Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: November 6, 2017 7:55 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, November 6, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, November 6, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 20 Results

THE SUN TIMES

Hydro change applauded

Owen Sound Sun Times - Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: $589
Reach: 13178 **Page:** A1 / Front

An **Ontario Energy Board** decision to ban **electricity** companies from disconnecting **power** to homes in winter over unpaid bills is something Francesca Dobbyn has been pushing for for more than a ...

Hydro: Ontario permanently bans winter disconnection from electricity | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Fri Nov 3 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Electricity customers in Ontario struggling to pay their hydro bills will no longer need to worry about being disconnected during the winter.

Dobbyn applauds permanent winter disconnection ban | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com - Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Francesca Dobbyn says an Ontario Energy Board decision banning electricity companies from disconnecting power to peoples' homes due to non-payment in winter is something she has been pushing for for more than a decade.

Enwin issues warning about text message scam | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Enwin Utilities in Windsor is warning customers about a scam targeting people across Ontario.

A Shock To The System; Wynne government's obsession with renewable energy sent electricity prices soaring

Ottawa Sun - Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Kenneth Green, Elmira Aliakbari And Ashley Stedman

Ad Value: $1,700
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A21

The **Ontario** government released an update to its longterm **energy plan** last month, projecting that the cost of **electricity** for homes and businesses will keep rising over the next 20 years. Specifically, ...

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2 Reasons Now Could Be a Great Time to Buy Into Utilities | The Motley Fool Canada

www.fool.ca - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, November 4, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

Canadian utility companies have consistently drawn interest from investors for a variety of reasons. Utilities have offered stable and consistent income for investors that have been drawn away from guaranteed income vehicles due to lower yields.

SEARCH ENGINE: Of towers and billing powers | St. Catharines Standard

www.stcatharinesstandard.ca - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, November 4, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

You ask.. We answer.

Wynne government worst in years

Sudbury Star - Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Oattes

Ad Value: $304
Reach: 114934 **Page:** A10

I understand that a lot of people, myself included, seem to know not much about Patrick Brown, Ontario's Progressive Conservative leader, which is certainly a problem for him and those who might vote for him. But, to counter that, we all know an ...

Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca · Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, November 5, 2017
Around the 10:13 mark, the program discusses LTEP and provincial power policies with Ontario Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner.

Key charge fizzles at gas plant trial; Crown says it has 'no reasonable prospect' of convicting ex-Liberal staffers for breach of trust, while defence calls for acquittal

Toronto Star · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $12,501
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A1

The Crown says it has no "reasonable prospect" of convicting two top former Liberal staffers on breach of trust allegations in relation to the **gas** plants documents scandal, leaving the pair to each face two remaining charges. And on ...

Hydro One to refurbish transmission line between Burlington and Westover

Flamborough Review · Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $226
Reach: 13956 **Page:** 1

Residents learned about **Hydro** One's plans to refurbish its **Burlington**-to-Westover **transmission** line at a **public** meeting Oct. 26 at the Millgrove United Church. The project involves the existing 115 ...

Hydro cost sparks water rate increase

Welland Tribune · Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Allan Benner

Ad Value: $398
Reach: 13164 **Page:** A5

Increasing **electricity** and maintenance expenses are driving up the cost of water and sewer treatment, leading to a two per cent increase in **Niagara** Region's wholesale **rates**. "Consistent with the last few years one ...

Ohio city refuses to give up fight against gas pipeline

National Post · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: The Associated Press
Reach: 607500

CLEVELAND - As a partnership between companies based in Canada and

Detroit begins the first steps in building a $2 billion **natural gas** pipeline, a northeast Ohio mayor is vowing to continue his city's fight to get the pipeline ...

The Sault Star

Demise of Energy East is good news

The Sault Star - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Patrick DeRochie

Ad Value: $273
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A8

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** ...

Standard Freeholder

Will Wynne-whacking work?; Attack ads can be effective, but does Patrick Brown have the right formula?

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: R. Michael Warren

Ad Value: $925
Reach: 10892 **Page:** A7

During the U.S. presidential election campaign, Donald Trump was fond of calling Hillary Clinton "Crooked Hillary." This nasty name calling was used by Trump as a way of defining his opponents. You remember: "Lyin'Ted," "Little Marco," "Crazy ...

