Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: October 30, 2017 7:44 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, October 30, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, October 30, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 28 Results

You Call This A Plan?; Liberal electricity blunders costing us billions

Ottawa Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $2,043
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A8

The problem with Premier Kathleen Wynne's "Longterm **energy** **plan**" for **Ontario**, released Thursday, is that it suggests there's a **plan**. As both opposition parties noted, this **plan** - the government ...

Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, October 29, 2017
LTEP mentioned first in the show.

Mixed reviews of energy plan; United Way head says changes will help; Tories say it will cost more in the end

Owen Sound Sun Times - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: $801

Reach: 13483 **Page:** A3

The head of the local United Way says there's good news for lowincome families in the provincial Liberal government's Long-Term **Energy** **Plan**. The document reconfirms measures in Ontario's **Fair** **Hydro** ...

Dobbyn happy with long-term energy plan | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, October 27, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

The head of the local United Way says there's good news for low-income families in the provincial Liberal government's Long-Term Energy Plan.

Mayor sees big dividend in Alectra merger with Guelph

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Kevin Werner Hamilton Community News

Ad Value: $2,893
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A19

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger expects Hamilton council will look favourably upon Alectra **Utilities** Inc. merging with **Guelph** **Hydro**. "There are great synergies," said Eisenberger, who along with Paul Benson ...

Guelph Hydro merger to be subject of public open houses | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

If you have opinions about the proposal to merge Guelph Hydro and Alectra, it's now known where you can go to have those opinions heard.

Have your say on proposed Guelph Hydro merger starting Saturday - Kitchener -Waterloo - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Public consultations for the Guelph Hydro merger with Alectra begins on Saturday morning at Guelph's Farmers' Market on Gordon Street, and will go until Nov. 9.

Time-of-use prices set to change on hydro bills | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario Energy Board says time-of-use price periods will be changing on Nov. 1.

Using our cash to get re-elected

Ottawa Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Adrienne Bat Ra

Ad Value: $1,652
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A9

Here's a not so hidden secret, the **Ontario** Liberals are going to use your money to ensure they get re-elected in 2018. It will be through grandiose funding announcements, spending all over the province and they will use language such as ...

Battleground Ontario: Using our cash to get re-elected

24 Hours Toronto - Mon Oct 30 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Adrienne Batra

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Hydro Horror Story

Ottawa Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $789
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Wynne's "**Fair Hydro Plan**" temporarily drops **hydro** bills by 25% in 2018. Bills will rise by 2%-3% a year until 2022 and 7%-8% range thereafter. Wynne's **Fair Hydro Plan** ...

News - Ontario: Hydro rates to increase 43% over next decade - The Weather Network

www.theweathernetwork.com - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario residents could be paying 43 per cent more for hydro within a decade, according to recent projections by the provincial government.

Liberals say hydro bills going up over the next decade by 43%. - Bill Kelly Show - Omny.fm

omny.fm - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario Liberals say that hydro bills will be going up over the next decade, by a jump of 43%. Bills will then continue to rise for three more years.

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan temporary solution with long-term costs

troymedia.com - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral

Permalink

A recent report from Ontario’s auditor general slammed the provincial government’s “needlessly complex” plan to reduce electricity bills for Ontarians. According to the report, the government is keeping the true cost of its plan off the ...

Canada needs a new vision for resource-project review - The Globe and Mail

beta.theglobeandmail.com · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The recent decision by TransCanada Corp. to abandon the Energy East pipeline coupled with continued conflict over the approved Kinder Morgan line to the Pacific makes this a necessary time to refashion Canada's process of reviewing major resource ...

PC Energy Critic Todd Smith On Hydro Rates & Energy Plan

www.iheartradio.ca · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Hydro costs to keep pace with inflation for Ontario industrial clients, manufacturers - Canadian Manufacturing

www.canadianmanufacturing.com · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The hydro bills of Ontario’s heaviest electricity users are expected to rise in line with inflation over the next two decades, according to the Liberal government’s latest electricity price forecasts.

Time of change abound, especially on social media

Ottawa Sun · Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jeff Ballingal

Ad Value: $1,601
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A21

Last week was a fairly normal week in **Ontario** politics. The **gas** plant scandal was again in the front pages, with damning new evidence presented in the criminal trial of two former senior aides in the premier's office. The ...

Whither wind energy ?; Court case could have a profound effect on the future of Ontario's turbine industry

Toronto Sun · Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jimmcpherson

Ad Value: $3,107
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

An **incorporated** group of citizens in Prince Edward County has applied for a judicial **review** (JR) of the process by which 60 industrial **wind** **turbine** projects have been approved by Ontario's Ministry of ...

Council unanimously supports legal challenge of Green Energy Act : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

www.countylive.ca - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, October 28, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

Before a full gallery at its Committee of the Whole meeting Thursday, council unanimously showed support to CCSAGE (Concerned Citizens for Safe and Appropriate Green Energy) in its early stages of legal proceedings.

Council unanimously supports legal challenge of Green Energy Act : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

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Ottawa welcomes Manitoba's carbon-tax plan, with a warning

The Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $17,666
Reach: 372649 **Page:** A7

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna warned Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government on Friday that it will have to increase its newly announced $25-a-tonne carbon tax within three years or face federal action. Despite the disagreement over ...

Manitoba plan sets up potential fight over carbon tax rate

The Sault Star - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Steve Lambert

Ad Value: $1,043
Reach: 14083 **Page:** B8

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister says he will introduce a carbon tax of $25 a tonne next year and keep it at that rate in defiance of the federal government. Pallister says his Progressive Conservative government is rejecting Ottawa's ...

Manitoba carbon tax smart politics but trouble for feds, observers say

London Free Press - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Maura Forrest

Ad Value: $3,337
Reach: 77670 **Page:** N5

Manitoba's **plan** for a carbon tax priced well below the federal standard is a smart political move, and the latest sign that there's trouble brewing for the federal government over the centrepiece of its national **climate** ...

