both embarrassing and disgusting. Justin Trudeau appeared as a stammering teenager, working to cover for the rookie Bill Morneau.

After completely botching the small-business tax **plan** and the **Energy** East pipeline proposal, the corrupt regime is now flip-flopping back to a 2015 election promise.

The billions of dollars lost due to the vote-protecting business tax reduction have to be covered elsewhere. And, since Trudeau prefers to protect the wealth of his fellow one per centres (including Morneau) with tax-avoiding trusts, it will

be left up to the middle class to make up the difference.

The "we rolled up our sleeves, we're just like you" Trudeau/Morneau strategy is failing. These incredulous, lying phonies are hypocrites. Junior should be relieved our overpaid teachers are unable to teach mathematics. The **public** just cannot grasp the most basic arithmetic. Yet.

Greg McLachlan

London

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLiberals corrupt

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLondon Free Press - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Susan Truppe

Ad Value: \$992

Reach: 77670 **Page:** A10

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainregarding the editorial **Fair Hydro** scheme will waste billions (Oct. 9).

Ontario's auditor General revealed that because the Wynne liberals cooked the books to hide the costs of their **electricity rate** scheme, **Ontario** families will pay up to \$4 billion more than necessary. Not only that, the liberals spent \$2 million on consultants to help keep the cost off the government books. the liberals are covering up their mismanagement at a cost of billions of dollars to Ontarians. the liberals have failed to make **electricity** more affordable for families and businesses.

We know this because of a leaked liberal document that shows we'll see **electricity rates** rise to the highest they've ever been after the next election.

We know this because the province's financial watchdog shows future generations could be on the hook for up to \$93 billion. the liberals **electricity rate** scheme is nothing but a reelection ploy. It has nothing to do with making life more affordable for **Ontario** families, and has everything to do with helping Kathleen Wynne cling to **power**.

Susan Truppe

London

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWynne carries out threat to sue Brown; Premier follows through with libel action after giving PC leader weeks to apologize

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Star - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$16,371

Reach: 500678 Page: A6

d:\ntbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Kathleen Wynne has served Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown with a libel notice for claiming she's on "trial" in the **Sudbury** byelection bribery case.

Having given Brown the requisite six weeks to apologize for his statement on Sept. 12, the premier's lawyers served the Tory leader with the legal papers on Friday at his **Orillia** constituency office.

"You have refused to retract or apologize for those defamatory statements and have made further defamatory statements about Premier Wynne," lawyers Jack Siegel and Sheldon Inkol of Blaney McMurtry LLP said in a four-page letter.

The notice is the next step toward a defamation suit being filed in court.

It stems from Brown telling a Queen's Park media scrum that **Ontario** had "a sitting premier sitting in trial" and that Wynne "stands trial" in **Sudbury**.

His comment was made the day before the premier testified as a Crown witness in a **Sudbury** courtroom where Patricia Sorbara, her former deputy chief of staff, and Liberal activist Gerry Lougheed are on trial for alleged Election Act violations, which they deny.

"Your statements above are false and defamatory. The express meaning of these statements is that Premier Wynne was on trial for bribery, which was not the case," wrote Siegel and Inkol, adding Brown had the "intention of further harming Premier Wynne's reputation."

"A further implied meaning of these statements is that Premier Wynne is unethical and was under investigation by the police for a criminal act."

The lawyers said Wynne, whose legal bills are being paid by the **Ontario** Liberal Party, could seek an "award of aggravated and punitive damages" if the case proceeds to court.

An unrepentant Brown accused the premier of using the libel notice "to deflect from news that 180 pages of emails and documents were released to the **public** yesterday during one (of) her two political corruption trials.

"Her Liberal government is also under fire from an explosive report on **hydro** from the auditor general," said the Tory chief, a lawyer by training.

"Make no mistake, it is political corruption that's on trial. And the premier is oblivious to the fact that her party is politically corrupt," he said.

"Her baseless threats will be ignored."

Speaking to reporters in Windsor, where she was co-hosting the Conference of Great Lakes and **St. Lawrence** Governors and Premiers with Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, Wynne urged Brown to recant.