Toronto Sun

Hydro Zero

Toronto Sun - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gregg W. Collins

Ad Value: $580
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A14

Hydro One keeps offering me money to update the heating, cooling and lighting systems in my home so I can reduce my **energy** use. Then, because **Ontario** produces more **energy** than it uses, the extra ...

The Standard

Hydro sparks water rate increase

St. Catharines Standard - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Allan Benner

Ad Value: $800
Reach: 21194 **Page:** A4

Increasing **electricity** and maintenance expenses are driving up the cost of water and sewer treatment, leading to a two per cent increase in the **Niagara** Region's wholesale **rates**. "Consistent with the last few years ...

The Standard

Of towers and billing powers

St. Catharines Standard - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Karena Walter

Ad Value: $1,582
Reach: 21194 **Page:** A2

Q: I live near the Ridgemount Road overpass of the QE heading towards Fort Erie. Recently, in one day, a tall structure popped up on the east side of the highway. It is a metal framework with about 12 levels (with ladders in ...

Killing the goose that laid the golden egg; Increasingly harsh and ever-shifting resource-related government policies are killing jobs

The Hamilton Spectator · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Mark Milke Troy Media.

Ad Value: $4,433
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A19

With the cancellation of TransCanada's proposed Energy East pipeline - after the company spent $1 billion trying to jump through ever-changing regulatory and political hoops - Canadians should remind themselves where much of ...

Man On Emission; Pushing lie that Canada can hit accord target

Toronto Sun · Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $4,699
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A5

When the next in the series of the United Nations'never-ending, carbonspewing, climate change road shows gets underway in Bonn, Germany, Monday, Canadians will be told two big political lies. The first is that the Paris ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Hydro change applauded

Owen Sound Sun Times · Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: $589
Reach: 13178 **Page:** A1 / Front

An Ontario Energy Board decision to ban electricity companies from disconnecting power to homes in winter over unpaid bills is something Francesca Dobbyn has been pushing for for more than a decade.

"I'm relieved," the executive director of the United Way of Bruce Grey said in an interview.

"We're exhausted. This has been a battle for years of getting these changes, getting the voices of people in our community into the hands of the decisionmakers."

The OEB decision, handed down Thursday, bans electricity distributors from disconnecting or threatening to disconnect homes for non-payment from Nov. 15 to April 30 each year.

It goes a step further by banning the use of load-control devices during that period.

The OEB has also ordered electricity distributors to reconnect as soon as possible and without charge all homes that are currently disconnected due to nonpayment.

In the future, homes must be reconnected by Nov. 15 each year.

The OEB decision comes nine months after Ontario MPPs passed the Protecting Vulnerable Energy Consumers Act in February, which gave the OEB the power to end winter disconnections.

A day after that legislation was passed, the OEB issued an order to utility companies to reconnect all customers that were without power and to not disconnect any electrical services due to non-payment or arrears until at least May 1.

The OEB, at the time, said the order was intended to be an interim measure to cover the rest of the 2016-17 winter. The energy regulator said it would launch a comprehensive review of customer service rules, including those related to winter disconnections, for electricity distributors.

The OEB's Nov. 2 decision makes the Nov. 15 to April 30 winter disconnection ban permanent.

Dobbyn said some companies already had in place voluntary bans on disconnecting electricity in winter before the Protecting Vulnerable Energy Consumers Act was passed.

Hydro One, for example, had a policy to not disconnect customers in arrears from Dec. 1 to March 31.

However, other companies, like Walkerton-based Westario Power, did not.

Dobbyn said the United Way has helped single parents with young children, seniors and others to get their power turned back on in the middle of winter.

She said Westario is required to put about $25,000 a year into a fund to assist low-income customers with their hydro bills. However, that money was typically used up by March each year, Dobbyn said.

"Bruce County was running the Westario program and when they ran out of Westario money the clients came to us. And we were using our funds that we fundraise to assist Westario clients," she said.