Manitoba thumbs nose at Ottawa, sets own carbon tax scheme

THE NATIONAL - Fri Oct 27 2017, 10:00pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: CAMERON MACINTOSH; BRIAN PALLISTER; JUSTIN TRUDEAU; JANE MCDONALD; ERIN FLANAGAN

SUSAN ORMISTON (HOST): Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister hasn't exactly seen eye-to-eye with the Trudeau Government. They have battled over health-care funding, over marijuana legislation, and now over **climate change** policy. ...

Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral

WINNIPEG - The federal and Manitoba governments have moved closer to a clash over carbon pricing, with Justin Trudeau warning that **Ottawa** will impose a carbon tax in Manitoba if need be. On a visit to Quebec yesterday the prime minister ...

Oil export hopes fading as pipeline delays mount; Kinder Morgan accuses Burnaby of taking too long to issue permits

The Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: $16,978
Reach: 372649 **Page:** S2

Oil industry hopes for a major new export route to global markets are slipping into the next decade, forcing companies to seek alternatives as production swells in **Northern** Alberta. This week, Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd. sought special ...

Quebec's 'kiss-and-make-up'effort is too little, too late for Alberta; Attemptisbrazen after province sabotaged Energy East, Claudia Cattaneo writes

London Free Press - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo, Cattaneo

Ad Value: $6,167
Reach: 77670 **Page:** N5

In an open letter this week, Quebec's government house leader, Jean-Marc Fournier, surprisingly called for "reconciliation" with Alberta following the cancellation of the **Energy East** pipeline project. It's a brazen pitch for a ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

You Call This A Plan?; Liberal electricity blunders costing us billions

Ottawa Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $2,043
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A8

The problem with Premier Kathleen Wynne's "Longterm energy plan" for Ontario, released Thursday, is that it suggests there's a plan.

As both opposition parties noted, this plan - the government does one every few years - is a political document designed to get the Liberals through the next election.

After doubling residential electricity rates over a decade, Wynne's "Fair Hydro Plan" temporarily drops them by 25% - with the biggest impact coming in 2018 - just in time for the June 2018 election.

Then rates begin to rise again, slowly at first, because the Fair Hydro Plan artificially holds increases to inflation from 2018 to 2021, before prices start increasing again at annual rates that drove them to the highest levels in Canada ada under the Liberals.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says Wynne's Fair Hydro Plan will cost Ontarians $39.4 billion, including $4 billion over 30 years in unnecessary interest payments so the Liberals can keep the cost off the province's books, by transferring the debt to Ontario Power Generation.

The Liberals argue electricity rates rose quickly because of improvements they made to the system after coming to power in 2003.

It's true the grid needed new infrastructure.

But as for the Liberals'boast their $70-billion investment has modernized the system, here's what Lysyk said in her 2015 report on Hydro One, the province's monopoly (96%) electricity transmitter, which distributes power directly to 1.3 million customers: "Hydro One's mandate is to be a safe, reliable and cost-effective transmitter and distributor of electricity. Instead, (its) customers have a power system for which reliability appears to be worsening while costs are increasing."

Lysyk, who can no longer investigate Hydro One after Wynne sold 60% of it to the private sector, called the utility one of Canada's least reliable large electricity distributors between 2010 and 2014, adding that in 2014 the Ontario Energy Board ranked it worst and second-worst among Ontario electricity distributors for the duration and frequency of power outages in 2013.

The Liberals also defend skyrocketing electricity rates by citing their elimination of dirty, coal-fired, electricity.

The problem is they didn't do that with wind and solar power but with nuclear power and natural gas.

In fact, their multibillion-dollar green energy boondoggle, featuring financial disaster after financial disaster, caused electricity prices to increase much faster than they otherwise would have.

Let's review some of them:

In 2011, when then-auditor general Jim McCarter first investigated the Liberals'green energy strategy, he reported his department had to start from scratch because the Liberals, incredibly, "had not recently conducted any audit work on **renewable energy** initiatives." n Citing the 2009 **Green Energy Act**, McCarter warned that the Liberals had "created a new process to expedite the development of **renewable energy** by providing the Minister (of **Energy**) with the authority to supersede many of the government's usual planning and regulatory oversight processes.

As a result, no comprehensive businesscase evaluation was done to objectively evaluate the impacts of the billion-dollar commitment."

McCarter said the Liberals even ignored the advice of their own **energy** experts in deciding what **public** subsidies to pay **wind** and **solar** developers through their "**Feed-in Tariff**" (FIT) program.

Had they heeded it, McCarter said, the Liberals could have saved the **public** $4.4 billion over 20 years.

Overpay $9.2B

When Lysyk, McCarter's successor, revisited this issue in 2015, she concluded the Liberals will overpay $9.2 billion over 20 years for **wind** and **solar** **power**, paying twice the U.S. average for **wind** and 3½ times for **solar**. n When Lysyk audited the Liberals'**smart meter** program in 2014, she reported the same blunders McCarter found three years earlier related to green **energy**.

The Liberals had again embarked on a major project without developing a business **plan** or doing a costbenefit analysis.

When the **energy** ministry belatedly submitted the **plan** to install 4.8 million smart meters, after it was publicly announced, it underestimated the $1.9-billion cost by $900 million and overestimated net benefits by $512 million over 15 years. n The Liberals'political decision to cancel the **Oakville** and Mississauga **gas** plants leading up to the 2011 election arose from their green **energy** strategy, because the plants were intended to replace coalfired **electricity** and back up unreliable **wind** and **solar** **power**.

McCarter and Lysyk put the cost of that blunder at up to $1.1 billion over 20 years, compared to the Liberals'estimate of $230 million.

Heaven only knows what new fiscal horrors await us in the Liberals'latest "long-term **energy** **plan**." lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral

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THE SUN TIMES

Mixed reviews of energy plan; United Way head says changes will help; Tories say it will cost more in the end

Owen Sound Sun Times - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: $801
Reach: 13483 **Page:** A3

The head of the local United Way says there's good news for lowincome families in the provincial Liberal government's Long-Term **Energy** **Plan**.