"An acceptable outcome for me is to have a debate about the truth - whatever the subject we're talking about - to talk about the facts and to talk about the substance of the issues," she said.

Two Star reporters and a columnist were in Brown's Sept. 12 press scrum along with journalists from CBC, Radio-Canada, The **Canadian** Press, the Globe and Mail, QP Briefing, Global, CP24, CTV, TFO, Queen's Park Today, Fairchild, CHCH and Newstalk 1010.

Prior to the 2014 election, Wynne launched a \$2-million libel action against former Tory leader Tim Hudak and MPP Lisa MacLeod over their comments

about her alleged role in former premier Dalton McGuinty's cancellation of **gas-** fired **power** plants in **Oakville** and Mississauga.

That matter was settled out of court in 2015.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWynne moves to sue Brown for libel; Lawyers point to 'further defamatory statements'

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ALLISON JONES

Ad Value: \$10,826

Reach: 372649 **Page:** A17

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario Premier Kathleen Wynne has taken another step toward a defamation lawsuit against the province's Opposition Leader after he refused to retract comments suggesting she is personally on trial.

Ms. Wynne's lawyer demanded in a letter last month that Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown withdraw comments he made a day before the Premier testified as a witness at a trial in **Sudbury**, involving two provincial Liberals facing Election Act bribery charges.

Mr. Brown had told reporters he hoped Ms. Wynne would give answers about the scandal "maybe when she stands trial" and went on to describe her as a "sitting premier, sitting in trial."

After receiving the lawyer's letter, Mr. Brown said he would "ignore her baseless legal threat." When asked to explain why, he said it was a "sad day for **Ontario**" to see the Premier "debased" and "humiliated" by testifying in court.

Ms. Wynne's lawyers followed up Friday with another letter to Mr. Brown saying it constitutes a notice of libel.

His comments about the Premier being debased and humiliated are another defamation, her lawyers wrote. "Our letter of September 13, 2017 was intended to provide you with an opportunity to partially mitigate the damage you have done with a retraction, an apology, and an undertaking to refrain from making any further defamatory statements about Premier Wynne," Jack Siegel and Sheldon Inkol wrote.

"Not only did you refuse to make a retraction or to apologize, you chose to compound the problem by making further defamatory statements.

Accordingly, a legal action will now be commenced against you for defamation."

Mr. Brown repeated the comments about Ms. Wynne being debased and humiliated Friday in a statement responding to the libel notice.

He suggested the notice was a way for the Premier to distract the **public** from another ongoing trial involving two staffers of former Liberal premier Dalton McGuinty, and a critical auditor general report earlier this week on the Liberal government's **plan** to cut **hydro** bills.

"Make no mistake, it is political corruption that's on trial," Mr. Brown wrote. "And the premier is oblivious to the fact that her party is politically corrupt."

Mr. Brown suggested Ms. Wynne should be the one to apologize, for "years of waste mismanagement and political corruption in this province."

Ms. Wynne's lawyers said Mr. Brown's status as Leader of the Progressive Conservatives increased the likelihood that his statements would be repeated by others, therefore, "increasing the potential harm to the premier's reputation."

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainBill Kelly: Why do Ontarians support Wynne's flawed hydro plan? - Hamilton | Globalnews.ca

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThere seems to be general agreement with Ontario's auditor general, that the Wynne government's plan to reduce our hydro bills, is going to cost us a lot more money in the long run.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainBrown is making the Liberals Ontario's right-wing bad guys

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOttawa Sun - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$2,212

Reach: 36297 Page: A8

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntarians should not only disapprove of Quebec's new face-coverings law, the government should find a legal case to support to get it struck down, Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown says, continuing to harry the Liberal party from the left.

They keep saying he's a frightening right-winger and he keeps refusing to play along. Brown criticizes the governing party not for being bleeding-heart incompetents, which they're used to and know how to answer, but for letting screwups compound their meanness. That's unfamiliar, uncomfortable ground for people who are used to thinking of themselves as the party of building **Ontario** up.