The winter disconnection ban lets the United Way focus more on helping people who heat their homes with wood, oil and propane buy those heating sources in winter instead of scrambling to help Westario customers to have their power restored.

Only money that has been fundraised by the agency is available to help people buy wood, oil and propane.

Dobbyn said the United Way can also now do a better job of planning how to use its resources since the OEB decision includes the same winter disconnection ban period for all companies. For example, it can ensure all hands are on deck to help people once the ban period ends.

"We're a charity; we don't have a lot of staff, we don't have a lot of resources. So when we can plan and deploy them and genuinely help people, that makes us better at what we do," she said.

But Dobbyn said she wants to emphasize that the OEB decision does not give people permission to stop paying their **hydro** bill.

"You need to pay as much as you can on your bill and pay it off as much as you can every month," she said.

Assistance programs require that customers have a history of attempting to pay.

Dobbyn said it's also important for people who are struggling to pay their **hydro** bill to see the United Way or call 211 as soon as possible. The agencies can help direct those clients to assistance programs.

"We can also help with those applications," she said.

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Hydro: Ontario permanently bans winter disconnection from electricity | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca · Fri Nov 3 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Dobbyn applauds permanent winter disconnection ban | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com · Sun Nov 5 2017
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windsor.ctvnews.ca · Sat Nov 4 2017
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A Shock To The System; Wynne government's obsession with renewable energy sent electricity prices soaring

Ottawa Sun · Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Kenneth Green, Elmira Aliakbari And Ashley Stedman

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Reach: 38456 **Page:** A21

The **Ontario** government released an update to its longterm **energy** **plan** last month, projecting that the cost of **electricity** for homes and businesses will keep rising over the next 20 years.

Specifically, the average monthly **electricity** bills for residents and large industrial customers in **northern** **Ontario** will jump 52 %.

This increase will further inflate **Ontario** **electricity** prices, which are Despite the high prices, the Wynne government recently reaffirmed its commitment to costly **solar** and **wind** **power**, which is distorting market prices at the expense of **Ontario**'s current and future **ratepayers**.

Ontario's **electricity** market is a stark example of what happens when government picks technology "winners" and "losers".

The government chose **wind** and **solar** **power** over cheaper alternatives such as nuclear, hydroelectric or clean coal **power**.

In fact, as documented in our recent study, a report from the **Ontario Energy Board** in 2016 found that nuclear and hydroelectric generators, despite providing the majority of **electricity** output in **Ontario**, received much lower **rates** than **wind**, **solar** and biofuel generators.

In other words, Ontarians paid less for nuclear and hydroelectric **power** than the renewable sources favoured by the government.

Specifically, between November, 2016 and October, 2017, the **rate** paid to **wind** generators ($140 per megawatt hour or MWh, a common unit for measuring **power**) was more than double that of **hydro** and nuclear generators.

In addition, the **rate** paid to **solar** generators ($480 per MWh), was more than seven times the **rate** paid to nuclear generators ($66 per MWh) and more than eight times the **rate** paid to hydroelectric generators ($58 per MWh).

Clearly, there's a substantial price difference between the **rates** paid to **wind**, The high cost for renewable sources is even more glaring when you consider that in 2016, combined **solar**, **wind** and biomass generated less than 7% of **electricity** in **Ontario**.

And yet, the **Ontario** government has increased its renewable capacity significantly.

Between 2005 and 2015, the province increased its renewable capacity - **solar**, **wind** and bio-**energy** - by 18%. But because the sun doesn't always shine and the **wind** doesn't always blow, the government also had to secure more **natural gas** capacity as a back-up to renewable sources, increasing **Ontario**'s **gas** capacity by 9%.

As a result, the province realized a 26% increase in capacity from 2005 to 2015.

Meanwhile, the demand for **electricity** declined, partly due to rising **electricity** costs.

The increase in capacity coupled with lower **electricity** demand has resulted in significant over-supply, which must often be exported to other jurisdictions at prices below cost.

Simply put, the government's rigorous pursuit of renewables has increased **electricity** costs far more than necessary in **Ontario**.

From 2008 to 2016, residential **electricity** prices in **Ontario** increased by 71% - more than double the national average.