The document reconfirms measures in Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan - which reduced residential electricity bills by 25 per cent on average this summer - including the promise to hold any increases to the rate of inflation for four years.

"That's really good. It means that families can budget, they're not going to see big jumps," Francesca Dobbyn, executive director of the United Way of Bruce Grey, said in an interview.

"It also holds the utility companies accountable in that they have to work within their own budgets rather than going, 'Hey we'd like to go do this or we'd like to try that.'It puts the onus back on the utility companies for them to also manage their costs because they're not going to get the raises in rates."

Dobbyn said she was invited by the Ministry of Energy to the launch of the Long-Term Energy Plan in Toronto because of the work the local United Way has done in the past to assist the province with its efforts to make electricity more affordable.

The Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, a project of the United Way, also submitted suggestions for the energy blueprint.

Dobbyn said one of the plan's most significant new initiatives - which the United Way advocated for - is the one that will enable the Ontario Energy Board to both increase its oversight of sub-metering companies, which meter and send bills to residents in multi-residential buildings for the energy they consume, and bring in new consumer protection measures.

About 326,000 apartment and condominium units in Ontario use sub-meters, also known as suite meters, and Dobbyn said the new oversight will be especially beneficial to low-income residents that reside in those units.

"This is really important for us because we have suite meters in Owen Sound for sure, the 28th Street apartments for example, where tenants pay their own hydro bills. And the OEB right now only has control to the meter to the building, they don't have any regulations about what happens inside the building. So we have companies that charge $25 a month if you haven't paid off the previous bill in terms of a fee for carrying a balance, which is really hard on low-income people," she said.

"They're also not wrapped up in any moratorium on disconnections so they were disconnecting people in March of last year."

As a result of the Fair Hydro Plan, the updated Long-Term Energy Plan says electricity prices are forecast to remain below the level projected in the previous energy blueprint from 2013. For example, the province says, the previous plan forecast that typical residential monthly electricity bills would reach $200 in 2027, but the new plan projects the cost to be about $19 less.

The plan also says electricity rates will rise gradually, by an average of about five per cent annually from 2021 to 2027.

"The significance of that, again, is the predictability of it," Dobbyn said.

The Long-Term Energy Plan includes several initiatives that the province says will assist with its commitment to avoid sharp increases in electricity costs.

They include a promise to maximize the use of Ontario's existing energy assets and only securing new power when it's needed.

Bruce Power says the plan reiterates the importance of its life-extension program, which will see the site near Tiverton provide "low-cost, carbon-free and reliable electricity" through 2064.

In a statement, Mike Rencheck, Bruce **Power**'s president and CEO, said it is important to have stable government policy in place so Bruce **Power** can make long-term investments to secure low-cost **electricity** for families and businesses.

"We are encouraged by the trust the government continues to have in Bruce **Power** to provide over 30 per cent of **Ontario**'s **electricity** at 30 per cent less than the average cost to generate residential **power**, while producing zero carbon emissions," Rencheck said. "Our life-extension program, which began on Jan. 1, 2016, is on time and on budget, and continues to boost **Ontario**'s economy in every corner of the province."

Bruce **Power** says the **plan** also recognizes the **electricity** company's other attributes, including its production of medical isotopes.

Bruce **Power** says its investment programs and operations create and sustain 22,000 jobs directly and indirectly each year, while injecting $4 billion into the economy annually.

Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown, in a statement about the Long-Term **Energy Plan**, said "despite Liberal spin," **electricity rates** will continue to skyrocket to the highest they've ever been after next year's provincial election.

He also mentioned a special report by **Ontario**'s auditor general, which said the provincial government created "an unnecessary, complex financing structure to keep the true financial impact of most of its 25 per cent **electricity**-**rate** reduction off the province's books." The report said the **Fair Hydro Plan** could cost Ontarians up to $4 billion more than necessary in interest costs over the next 30 years.

Brown said: "The Wynne Liberals are untrustworthy, especially when it comes to Ontarians' **electricity** bills. Every single time they've played games with the **electricity** sector it has left families working harder, paying more, and getting less.

"The 2017 LTEP (Long-Term **Energy Plan**) does not show the real costs of their 'unfair' **hydro** scheme. It is nothing but a Wynne Liberal re-election campaign document that does nothing to calm the nerves of families worried about their future."

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Dobbyn happy with long-term energy plan | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

The head of the local United Way says there's good news for low-income families in the provincial Liberal government's Long-Term Energy Plan.

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Mayor sees big dividend in Alectra merger with Guelph

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Kevin Werner Hamilton Community News

Ad Value: $2,893
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A19

Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger expects Hamilton council will look favourably upon Alectra Utilities Inc. merging with Guelph Hydro.

"There are great synergies," said Eisenberger, who along with Paul Benson represents Hamilton on the Alectra Utilities Inc. board of directors. "It would give Alectra a foothold in that market. There would be increased benefits and reduced pressure on costs."

Alectra recently announced it will be negotiating with Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc. officials to merge their operations with the recently created Alectra Utilities. Guelph council is scheduled to vote on a proposed merger offer at its Dec. 13 council meeting.

Brian Bentz, president and chief executive officer of Alectra Utilities Inc., said he expects Alectra's municipal shareholders would be "supportive of the benefits of this merger."

Guelph Hydro has about 55,000 customers, including in nearby Rockwood, which would join Alectra's estimated 1 million customers. Guelph would also get an operations centre and the creation of a Green Energy and Technical Centre. Guelph Hydro has about 130 employees. Alectra is the second-largest municipally-owned utility in North America behind the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

"There would be additional opportunities for increased dividends," said Eisenberger. "I think it's a good news story."

Bentz said if Guelph council approves the deal in December, Alectra's shareholders - the various municipalities such as Markham, Barrie, Mississauga, St. Catharines and Hamilton - would soon follow with votes scheduled on the deal.