We'll start with Quebec's Bill 62, which is purportedly about enforcing secularism in the **public** sphere but which will, in practice, mainly tell niqab-wearing Muslim women they have to take their veils off to ride city buses or go to school. Unusually, all the parties in the legislature Thursday agreed to make time to condemn another province's new law.

"This legislation would disproportionately affect women who are sometimes already at the margins and push them into further isolation. These are people that you and I know," Premier Kathleen Wynne said, leading off.

"They are our neighbours: the grandmother who, if she lived in Quebec, would no longer be able to drop off her granddaughter at a city-run daycare, or a

mother who would not be able to bring her children to a hospital to see the doctor. That is not the kind of society that we stand for in **Ontario**."

"My leader has often said it doesn't matter who you are, it doesn't matter where you're from, it doesn't matter who you love, it doesn't matter how much you make, and it doesn't matter where you worship; you have a home here, in the province of **Ontario**, and we respect you," agreed **Ottawa** Progressive Conservative MPP Lisa MacLeod, speaking for her party. "All Canadians have a legal right to their religious beliefs, including in the province of Quebec."

But, she said, and Brown echoed her Friday, **Ontario** should go beyond shaking its head grimly.

"I would also ask that our government seek leave to intervene in any **charter** challenge on the consti-This followed last week's social-issues kerfuffle, when Brown wanted to hurry a Liberal-designed ban on abortion-clinic protests into law faster than the Liberals did.

The provincial Tories are light on actual policy, but in the two-and-a-half years Brown has been their leader, he's racked up a list of implicit promises through the criticisms he and his party have launched against the government.

The biggie is that **electricity** should be cheaper and the companies that provide it should be publicly owned. That's popular, mainstream **Ontario** opinion, and also pretty socialist.

Brown (though he's warring with his party base over this and who knows how it'll turn out) supports pricing carbon emissions to fight **climate** change but he's against the system of tradeable permits the Liberals have set up.

Cap-and-trade used to be the conservative way of tackling **climate** change because it sets targets and lets businesses work out how to meet them.

The market rewards companies that do it well.

Our system is linked with one Quebec and California built when Arnold Schwarzenegger was the state's Republican governor, which creates a freetrade zone for carbon permits.

Brown criticizes it because it "sends millions of dollars to one of the richest jurisdictions on earth for emission reductions there, which means failing to cut emissions here at home." Well, that's how trade works: we pay someone else to cut carbon emissions because they can do it more cheaply than we can. For conservatives, this is a feature, not a bug.

The Liberals are pushing school boards to close schools that are half-empty, as many as 600 of them, to save money; the Tories want to keep them open. The Tories criticize the Liberals for not spending enough on autism therapy, on mental health, on home care, on doctors. They fret about conditions in **Ontario** jails, that the government hasn't done enough to get mining started in the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the **north**.

Against all this, the Liberals accuse Patrick Brown of being a "Trump-style" politician for putting together ordinary attack ads and scour his record as a federal Conservative backbencher. Which is, to be sure, replete with socially conservative votes and mailers.

Brown has repudiated a lot of the things he used to stand for, which at best makes you ask whether he believes in the things he says. But he has repudiated them, directly and firmly, no sly wink-wink lines. He's marched in gay-pride parades and supported the Liberals on sex education, at considerable cost to his grassroots support.

The Liberals are setting themselves up to run against Tim Hudak and his

Million Jobs **Plan** and his Stephen Harper Conservative friends, repeating the 2014 campaign. The Patrick Brown we've seen so far is not that enemy. He's not the gentler Tim Hudak of 2011, not even the centrist John Tory of 2007. He's making the Liberals explain the things they've cut, the programs they haven't funded, the injustices they're not fighting hard enough.

Maybe the Tory platform, assuming there is one, will follow a different philosophy. But in the meantime, Brown's an oddity these Liberals have never seen before and don't yet know how to deal with. dreevely@postmedia.com
twitter.com/davidreevely

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Low gas prices weigh on energy sector ahead of earnings

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain The Globe and Mail - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: \$14,531

Reach: 309154 Page: B1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Oil patch spending is likely to stay flat as U.S. crude prices languish around \$50 (U.S.) a barrel and the outlook for **Canadian natural gas** darkens.