To make matters worse, a recent study shows **Ontario**'s skyrocketing **electricity** prices cost the province more than 74,000 manufacturing jobs between 2008 and 2015.

Finally, the Wynne government seems uninterested in meaningful policy reforms that would reduce **electricity** prices.

Instead, with its so-called **Fair Hydro Plan**, the government hides the true costs of **Ontario**'s **energy** policies.

The unfortunate reality is **Ontario** residents and businesses will continue to see their **electricity** bills rise due to the government's poor policy decisions.

Green is a senior director, Aliakbari and Stedman are analysts, at the Fraser Institute.

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2 Reasons Now Could Be a Great Time to Buy Into Utilities | The Motley Fool Canada

www.fool.ca · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

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SEARCH ENGINE: Of towers and billing powers | St. Catharines Standard

www.stcatharinesstandard.ca · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

You ask.. We answer.

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Wynne government worst in years

The Sudbury Star

Sudbury Star · Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Oattes

Ad Value: $304
Reach: 114934 **Page:** A10

I understand that a lot of people, myself included, seem to know not much about Patrick Brown, **Ontario**'s Progressive Conservative leader, which is certainly a problem for him and those who might vote for him.

But, to counter that, we all know an awful lot about our premier, who has run the worst government, in my opinion, for years. She and the Liberals have doubled our provincial debt and it appears to me are hurrying to triple it in the coming years.

She has enriched the **public** sector for years while completely shafting the private sector, ever since 2003.

She is running huge deficits almost every year and palming off the results of that unto our children and even the unborn.

She is selling off our assets like **hydro** at every opportunity.

She is cutting our nurses, who are so badly needed.

All the while, she is borrowing untold amounts of money to foster her agendas.

Do we really need four more years of this kind of bungling? I, for one, don't think so. By the way, I can't for the life of me understand why any political party other than the Liberals would seek to unseat the Liberals, considering the unholy mess they would be getting into.

John Oattes

Sudbury

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Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca - Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Key charge fizzles at gas plant trial; Crown says it has 'no reasonable prospect' of convicting ex-Liberal staffers for breach of trust, while defence calls for acquittal

Toronto Star - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $12,501
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A1

The Crown says it has no "reasonable prospect" of convicting two top former Liberal staffers on breach of trust allegations in relation to the **gas** plants documents scandal, leaving the pair to each face two remaining charges.

And on Friday, defence lawyers argued the two should be immediately acquitted on those charges as well - mischief and unauthorized use of a computer - by way of a directed verdict.

But Crown prosecutor Tom Lemon told court while he did not wish to pursue the key breach of trust accusations, he urged the judge to "look at the totality of everything" on the other two charges - including arranging the "indiscriminate wiping of 20 hard drives" in the office of then-premier Dalton McGuinty when the duo did not have authority to do so.

Brian Gover, who represents McGuinty's former chief of staff David Livingston, characterized the Crown's case as based on "rank speculation bordering on conspiracy theory."

When their trial began in September, Livingston and Laura Miller, his deputy chief of staff, each pleaded not guilty to breach of trust, mischief in relation to data and unauthorized use of a computer system in relation to the alleged deletion of documents as McGuinty stepped down amid controversy in February 2013.

McGuinty had announced plans to resign and prorogued the legislature in October 2012.

His minority government was under a legal order from an opposition-dominated legislative committee to produce documents explaining the decision to cancel **natural gas**-fired **power** plants in **Oakville** and Mississauga before the 2011 election.

Opposition parties accused the government of axing and moving the plants as a "seat saver" move because community opposition to the plants threatened to defeat Liberal MPPs representing areas surrounding the two plants.

McGuinty told a legislative committee the plants were cancelled because they were too close to residential areas.

He was not a subject of the police investigation and co-operated with detectives investigating the case.

On Friday, Lemon told court because the Crown "could not prove that specific emails were deleted," he had a "duty to act accordingly" and ask for dismissal the breach of trust charges.

Those charges each carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Lemon said an email from Livingston referring to "double deleting" emails, along with the wiping of the hard drives, was a two-pronged way to get rid of documents.