If all the shareholders approve the deal, then Alectra officials would seek approval from the Ontario Energy Board, which could take place sometime in mid to late 2018. Alectra officials promised Hamilton councillors in 2015 the merged company would 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 increased dividends. But Alectra officials acknowledge those dividends to municipalities, including Hamilton, are potentially more than forecast. For instance, Hamilton was projected to receive about $4 million in the first year of the merger. This year city officials are budgeting for about $6 million.

"I said at the time (Horizon officials) were conservative in their projections," says Eisenberger. "This will benefit not only Hamilton but all across the municipalities. They will provide additional dollars for what municipalities want to do."

Hamilton is using about $3 million of its dividends this year to help pay for the mayor's 10-year, $50 million poverty reduction plan that involves building and maintaining affordable housing.

Bentz said the higher dividends are the result of the "synergies" of merging four utilities together. He said the forecast now is for the utility company to provide larger dividends to shareholders over the next few years.

"We are working very diligently to activate those synergies to all the municipalities," said Bentz.

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Guelph Hydro merger to be subject of public open houses | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

If you have opinions about the proposal to merge Guelph Hydro and Alectra, it's now known where you can go to have those opinions heard.

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Have your say on proposed Guelph Hydro merger starting Saturday - Kitchener-Waterloo - CBC News

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Using our cash to get re-elected

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Here's a not so hidden secret, the **Ontario** Liberals are going to use your money to ensure they get re-elected in 2018.

It will be through grandiose funding announcements, spending all over the province and they will use language such as "investments in our future" while at the same time racking up **Ontario**'s already unwieldy $312 billion debt.

The Liberals won't be particularly subtle about their spending either, frankly they don't have to be - they currently have a majority government and can use the **public** purse as they see fit, no matter how fiscally irresponsible they have been.

However it's still worth pointing out the initiatives they announce are dripping with political opportunism.

Take the latest from embattled Health Minister Eric Hoskins for example. The Liberals providing temporary funding for over 1,200 hospital beds sounds great - but doesn't come close to addressing the long-term crisis of bed shortages.

Even the **Ontario** Health Coalition, as Antonella Artuso reported, sees right through this obvious election ploy referring to it as "cynical" while pointing out the funding will likely decrease after the election is over.

But it's a clever move, even if it's temporary funding.

The Liberals are likely working on an advertising campaign designed to tout their benevolence while simultaneously scare Ontarians from voting for Patrick Brown's Progressive Conservatives, who consistently beat the Liberals in **public** opinion polling.

It will go something like this: "Your **Ontario** Liberals are committed to patients, and are 'investing'millions of dollars in health care - but the PCs will cut this funding if elected! Vote Liberal!" And speaking of cynical, how about the **Fair Hydro Plan** which **Ontario**'s Auditor General just ripped to shreds.

The "**plan**" will cost nearly $40 billion, and artificially keeps **electricity rates** down. Here's the election kicker - just in time for the 2018 campaign, the **rates** will be the lowest, then will increase every year following. How convenient. Those campaign commercials practically write themselves.

Earlier this year the Liberals bought themselves labour peace till after the next election offering contact extensions for teachers and education workers and two of the biggest unions representing thousands of **public** servants across **Ontario**.

And they vote - in droves. They know having a Liberal government in the pink palace is in their respective unions's best interest, so why not keep them there? After all, Premier Kathleen Wynne and Dalton McGuinty before her, weren't coy about keeping the unions happy.

But the one thing that is going to likely hurt young workers and those who aren't as highly skilled the most, was the ramming through of the increased minimum wage.

Study after study has shown that with increased labour costs and regulations, employers will hire less. Not to mention industry will respond to governments obscene financial demands by being more innovative and use technology to replace workers.

None of these facts seem to matter though, the Liberals needed an issue to take away from their left flank - the NDP - and this was it.

So the Liberals have kicked in their re-election strategy, the question is - will Ontarians be fooled into buying what they are selling us, using our own money? abatra@postmedia.com @AdrienneBatra

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Wynne's "**Fair Hydro Plan**" temporarily drops **hydro** bills by 25% in 2018.

Bills will rise by 2%-3% a year until 2022 and 7%-8% range thereafter.

Wynne's **Fair Hydro Plan** will cost Ontarians $39.4 billion, including $4 billion over 30 years in unnecessary interest payments. The Liberals will overpay $9.2 billion over 20 years for **wind** and **solar power**. The Liberals'**plan** to install 4.8 million smart meters underestimated the $1.9-billion cost by $900 million and overestimated net benefits by $512 million over 15 years. The Liberals'political decision to cancel the **Oakville** and Mississauga **gas** plants leading up to the 2011 election will cost up to $1.1 billion over 20 years, compared to the Liberals'estimate of $230 million.

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News - Ontario: Hydro rates to increase 43% over next decade - The Weather Network

www.theweathernetwork.com · Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral

Ontario residents could be paying 43 per cent more for hydro within a decade, according to recent projections by the provincial government.

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Liberals say hydro bills going up over the next decade by 43%. - Bill Kelly Show - Omny.fm

omny.fm · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Ontario Liberals say that hydro bills will be going up over the next decade, by a jump of 43%. Bills will then continue to rise for three more years.

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Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan temporary solution with long-term costs

troymedia.com · Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral

A recent report from Ontario’s auditor general slammed the provincial government’s “needlessly complex” plan to reduce electricity bills for Ontarians. According to the report, the government is keeping the true cost of its plan off the books.

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Canada needs a new vision for resource-project review - The Globe and Mail

beta.theglobeandmail.com · Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

The recent decision by TransCanada Corp. to abandon the Energy East pipeline coupled with continued conflict over the approved Kinder Morgan line to the Pacific makes this a necessary time to refashion Canada's process of reviewing major resource projects.

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PC Energy Critic Todd Smith On Hydro Rates & Energy Plan

www.iheartradio.ca - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Hydro costs to keep pace with inflation for Ontario industrial clients, manufacturers - Canadian Manufacturing

www.canadianmanufacturing.com - Fri Oct 27 2017
Tone: Neutral

The hydro bills of Ontario's heaviest electricity users are expected to rise in line with inflation over the next two decades, according to the Liberal government's latest electricity price forecasts.