Major producers are set to report financial results for the three months ended Sept. 30 this week, but the numbers are bound to be overshadowed by questions over pipeline snarls and **drilling** prospects for the year ahead.

U.S. and global oil prices have been buoyed by production cuts orchestrated by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and strong demand from refineries, which have soaked up inventories as **drilling** activity in the U.S. shale patch slowed.

While still far from highs reached in mid-2014, crude has climbed to levels that offer a semblance of stability to producers shaken by a once-in-a-generation slump. U.S. **West** Texas intermediate oil averaged \$48.20 a barrel in the third quarter and on Friday traded around \$52.

"Around the \$50 level they can cope," said Victor Vallance, senior vice-president at credit-rating agency DBRS Ltd. "But there are a number of challenges and risks going forward."

Headwinds include renewed strength in the loonie and **natural gas** prices that have sunk to multiyear lows, the result of booming supply, despite the pipeline outages on TransCanada Corp.'s Nova **Gas Transmission** Ltd. system.

The pipeline bottlenecks have backed up supply, leading to steep discounts on **Canadian gas**. That could keep a lid on spending as producers map out budgets for 2018.

This fall, a handful of **energy** companies have been forced to suspend or curtail **gas** output as **regional** prices weakened and in several cases turned negative, meaning producers received nothing for sales.

In the quarter, Alberta wholesale prices fell 30 per cent from the same period last year, averaging \$1.65 (**Canadian**) per 1,000 cubic feet. **Gas** in New York fetched an average \$2.95 (U.S.) a unit. The difference between the two averaged

\$1.64, its widest since 2008, according to investment bank Peters & Co. Ltd.

"The silver lining in this is that the reduction in capital spending could begin to fix our **natural gas** price weakness as producers shut in **gas**, or at least begin to slow growth objectives," National Bank Financial analysts, led by Brian Milne, said in a recent note.

Oil sands giant Suncor **Energy** Inc. reports on Wednesday, followed by Husky **Energy** Inc. on Thursday and Imperial Oil Ltd. on Friday. They are expected to show big gains in their refining operations, which benefited from fat margins after Hurricane Harvey shut down a large chunk of capacity on the U.S. Gulf **Coast**.

Suncor will likely face added questions over the status of its \$17billion (**Canadian**) **Fort Hills** oil sands mine. The Calgary-based company says the 194,000-barrel-a-day project remains on track to start up this year, even after partner Total SA cut off funding.

Cenovus **Energy** Inc., the other big oil sands producer with refining operations, reports on Nov. 2, as does rival **Canadian** Natural Resources Ltd.

Both are digesting multibillion-dollar acquisitions. Cenovus investors are awaiting news on a replacement for chief executive officer Brian Ferguson, who is set to leave the company this month, as well as details around further asset sales.

Such cost-cutting moves have helped to ease concerns over industry debt levels, but few are predicting a return to big spending without a major lift to oil prices or progress on new export infrastructure.

Those prospects appear to be fading. Last week, Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd. warned its \$7.4-billion Trans Mountain pipeline expansion could be pushed back by up to nine months. The project would nearly triple capacity on the westbound conduit to 890,000 barrels a day.

"So it's going to be a challenging environment, particularly for those **natural gas** producers that don't have access to pipelines to move their production to better-priced markets in the U.S.," Mr. Vallance said.

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[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) We must not get mired in the political pitfalls of carbon taxes

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) The Globe and Mail - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: BJORN LOMBORG

Ad Value: \$19,156

Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) A carbon tax is much discussed as a solution to **climate** change.

It is simple and straightforward: A **climate** price tag makes industry and consumers take into account the implicit negative effects of their actions, whether it is the aircraft fuel for a vacation, or fossil **fuels** for food fertilizers or to heat and cool a home.

I have argued for a well-designed carbon tax for more than a decade.

But five important caveats, almost universally breached by politicians, affect the likelihood of such a policy working.