But Gover said there is no evidence that either of the accused had the "intention to commit mischief to data" and that the Crown had not presented any evidence that "work-related documents were erased" instead of being kept, as required.

He s aid they held a "sincere belief" they had the authority to do so.

He also said the "double delete" email was merely the same information given to all **public** servants, and was in no way an instruction.

Justice Timothy Lipson did query the defence on the "extraordinary lengths" the accused went to, if it was a "mundane task" of deleting personal information.

Miller's spouse, Peter Faist, was hired to wipe the hard drives, after Livingston sought, and was granted, special access.

The Crown has said the access that Livingston sought was granted "under false pretenses."

But Hutchison said Peter Faist cleaned the hard drives during business hours and was "escorted from machine to machine," and there was "zero effort" to conceal what they were doing.

Submissions on the directed verdict continue Tuesday. Such a verdict comes before the defence has presented their case.

With files from Rob Ferguson

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Hydro One to refurbish transmission line between Burlington and Westover

Flamborough Review · Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $226
Reach: 13956 **Page:** 1

Residents learned about **Hydro** One's plans to refurbish its **Burlington**-to-Westover **transmission** line at a **public** meeting Oct. 26 at the Millgrove United Church.

The project involves the existing 115 kilovolt **transmission** line, which connects the **Burlington** Transformer Station to the Enbridge Westover **Customer** Transformer Station. **Hydro** One has initiated the Class Environmental Assessment process for the line.

Hydro One environmental planner Libby Dwyer said the work, which includes refurbishing and replacing steel towers replacing some 30 wooden poles as well as conductors and insulators, is necessary because some of the **pole** infrastructure dates back to 1945.

"It's a refurbishment, not an upgrade," she stressed, noting the work will replace what currently exists on a like-for-like basis.

The **Burlington**-to-Westover line features a double line on steel tower structures from **Burlington** to Highway 6, where **power** is then transmitted up and down the highway. **West** of Highway 6 there is a single dedicated line on wooden structures, which supplies **power** to the Enbridge Westover facility.

During construction, a temporary **distribution** line will be built running from south of Highway 5, up Westover Road to the Enbridge facility, Dwyer explained.

"It's an extra wire going in on existing poles - there will be some new poles going in," she said of the temporary line, noting the construction will mostly take place on the existing road allowance. "We need this in to be able to have the outage on the **transmission** line."

The temporary line is necessary to provide **power** to the Enbridge Westover facility.

Construction on the project is expected to take place from February 2018 to August 2019. Project manager Shailesh Javali said construction on the temporary **distribution** line will begin in February and continue until October.

Hydro One community relations officer Stephanie Hodsoll said the work won't be focused in one area during that time period.

She added while most of the work can be done using existing right-of-ways, in some cases **Hydro** One will require access across people's properties.

However, she said any areas disturbed by construction will be restored to pre-construction conditions.

"They will be returned to pre-construction conditions," she said, noting most people are concerned about access.

For more information on the project, visit www.hydroone.com/about/corporate-information/major -projects/**burlington**-to-westover.

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THE TRIBUNE

Hydro cost sparks water rate increase

Welland Tribune · Mon Nov 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Allan Benner

Ad Value: $398
Reach: 13164 **Page:** A5

Increasing **electricity** and maintenance expenses are driving up the cost of water and sewer treatment, leading to a two per cent increase in **Niagara** Region's wholesale **rates**.

"Consistent with the last few years one of the most significant pressures is the increase in **hydro** costs," said **Niagara**'s deputy treasurer Helen Chamberlain while discussing the 2018 water and wastewater budget during last Thursday night's budget meeting.

Regional council will consider approval of the $116.7-million water and wastewater budget on Nov. 16.

The two per cent overall increase will add $933,014 to water treatment funding, and $1,298,924 more for wastewater, compared to 2017.

Chamberlain said individual municipalities will determine how the Region's **rate** increases impact the water bills sent out to **Niagara** **ratepayers**.

She said the retail **rate** is "obviously going to have a very different impact than what we distribute to local municipalities."

"You're going to see very different outcomes in terms of how this translates to the **customer**," she said.