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Time of change abound, especially on social media

Ottawa Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jeff Ballingal

Ad Value: $1,601
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A21

Last week was a fairly normal week in **Ontario** politics.

The **gas** plant scandal was again in the front pages, with damning new evidence presented in the criminal trial of two former senior aides in the premier's office. The province's auditor general was again out in full force, attacking the government for shady accounting practices in its latest **hydro** maneuver. While this was going on, the **Ontario** Liberals and union attack groups tried to change the subject by fear-mongering about abortion.

If this makes you feel a bit like Groundhog Day, you are not alone.

Throughout this journey, the **Ontario** Liberals have been aided and abetted by third party, union front groups like Working Families. Now, with the **Ontario** Liberals behind in the polls and Wynne's personal numbers showing her as the most unpopular politician in Canada, the attack ads agents have awakened from their threeyear, post-election slumber.

If this election is like any of the past four, the Wynne Liberals will cakewalk to the next election, nevertheless the record of ruin behind them.

All of this, of course, is not normal and certainly is not right.

Ontarians are now fully outraged by staggering incompetence and moral bankruptcy of our provincial government.

Social media has empowered regular **Ontario** voters to connect with each other and speak up. **Hydro** bills, unfair tax hikes, school closures and autism funding cuts are sparking furious discussion online. My group, **Ontario** Proud, is leading this charge and looking to be the election game changer.

In less than two years, the **power** of digital democracy has allowed us to grow to over 250,000 Facebook fans, more than every **Ontario** politician and party combined.

In response to the blitz of negative politics from Wynne and her allies, **Ontario** Proud is now expanding our efforts to promote our message of change. If you were in downtown **Toronto** last Sunday morning, you probably saw an airplane circling towing an 'AnyoneButWynne. com' banner. It was our way of letting the premier, an avid runner, know that she can no longer run from her shameful record.

The criticisms of the Wynne government go beyond ideological differences. In 2015 alone, over 59,000 families had their **electricity** cut off. Meanwhile, Liberal insiders made off with generous government contracts. And as revealed by the auditor general, Wynne's latest **hydro** scheme actually jacks bills in the long term, but artificially lowers them in time for the election.

A government this incompetent should not be capable of this level of deception.

That is why it is crucial that **Ontario** tackle the matter of hand: taking the government credit card out of the hands of this merry band of charlatans.

Social media has empowered **Ontario** voters, and as witnessed above the skies of the provincial capital on Sunday, change is now truly in the air.

Ballingall is a digital media consultant and founder of **Ontario** Proud, @ontarioisproud, the most popular and engaged Facebook page in **Ontario** politics @ontarioisproud

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Whither wind energy ?; Court case could have a profound effect on the future of Ontario's turbine industry

Toronto Sun - Sun Oct 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jimmcpherson

Ad Value: $3,107
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

An **incorporated** group of citizens in Prince Edward County has applied for a judicial **review** (JR) of the process by which 60 industrial **wind turbine** projects have been approved by **Ontario**'s Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change (MOECC).

This is a serious action, comprising thousands of pages of testimony in dozens of affidavits, from deponents who live not only in Prince Edward County, but in rural communities across **Ontario**.

In these already-approved projects, there are at least 1,200 giant **wind** turbines, of which about 1,000 are already operational.

Many additional **wind energy** proposals are in the MOECC approval process, awaiting government decisions.

The **wind** industry today is a multi-billion-dollar business in **Ontario**.

It will be up to the courts to decide the merits of this citizen-inspired request for a judicial **review** of the government decision-making process which led to the approval of these **wind** projects.

But in preparation for the day when the case from Prince Edward County's **incorporated** group is completed, there are things people should be thinking about now.

Suppose the court **rules** in favour of the appellants.

Suppose it finds the process by which these 1,200 **wind** turbines were approved - with more in the pipeline - was improper? What will happen to these 1,200 monster machines that already populate rural landscapes across **Ontario**? Will they continue to operate? Should they be demolished? What will be the status of the "**feed-in tariff**" contracts under which they supply intermittent and heavily-subsidized **electricity** to the grid? Who will act as trustees in the event a court ruling forces existing **turbine** projects into bankruptcy? What will be the rights of landowners upon whose properties turbines have already been built? How will the **public**, municipalities and local businesses be compensated for their losses in terms of health, livelihood, property values, quality of life and economic vitality due to **wind** turbines? What will be the future of **wind** **energy** in **Ontario**? These are complex questions.

For governments, citizens, and multinational **wind** **energy** corporations, the issue is huge.

It's potentially bigger than the **Ontario** Liberal government's decision to cancel two **natural-gas** fired **power** plants at a cost of $1.1 billion.

It's potentially bigger than the recent VW Canada payout of $2.1 billion to owners of Audi and Volkswagen vehicles due to the emissions scandal.

Answering these questions will be much more complex than addressing the legality of the processes that led to the approval and construction of **wind** turbines in **Ontario**.

For these issues, there are no precedents to provide guidance.

The personal, social, corporate and political consequences could be profound.

The people who caused the proliferation of industrial **wind** turbines across the province are not only multinational **wind** **power** corporations.

The main perpetrator is **Ontario**'s Liberal government.

It took away the planning rights of municipalities with regard to the location of industrial **wind** turbines through its 2009 **Green Energy Act**.

It turned neighbour against neighbour as communities were divided between those who opposed industrial **wind** farms and landowners who agreed to lease their properties to **wind** developers.

Whatever the outcome of the judicial **review**, it is time for **Ontario** to learn from its sorry past with regard to **wind** **energy**.

It is time to prepare an imaginative, productive and socially acceptable way to exploit **wind** **energy**, in light of the fact that given our current state of technology, the **electricity** it generates is today unpredictable, unreliable and expensive.

If these questions can be properly addressed with the skills and imagination that **Ontario** citizens are capable of mustering, then, perhaps this judicial **review** could be the needed opportunity, to get **Ontario** back on the right path to a greener and healthier future.