First, a carbon tax has to be uniform across the entire economy.

Saving one tonne of CO₂ by switching from coal to **gas** helps just as much as saving a tonne by using **solar energy** or not driving. Yet, politicians set different prices. Among the member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), there are likely more than 1,400 different levels of taxes.

Germany alone has at least 30 effective CO₂ taxes. Coal is taxed at \$4 a tonne of CO₂ if used in industry, but at \$43 if used for **electricity**.

Every \$43 used to cut one tonne of CO₂ through **electricity** could have cut 10 times more with the industry tax.

Second, other **climate** regulations such as **solar** and **wind** targets and **electric**-car subsidies need to go (along with any fossil-fuel subsidies). Once the CO₂ tax has been levied, additional regulations just mean a higher cost.

European politicians seek votes with policies such as giving subsidies for **electric** cars. In Norway, one study shows the subsidy reaches \$17,000 for each tonne of CO₂ emissions avoided. In comparison, the current price to cut a tonne of CO₂ on the European Union **power** market is just \$10.80. The \$17,000 Norway spends to cut one tonne with an **electric** car could cut more than 1,500 tons of CO₂.

This has a vast cost. The EU already has an indirect carbon tax on **electricity** through its **cap-and-trade** system, yet politicians shower **solar** and **wind energy** with love. That bad habit costs about \$63-billion each year. Since total **electricity** emissions are capped, more **wind** and **solar power** simply makes using polluting coal slightly cheaper.

Across the EU, academic estimates have pegged the total annual waste at around \$100-billion. The EU could reduce carbon emissions by the same amount for \$100-billion less every year.

The third caveat is that we need to be realistic about what any feasible carbon tax can achieve. It can slightly reduce the temperature we will see in 2100, but will not achieve hyped promises such as keeping the increase in temperatures below 2 C.

A tax will cut the emissions that bring the least benefits (like excessive air conditioning in an empty office). It cuts the most dangerous part of **climate** change by reducing temperatures a fraction from the highest end. But not all emissions will be cut - indeed, some have considerable benefits (such as heating the home of an elderly person through the winter). As we cut more, it becomes harder and more expensive, while we're reducing temperature rises that are less dangerous.

Fourth: For a carbon tax to work, it must cover almost all sectors and countries to prevent emitters from responding to limitations by moving to places with lighter regulatory regimes. One study found that such "carbon leakage" during the years of the Kyoto Protocol came to about 40 per cent. A simulation suggests that nearly all of California's proposed carbon cuts would be lost this way. This is unsurprising, given that California is embracing more strenuous targets than most U.S. states.

Finally, the tax must be returned through the reduction of other taxes. If not, it can be doubly inefficient because it drains resources that could be used for things such as solving other environmental problems. Yet, almost all **climate** taxes so far have not been returned.

A carbon tax should be set around the price of future carbon damage. The biggest, peer-reviewed study shows this price is realistically about \$10 a tonne.

A higher tax simply means a lesseffective overall solution - and is much less likely to gain taxpayer support. In the United States, most people are willing to spend between \$2.50 and \$10 for every tonne of CO₂, and in China the amount is \$8.80 a ton. At this level, a carbon tax will reduce some, but certainly not all of **climate** change. We could fix about 5 per cent or 10 per cent of the entire problem with a politically feasible, perfectly executed, globally enacted carbon tax.

But politicians have shown little interest in avoiding these pitfalls, making carbon taxes more likely to cause political gridlock and less likely to work.

This is why we should remain open to other ways of fighting **climate** change. Most promising is investing much more in research and development for green **energy**.

This is much cheaper than a tax and likely to be much more effective. If R&D can bring the price of green **energy** below that of fossil **fuels**, everyone will switch, without the pain that a poorly executed carbon tax brings.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLEGER: Is Canada headed into a new period of national disunity? | The Chronicle Herald

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainthechronicleherald.ca - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFew political situations are as tricky to manage as those involving what we used to call "national unity," a vague concept more properly defined as "what Quebec wants now."