Chamberlain said despite initiatives designed to reduce **energy** usage, **Niagara**'s water and wastewater treatment plant **electric** bills are expected to cost about $1 million next year.

Public works commissioner Ron Tripp later added that the Region is spending $600,000 annually in **energy**-efficiency programs.

"It's really not savings, it's offsetting increases," he said.

Tripp said investing in new highefficiency equipment will also help reduce **energy** costs.

"One of our biggest **energy** drivers are our pumps, and the replacement of those pumps will ultimately take place through infrastructure renewal," Tripp said.

Fort **Erie** Coun. Sandy Annunziata pointed out that the increased **electricity** costs the Region is paying are entirely the result of increasing **electricity** charges, rather than increased **power** usage.

"The taxpayer is going to get hit twice now," Annunziata said.

"They're getting dinged with respect to the **hydro** bill they get every month, and now they're getting dinged on their water bill, essentially, because this results in an increase of $1 million."

Chamberlain said repair and maintenance for facilities is also having an impact on next year's budget.

After a few years of postponing those expenses, she said the Region is "trying to get back to a more appropriate level in that area."

The budget includes a $26-million increase in infrastructure investment, above the five-year average, "allowing us to impact some of our infrastructure backlog and the needs of the asset management **plan**."

Meanwhile, stormwater infiltration continues to plague **Niagara**'s infrastructure.

"The years where projected flows exceeded our actual, those are the years where we've experienced revenue shortfalls and they can be significant," Chamberlain said.

"Every one per cent decline in the revenue relates in a $300,000 revenue loss."

The budget also includes funding for 7.5 full-time equivalent staff, including project managers.

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Ohio city refuses to give up fight against gas pipeline

National Post · Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: The Associated Press
Reach: 607500

CLEVELAND - As a partnership between companies based in Canada and Detroit begins the first steps in building a $2 billion **natural gas** pipeline, a northeast Ohio mayor is vowing to continue his city's fight to get the pipeline moved away from his community of 25,000 residents, "as long as there is hope."

"I'm not opposing oil and **gas**," Green Mayor Gerard Neugebauer told The Associated Press this week. "What I'm saying is that you should not go through populated areas when you put in a pipeline."

The partnership between Calgary-based Enbridge and Detroit's DTE **Energy** has received all the federal approvals it needs to build the 255-mile-long NEXUS pipeline, which will be capable of transporting 1.5 billion cubic feet of **gas** per day from the shale fields of Appalachia across **northern** Ohio and into Michigan and Canada. A little more than 200 miles (321.85 kilometres) of the pipeline will be in Ohio with nearly 8 miles (12.87 kilometres) in Green.

Neugebauer and his administration began attempts to move the pipeline's proposed route south to more rural areas after the project was announced more than two years ago. Green's alternate route proposed early on by city engineers was rejected by NEXUS as too costly. The Federal **Energy** Regulatory Commission, which voted in August to issue the project its key Certificate of **Public** Convenience and Necessity, clearing the way for construction, concluded the Green route provided no benefits over NEXUS' route.

The city's last-ditch efforts are now being waged in federal courts.

Attorneys for Green last month petitioned the 6th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, challenging the Clean Water Act permit the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issued for the project. The petition argues the EPA didn't fully consider potential damage that construction could cause to wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas in the city. NEXUS joined the EPA in defending the agency's actions. A decision is pending.

The city has refused NEXUS' $146,000 offer for easements on city-owned parcels and roadways after being named as a defendant in a federal eminent domain lawsuit filed by NEXUS to obtain property it needs for construction and permanent access to the pipeline.

And NEXUS sued the city last week in U.S. District Court when Green issued an order stopping workers from using vacant property the partnership had leased for construction equipment and materials. Green argues the city's land use code doesn't allow for storage on vacant property. NEXUS said federal approvals trump city codes.

NEXUS spokesman Adam Parker said the partnership doesn't comment on pending litigation. Parker said NEXUS has acquired easements for 97 per cent of the property along the pipeline's route and that the project is on target to begin transporting **gas** next fall - a year later than originally planned.

History is on NEXUS' side. There are no known instances of a pipeline project being derailed after receiving FERC approvals have been issued.