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Council unanimously supports legal challenge of Green Energy Act : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

www.countylive.ca · Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral

Before a full gallery at its Committee of the Whole meeting Thursday, council unanimously showed support to CCSAGE (Concerned Citizens for Safe and Appropriate Green Energy) in its early stages of legal proceedings.

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Council unanimously supports legal challenge of Green Energy Act : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

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Ottawa welcomes Manitoba's carbon-tax plan, with a warning

The Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $17,666
Reach: 372649 **Page:** A7

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna warned Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government on Friday that it will have to increase its newly announced $25-a-tonne carbon tax within three years or face federal action.

Despite the disagreement over details, Ms. McKenna welcomed as a "a big step forward" the decision by Premier Brian Pallister's government to adopt a carbon tax to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions, a policy that is often scorned by conservative politicians in Canada.

On Friday, Mr. Pallister announced that his government will impose a levy of $25 a tonne of carbon dioxide - or five cents for each litre of **gasoline** - to kick in next year and remain at that **rate** through 2022. In adopting the tax, the Premier warned of the looming **climate** crisis, the effects of which are already being felt in his province.

Ottawa plans to introduce legislation that will enforce its climatechange strategy, which includes a carbon tax - either adopted by the provinces or imposed by the federal government - beginning at $10 a tonne next year and rising to $50 a tonne by 2022. Mr. Pallister and Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall were the holdouts on an accord forged last year by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to address **climate** change - a deal that included the $50 levy.

While Ms. McKenna said the government is adamant that it will enforce its backstop, it won't have to do so until 2020, when the federal **plan** calls for an increase to $30 a tonne from $20 a tonne.

"We've made it clear that for a price to work, it has to keep on increasing," she said on a conference call from British Columbia.

"We've set out the federal standard and we'll be evaluating each province each year to make sure the province meets the federal standard. ... The price schedule has to be $50 by 2022, which is well beyond the price of $25 per tonne that Manitoba is proposing."

However, Manitoba argues that by imposing a higher levy earlier, it will reduce slightly more greenhouse **gases** than the federal **plan** will over the five-year period. Mr. Pallister was unfazed by the federal threats.

"There's some element here, of course, of intimidation. **Ottawa** has told us that they're going to invoke a **plan**," he told reporters. "If Manitobans are favourable to our **plan**, I think it will be difficult for **Ottawa** to invoke theirs on our province."

Manitoba's carbon tax will apply to most suppliers of **gasoline** and diesel - for **transportation**, the heating of buildings and most industrial uses.

However, the province will adopt a more flexible carbon levy for a halfdozen larger industrial users, including Koch Industries Inc.'s fertilizer plant in Brandon, which is Manitoba's largest single source of emissions.

British Columbia, Alberta, **Ontario** and Quebec all have a form of pricing on greenhouse -**gas** emissions, with a carbon tax in the Western provinces and a **cap-and-trade** system in central Canada. The Atlantic provinces are in the process of adopting their own carbon pricing plans, although neither Nova Scotia nor New Brunswick have indicated precisely how they will meet the federal standards.

The federal government's commitment to enforcing its carbon pricing **plan** is likely to face a stiffer test in Saskatchewan, where the Premier has stood as the most vocal opponent of carbon pricing. While Mr. Wall is set to retire early next year, his government reiterated its opposition to a carbon tax in its Speech from the Throne this week. Instead, it pledged to release a strategy to reduce emissions without relying on a tax.

In Alberta, all three candidates vying to lead the newly formed United Conservative Party have aggressively opposed the NDP government's rising carbon tax and have pledged to repeal it should they win the election scheduled for 2019.

Environmentalists said on Friday that the Manitoba **plan** does not go far enough, although they described it as an important step for a conservative government.

"We measure the provinces' pricing systems against their ability to meet their own stated objectives and against the commitment that Canada has made to the global effort under the Paris accord," said Glenn Murray, executive director of the Calgary-based Pembina Institute and a former environment minister in **Ontario**. "And this **plan** comes up short."

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Manitoba plan sets up potential fight over carbon tax rate

The Sault Star

The Sault Star - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Steve Lambert

Ad Value: $1,043
Reach: 14083 **Page:** B8

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister says he will introduce a carbon tax of $25 a tonne next year and keep it at that **rate** in defiance of the federal government.

Pallister says his Progressive Conservative government is rejecting **Ottawa**'s demand that provinces implement a tax that would start at $10 a tonne in 2018 and ramp up to $50 a tonne by 2022. The federal Liberals have said that if a province refuses to do so, they will enact the tax itself and give the money back to the province.

"There's some element here, of course, of intimidation. **Ottawa** has told us that they're going to invoke a **plan**," Pallister said Friday. "If we just say 'no,'we get (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau's **plan**, so clearly we want Manitobans to back a madein -Manitoba plan.

"If Manitobans are favourable to our plan, I think it will be difficult for Ottawa to invoke theirs on our province."

Most other provinces have already agreed to follow Ottawa's proposal. Saskatchewan is the only one threatening not to impose a tax at all.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said the proposal is "a big step forward" because Canadians know that pollution isn't free. Paying for pollution will spur innovation and force markets to come up with cleaner solutions, she said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the details of Manitoba's plan," she said in a statement on her Facebook page. "But I also want to be very clear: we've laid out the price schedule we need to see, which reaches $50/tonne by 2022 - well beyond the $25/tonne carbon price Manitoba is proposing."

Manitoba will be in good shape for the first few years of the carbon pricing plan, she said.

"After that, they'll need to up their game. The details matter."

Pallister released a legal opinion from a constitutional law expert earlier this month that said Ottawa has the right to demand or impose a carbon tax. But the expert also said Manitoba might be able to defend a lower price in court if its tax were as effective as the federal plan in reducing emissions.

The $25 avoids hitting people too hard in the pocketbook, Pallister said, and gives Manitoba credit for the billions of dollars it has spent building its clean-energy hydroelectric grid.

The tax will add about five cents a litre to the price of gasoline and also apply to items such as natural gas and coal. A couple with two kids will pay about $356 a year more than they do now, government officials said.