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NORTH BAY
NUGGET

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMove away from oil

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Patrick Derochie

Ad Value: \$179

Reach: 12127 Page: A5

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo the editor: The demise of **Energy** East is good news for the **climate** and all Canadians concerned about the pipeline's risks to our land, water and communities.

But the reason for TransCanada's cancellation of **Energy** East is simple: New oilsands pipelines don't make sense - economically or environmentally - in a world that is moving away from fossil **fuels**. **Energy** East couldn't be justified during a time of low oil prices, declining investment in the tarsands, and an unstoppable transition to **renewable energy**.

There is already enough capacity to transport Western **Canadian** oil. The economic case to expand the tarsands has evaporated, eliminating the need to build more pipelines. Enough with the blame game over who's responsible for the death of **Energy** East. It's time for Canada to turn the corner on oilsands growth. Instead of pipelines, tarsands and tankers, let's accelerate our work to build a clean economy.

Patrick DeRochie

Environmental Defence

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNotley says federal NDP pipeline opposition is irrelevant | Calgary Herald

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaincalgaryherald.com - Sat Oct 21 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPremier Rachel Notley said Friday that opposition to pipelines by the newly elected leader of the federal NDP has little bearing on the ongoing debate over the projects.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainSURETTE: Illusory, ill-fated pipeline sparks more megaproject panic | The Chronicle Herald

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainthechronicleherald.ca - Sat Oct 21 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMaybe I should know better by now, but I still get flabbergasted at how energetically we can get our shorts in a knot in these parts when we contract a case of megaproject fever. I'm talking about the inevitably defunct Energy East pipeline.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, Rachel Notley take opposing sides on Trans Mountain | Globalnews.ca

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainglobalnews.ca - Fri Oct 20 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe newly-selected federal New Democratic Party (NDP) leader appears to be at odds with Alberta's NDP premier on the matter of pipelines – specifically the now-dead Energy East pipeline and the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain expansion project.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainGenuis: Government to blame for pipeline | Sherwood Park News

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.sherwoodparknews.com - Fri Oct 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLike so many of you, I was deeply disappointed (though not altogether surprised) by the decision of TransCanada to cancel the Energy East pipeline project.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainGreen energy a political liability; Transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources unlikely to occur any time soon

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLondon Free Press - Sat Oct 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: John Beeckmans

Ad Value: \$4,960

Reach: 77670 Page: A11

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIt is generally assumed that fossil **fuels** are inevitably going to be replaced by renewables, and well before their reserves are exhausted. this transition is deemed imperative because of the catastrophic consequences of greenhouse **gases**, especially the sea level rise that will inundate the dwellings of hundreds of millions of people. unfortunately, a full weaning from fossil **fuels** is unlikely to occur, for two reasons: the cost of the transition has been underestimated and the calamity of **climate** change won't be fully felt for several generations.

People living today will be unwilling to pay a high price to avert a disaster most won't live to experience. also, since **climate** warming is global, green jurisdictions will suffer from its effects as much as the environmentally irresponsible ones, which can sap the incentive to decarbonize. not many countries have large **electricity** resources, and nuclear **power** faces stiff political opposition in many quarters, so the burden of fossil fuel replacement falls mainly on **wind** and **solar power**. but the latter are unreliable and uncontrollable, and to ensure supply reliably matches demand without fossil fuel backup requires storage devices. that's where the problem lies because no one knows what that is going to cost. experience in Germany suggests that a full backup storage capacity would require much more than a couple of days'worth of output. For instance, in October 2015 **wind** and **solar** combined produced only 52 per cent of november's output. Such a large swing during a monthlong period suggests the need for a storage capacity equivalent to the system's output over weeks, which would be impracticably expensive. as it stands, no **electrical power** system anywhere in the world has a significant battery storage capacity. the true cost of **electricity** derived exclusively from nonnuclear carbonless sources can only be estimated by detailed technical and economic simulation studies. but unbelievably, given the stakes, only one such study, made at Stanford university, has been published. It deemed that battery storage is indeed too costly for **public electric power** systems, and opted instead for various thermal storage methods. these include thermal

storage for heating and cooling of buildings on a district scale, with the timing of **energy** inputs to underground central earth and water/ice reservoirs in the hands of the **power utility**, and hot and chilled water piped to individual buildings, which conveniently dumps storage costs on the user.

In **Ontario**, we have witnessed the government backing away from further expanding **wind power** due to the backlash from citizens outraged over their rising **electricity** bills. but this push-back would likely be dwarfed by the uproar in jurisdictions attempting to transition to all-renewables largely backed by batteries, or requiring the retrofitting of all buildings for greener district heating and cooling.

We must conclude that the expectation that the world will soon give up its addiction to fossil **fuels** is probably doomed to disappointment, not because it is impossible, but because it is politically impossible.

Indeed, promises made at major **climate** conferences such as Kyoto and Paris tend to be forgotten once they become political liabilities. unfortunately an unfounded hubris about renewables fosters the belief that we can spurn nuclear **power**. but given mankind's desperate situation this is a luxury we can ill afford. and regrettably it is happening in Germany, where thanks to nuclear plant closures, carbon emission levels have not budged during the past five years, despite massive investments in **wind** and **solar power**. John Beeckmans is professor emeritus in engineering at Western University.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Ontario's wind dictatorship; The province's Liberal government continues to impose unneeded turbines on rural communities that don't want them

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Toronto Sun - Sun Oct 22 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jimmcperson

Ad Value: \$5,948

Reach: 222184 Page: A16

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain **Ontario** Premier Kathleen Wynne's government recently authorized a multinational German **corporation** to build nine mammoth **wind** turbines in the Prince Edward County hamlet of Milford.

Why? The project has been dramatically scaled down over the years due to various agreements and environmental rulings.

It could have simply been terminated, but now its huge cost will be paid over 20 years by all **Ontario ratepayers**, who will be charged above-market prices for **electricity** generated by these nine unneeded turbines and many others.

Neighbouring residents and wildlife will suffer as well.

This is an example of the disdain demonstrated for rural Ontarians by the Wynne government, and before that, the government of her Liberal predecessor, Dalton McGuinty.

Since the Liberal government's enactment of the **Green Energy Act** of 2009, **Ontario**, in many respects, has become an **energy** dictatorship.

Last Sunday, an angry **crowd** of locals braved 50 km/h winds as they marched to the county's 446-seat Regent **Theatre** to demand this project's cancellation.

Ontario's energy dictatorship is so disdainful of its rural residents, it forces them to accept industrial **wind** factories near their homes and favours large, foreign corporations over its own citizens.

To illustrate, let's compare how **wind energy** is managed in **Ontario's** Prince Edward County, versus Portugal's autonomous region of Madeira, where I was recently on vacation.

Madeira is an island community, with 10 times Prince Edward County's population, on 20% less land.

But Madeira is similar to the county in several ways: Both are islands. Both have bucolic natural environments.

Both are highly dependent on tourism.

Both have widely recognized wine industries ...

Madeira for several centuries, the county for a decade.

Both have abundant **wind energy** that can be harvested by giant turbines.

Both have environmentally-conscious governments.

But there are major differences: Madeira has a shortage of **electricity**.

The province of **Ontario**, in which Prince Edward County is located, has a surplus.

Madeira needs **wind power** to reduce fossil fuel imports. **Ontario** exports surplus **wind power** at a loss, but approves and subsidizes more and more **wind** projects.

Madeira's **wind energy** supplier is owned and operated by a local **public corporation**, having a mission of domestic benefit.

Many of Prince Edward County's **wind energy** proponents are multinational corporations motivated in large part by subsidies that yield profits for foreign investors.

In May, 2009, through the **Green Energy Act**, the **Ontario** legislature, ruled by the governing Liberals who have been in **power** for 14 years, made itself the authority over all energyrelated industrial **wind turbine** developments.

Individual property rights were expropriated and local planning authority was transferred from municipalities to the province.

In effect, **Ontario** proclaimed itself an **energy** dictatorship.

Madeira, by contrast, treats its citizens with respect.