Vehicle fuel for farm operations will be exempt and agricultural emissions will not be targeted for specific sector reductions.

The tax will raise about $260 million a year and there will be public consultations on how the province should spend the money.

Possibilities include income-tax reductions, energy rebates, investments in green-energy technology and flood-prevention infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The green-energy technology could include financial aid for municipal transit services to switch to electric buses. The government is also eyeing a rebate for retrofitting heavy trucks to make them more fuel efficient.

A handful of large industrial emitters, such as the Koch Fertilizer plant in Brandon, will pay an output-based carbon price similar to the plans proposed by the federal and Alberta governments. They will be given a target for emissions and pay the $25-per-tonne levy only on the amounts above that level.

Business and municipal leaders at Friday's announcement said they recognize the need for a carbon tax and are anxious to see where the province will spend its new money.

They also said they should not bear the entire cost of any new cleanenergy requirements - such as new restrictions on landfill materials - which is one idea being explored under the government's plan.

"We do not want to see any of these costs downloaded to municipalities," said

Chris Goertzen, head of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities.

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Manitoba carbon tax smart politics but trouble for feds, observers say

London Free Press · Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Maura Forrest

Ad Value: $3,337
Reach: 77670 **Page:** N5

Manitoba's **plan** for a carbon tax priced well below the federal standard is a smart political move, and the latest sign that there's trouble brewing for the federal government over the centrepiece of its national **climate** change strategy, analysts say.

On Friday, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna had a message for Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister, who announced Friday morning that his province will impose a $25-a-tonne carbon tax next year that won't increase over time. The federal government has said all provinces and territories will need a $10 levy in place in 2018 that will rise by $10 annually to $50 per tonne in 2022.

"When Manitoba moves forward with this proposal, they'll be in good shape for the first year and the second year," McKenna said in a statement on Facebook. "After that, they'll need to up their game."

McKenna was reluctant to say whether or how the federal government will enforce its own standard.

"We'll be assessing each province and territory each year on their approach," she told reporters in a conference call. McKenna said provinces will have to meet the federal benchmark price by the end of each year, but declined to say what will happen if they don't.

Manitoba's announcement is clever politics, said Mel Cappe, a commissioner of Canada's Ecofiscal Commission, in that it may force the federal government to try to impose its own tax on top of the provincial levy to meet the federal standard. "What Pallister's done is made it look like he's done something and forced the feds to do the right thing," he said. "The province won't bear the political cost. It sounds smart to me."

By insisting it will impose a federal benchmark, Cappe said, **Ottawa** has actually taken responsibility for meeting that target out of reluctant provinces' hands.

Pallister faces his next election in 2020, just as his proposed carbon tax is set to dip below the federal price. Now he'll be thinking, "'When I run to get re-elected, I'm going to run against the federal government,'" Cappe said.

Manitoba's move is the latest indication that **Ottawa** has a fight on its hands over its carbon pricing **plan**, said Erin Flanagan, federal policy director at the Pembina Institute.

Flanagan pointed to Nova Scotia, which announced it will create a **cap-and-trade** system last month that will apply to 20 large companies but failed to set an emissions cap, and said it plans to give away credits instead of selling them. "It's unlikely to result in emissions reductions below business as usual," she said.

Saskatchewan, the only province other than Manitoba that refused to sign the pan-**Canadian climate** change framework last year, has said it will fight a federal carbon tax in court. Others argue that Manitoba's carbon tax will achieve the same reduction in emissions as the federal **plan** over the next five years, and that should be good enough.

Pallister said Friday his **plan** is cheaper and "works better" than the federal benchmark. "The environment and the economy aren't separate entities," he said. "They go together and you cannot focus on one while ignoring the other."

Dave Sawyer, an environmental economist with consulting firm EnviroEconomics, said the **plan** is "probably not as offside as most people think." Sawyer recently completed a carbon price analysis for the Manitoba government to compare its **plan** to the federal government's. "The analytics showed that the two price schedules delivered very similar cumulative emission reductions over the period," he said.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Oil export hopes fading as pipeline delays mount; Kinder Morgan accuses Burnaby of taking too long to issue permits

The Globe and Mail - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: $16,978
Reach: 372649 **Page:** S2

Oil industry hopes for a major new export route to global markets are slipping into the next decade, forcing companies to seek alternatives as production swells in **Northern** Alberta.

This week, Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd. sought special clearance from the National **Energy** Board to start work on its Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project in Burnaby, B.C., accusing the city of failing to issue needed permits in a timely fashion.

Kinder Morgan had already warned that the $7.4-billion project could be delayed by as much as nine months, meaning oil deliveries would not commence until the fourth quarter of 2020. Now the company has raised the spectre that the expansion could by scuppered altogether.

"A delay of an indeterminate nature will create uncertainty regarding the project's future and the in-**service** date of the project, potentially resulting in the failure of the project," vice-president of operations Michael Davies said in an affidavit filed with the federal **regulator**.

Lengthy delays or a decision to scrap it would deal a major blow to the Alberta-based industry and could further inflame tensions between the province and neighbouring British Columbia, whose Premier, John Horgan, has come out strongly against the project.

Kinder Morgan aims to almost triple the capacity of its existing pipeline to carry as much as 890,000 barrels a day of crude from Edmonton to an export terminal in suburban Vancouver.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signed off on the expansion last year, but it has been challenged in the courts by environmentalists as well as cities and Indigenous groups along the **West Coast**.

In Alberta, the upstart United Conservative Party has made much of the frustration over cancelled megaprojects, including TransCanada Corp.'s move this month to abandon its proposed **Energy** East pipeline.

Former federal cabinet minister Jason Kenney and other UCP leadership candidates have pledged to kill Alberta's carbon tax and take a harder line with **Ottawa** and other provinces on pipelines and **energy** policy.

Energy East had been scheduled to start up in 2020 at the earliest, sending Alberta crude to refineries and export terminals on the Atlantic **Coast**.