In **energy**-hungry Madeira, there are only two **wind** farms, both far from dense urban communities where people live. One is on a mountain top near the **centre** of the island, the other on the island's industrially-zoned eastern **peninsula**. Additional turbines are located on a small nearby island.

Prince Edward County residents have been fighting for 17 years to keep unsafe industrial **wind** turbines away from their tranquil, rural neighbourhood.

This fight has cost them over \$1 million in legal fees.

But **Ontario's energy** dictatorship expropriated their rights and their freedoms.

It stripped their municipalities of their historical authority to regulate **electricityrelated** development.

Instead, it teamed up with multinational corporations.

It is subsidizing the operation of unwanted and unneeded industrial **wind** turbines located as little as 550 metres away from private homes In a 2012 referendum, Milford area citizens were 90.2% opposed to industrial **wind** turbines.

Last Sunday, they rallied to stop this highly disruptive and unpopular form of industrialization, forced upon them by **Ontario's energy** dictatorship at Queen's Park.

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d Let's get caught up on Trillium Power case

d

d Beacon-Herald - Mon Oct 23 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$428

Rank: 10442, Page: 15

d government lawyers are making another run at dismissing a \$500-million lawsuit over the cancellation of a massive **wind-power** station that might have been built in Lake **Ontario** off **Kingston**. The government's lawyers say the case is "plainly devoid of merit" and should be tossed, in their formal notice of their intentions filed in September.

Trillium **Power Wind** Corp.'s lawyer says the government just doesn't want the evidence the company has to come out in court. The government's move to dismiss the case is to be heard Oct. 24.

The lawsuit is twisted up with the criminal trial going on in **Toronto** now involving former premier Dalton McGuinty's last chief of staff, David Livingston, and his deputy Laura Miller. They're facing charges they broke the law as the McGuinty team was headed out the door in early 2013, by getting Miller's computer expert partner into government computers illicitly. The idea being examined in the trial was that they wanted to erase emails related to the costs of cancelling a pair of controversial **gas-fired electricity** stations near **Toronto** before the 2011 election. The two have pleaded not guilty.

Trillium alleges in its lawsuit that the government targeted Trillium's plans for that huge offshore **wind** farm with a freeze on all windmills in the Great Lakes, also in 2011. Trillium says that masses of evidence proving the point got swept up in a widespread deletion. You can't get out of paying for doing wrong by getting rid of the evidence, the company says.

This is the thread by which Trillium's lawsuit hangs, after an earlier round of legal fighting ended with the **Ontario** Court of Appeal dismissing claims related to the windfarm moratorium itself.

Ontario, in its green-**energy** fervour of the 2000s, did encourage companies to get to work on Great Lakes **wind** farms, offering up rights to the lakebeds and starting to **plan** for how hundreds of megawatts of **wind power** out on the water would get into the provincial **power** grid.

Then the government changed its mind. Twice, in fact: first before the 2007 election, when it imposed one moratorium it eventually lifted, and then again

before the 2011 election.

The official reason for the 2011 moratorium on Great Lakes **wind** farms is that the government became worried that plunking hundreds of windmills into the lakebeds would stir up decades of industrial toxins.

Anyway, the government can do what it did, the court of appeal ruled in throwing out most of Trillium's case.

Trillium alleges that the government timed its decision stopping offshore **wind** farms so it came out the day Trillium was to seal a financing deal.

Tosh, says the government. The timing was a coincidence.

"**Ontario** did not know that the plaintiff was intending on securing its financing on the day it announced its policy decision," the province's filing says. "As such, there cannot be any evidence of **Ontario**'s intention to harm the plaintiff because **Ontario** could not have formed such an intention."

There would be proof, responds Trillium, if you hadn't erased it.

The government's filing against Trillium says if the case does go ahead, Trillium should have to put up money that would cover the government's costs if Trillium loses, "which could be considerable" and which Trillium probably couldn't pay. The Catch-22s abound when you're going up against an opponent with a big legal team and bottomless pockets.

If the case does go ahead, it's due to go to trial next June 11, three days after the spring election. dreevely@postmedia.com twitter.com/davidreevely

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