TransCanada blamed an uncertain regulatory process for its demise, though analysts have said economics also played a role.

Its cancellation comes as a series of major projects near completion in the oil sands, threatening to dump more crude into a market already struggling with pipeline constraints. The excess production is bound to move by rail, eating into margins that remain pressured by weak oil prices.

"Most of the export pipelines out of Canada are running full right now," said GMP FirstEnergy analyst Martin King. "That's going to be the case probably for the next couple of years as the supply growth keeps coming at us."

On Thursday, Kinder Morgan said Burnaby's refusal to issue permits in a timely manner raises "serious issues of jurisdiction." The mayor, a vocal opponent of the project, has said the city is not holding up the process.

The company also asked the NEB to establish an "expedited determination" to avoid future delays. Mr. Davies said each month of delay results in as much as $35-million in costs and more than $90-million in forgone revenue for the company.

In the affidavit, he said oil shipper customers could seek alternatives for committed volumes of more than 700,000 barrels a day should the company miss its planned startup date of 2019.

Many of the project's backers are also supporters of TransCanada's rival Keystone XL pipeline, which would send Alberta crude through the U.S. Midwest to big refineries on the Texas Gulf **Coast**.

Shippers "may need to find alternate, and potentially higher-cost, **transportation** options for this production to other markets," Mr. Davies said.

Data suggest that's already happening.

Canadian crude-by-rail exports have steadily ticked up in recent months, from an average of 50,000 barrels a day in July to 66,000 a day in September, according to Genscape, an oil industry consultancy.

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Quebec's 'kiss-and-make-up'effort is too little, too late for Alberta; Attemptisbrazen after province sabotaged Energy East, Claudia Cattaneo writes

London Free Press - Sat Oct 28 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo, Cattaneo

Ad Value: $6,167
Reach: 77670 **Page:** N5

In an open letter this week, Quebec's government house leader, Jean-Marc Fournier, surprisingly called for "reconciliation" with Alberta following the cancellation of the **Energy** East pipeline project.

It's a brazen pitch for a province that didn't miss a chance to sabotage it.

Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre's famous last words, that the project's cancellation was "an enormous victory," will be forever etched in Alberta's collective consciousness as confirmation that **Energy** East was sacrificed by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to accommodate Quebec, which mobilized against it, and where the Liberals need votes in the next federal election.

Nevertheless, Fournier maintains in an Oct. 23 letter that "TransCanada's termination of the **Energy** East project is not due to Quebec's position."

Echoing the same lame excuses made by the federal government for the $15.7-billion project's collapse, Fournier said "many observers have noted that it was a business decision, based on such factors as the price of oil and the recent approvals granted to Kinder Morgan's TransMountain expansion, to the replacement of Enbridge's Line 3 and to TransCanada's Keystone pipeline."

Quebec's effort to kiss-andmake-up, now that it got what it wanted, is unlikely to avoid the consequences in Alberta of its **Energy** East handling.

One of the first big steps to hold Quebec accountable is coming Saturday, when the new United Conservative Party (UPC) is electing a new leader, increasing the odds it will replace Rachel Notley's NDP government in two years by uniting Alberta's conservative voters.

Unlike Notley, whose government expressed disappointment with the collapse of **Energy** East but did not talk about retribution, UCP leadership front-runners Jason Kenney and Brian Jean have made it their mission to renegotiate transfer payments so **Ottawa** no longer disproportionately takes from Alberta and gives to Quebec.

Both have called for a referendum to force **Ottawa** to renegotiate the formula, which they say punishes Alberta for being rich in non-renewable resources.

There is support in Alberta for such a move amid a resurgence of Western alienation, or a frustration that its priorities (such as the health of its oil and **gas** sector) are marginalized and undermined by the "**centre**", while those of other provinces (such as Quebec's Bombardier and **Ontario**'s auto industry) are prioritized and supported.

There is plenty of evidence that Quebecers, collectively, did everything they could to stand in the way of **Energy** East.

Mayor Coderre's victory declaration came after he led a campaign by the Montreal Metropolitan Community, a **regional** organization of municipal politicians representing more than 80 area cities and towns, to oppose the project on the ground its risks far outweighed its benefits. Meanwhile, it's not been lost on Albertans that Quebec imports foreign oil to meet its needs, as if that doesn't come with risks.

Quebec contributed to the regulatory overkill that ultimately sunk the $15.7 billion project. It piled on with its own list of conditions. As Fournier himself puts it in his letter, the province "adopted seven principles to examine the **Energy** East project, the same principles **Ontario** adopted, inspired by those of British Columbia."

Calgary-based TransCanada Corp., the proponent, confirmed its concerns about regulatory creep in the Oct. 5 letter to the National **Energy** Board (NEB) where it announced it would no longer proceed with the regulatory **review**, despite spending more than $1 billion.

It said its decision was due to "the existing and likely future delays resulting from the regulatory process, the associated cost implications and the increasingly challenging issues and obstacles."

Regulatory overkill didn't end there, of course. It's becoming so pervasive in **Canadian** oil and **gas** it's created its own business micro **climate**. Oilsands investment fell apart in the last two years in no small measure due to the introduction of dozens of new requirements to meet Canada's **climate** change commitments, even as the industry was reeling from an oil price crash. Less investment means less certainty of oil production, which in turn means less certainty over pipeline requirements.

Quebec's hostility to **Energy** East came in other ways, too. TransCanada had to cancel plans for a second marine terminal for **Energy** East at Cacouna, Que., to allay community concerns about impact on beluga whales. The NEB hearings on **Energy** East were suspended after violent protests in Montreal. Eventually the whole **review** went back to square one and was beefed up to win back **public** trust. The inclusion of upstream and downstream **climate** change impacts this summer ultimately became the regulatory overreach that went too far.

Through it all, Quebec's government feigned indifference. Now that **Energy** East is out of the way, it's proposing to "dialogue in a spirit of respect and trust " with Alberta, said Fournier. He's underestimating how distrusting Albertans have become due to pipeline politics. ccattaneo@nationalpost.com

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