Neugebauer insisted that the city's efforts shouldn't be seen as futile.

"It takes just one judge to say you can't build this here because this is wrong," Neugebauer said. "I hold out hope that this will come."

Green has much at stake, he said. The city commissioned a study by Cleveland State University that concluded Green could lose tens of millions of dollars in economic development opportunities because of the pipeline, which will be routed near the city's foreign trade zone outside Akron-Canton Airport.

Seventeen of the city's 26 athletic fields are within 1,500 feet of the pipeline's expected blast zone should a catastrophic failure occur, Neugebauer said, adding: "I hope I don't have to make decisions about whether to put people in harm's way."

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Demise of Energy East is good news

The Sault Star - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Patrick DeRochie

Ad Value: $273
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A8

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 tar sands 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 tar sands, and an unstoppable transition to **renewable energy**. There is already enough capacity to transport Western **Canadian** oil. The economic case to expand the tar sands 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 tar sands growth. Instead of pipelines, tar sands and tankers, let's accelerate our work to build a clean economy.

Patrick DeRochie

Program Manager, **Climate** & **Energy** Environmental Defence

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Will Wynne-whacking work?; Attack ads can be effective, but does Patrick Brown have the right formula?

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: R. Michael Warren

Ad Value: $925
Reach: 10892 **Page:** A7

During the U.S. presidential election campaign, Donald Trump was fond of calling Hillary Clinton "Crooked Hillary." This nasty name calling was used by Trump as a way of defining his opponents.

You remember: "Lyin'Ted," "Little Marco," "Crazy Bernie".

It worked for Trump.

But will it work for **Ontario** Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown? Brown unleashed a two-pronged ad campaign well in advance of the June 2018 provincial election. The ad campaign conveniently coincided with two highprofile political trials. One involved criminal charges against two aides of Premier Kathleen Wynne's predecessor, Dalton McGuinty. In the other, alleged violations of the Elections Act by a former staffer for Premier Kathleen Wynne and a local party fundraiser were later dismissed by the judge.

The first series of ads featured Brown talking about the economy, diversity and families.

But what drew my attention was his party's Trump-like attack ad, which appeared on primetime TV. It accuses Wynne of being "untrustworthy" and implies she's a liar, only one step removed from being crooked.

Wynne and the Liberals haven't run attack ads against Brown at this point, although third parties have targeted him.

The PC ad features a still, stone-faced Wynne being vilified by a menacing, deep, male voice. The narrator says, "Kathleen Wynne is untrustworthy.

Her Liberal party is politically corrupt… Now the premier is testifying at a bribery trial… Just imagine what's next." It concludes by saying, "Wynne will say anything to get elected. You can't trust her or them ever again."

Research shows attack ads can be effective. They can also backfire.

In the leadup to the 2014 federal election, the Harper Conservatives tried to define Justin Trudeau in a series of hard-hitting ads. They claimed Trudeau was "not ready," "in over his head" and a political neophyte incapable of running the country now or ever. A poll conducted by Forum Research later found the campaign failed, badly. Half of the voters who saw the ads said they made them more likely to vote Liberal. Less than 20 per cent said the ads inclined them to vote Conservative.

Brown's office is now full of former Harper aides who seem to have forgotten why their Trudeau TV ads rebounded so badly.

Successful attack ads rarely deal with policy issues. Instead they focus on underlying character flaws that will resonate with voters. Trudeau's inexperience was seen by many viewers as a correctable flaw, not a character weakness.

In the early Wynne ads, the PCs try to label her as "untrustworthy" - but largely because of McGuinty-era failures: eHealth, the **gas** plants cancellations and trials involving McGuinty staffers. I doubt viewers see McGuinty's mistakes as core Wynne character flaws or personal weaknesses. Maybe that's why the most recent versions have focused on rising **hydro rates**.

If "untrustworthy" is really code for "she's a woman, and she's gay," the electorate will respond the same way they did to the Chretien attack ads that highlighted his facial sag and slur. There will be an overwhelming backlash.

The most effective attack ads also come from a source with moral authority. The Harper attacks on Trudeau failed in part because they were emanating from a spent prime minister immersed in a Senate scandal, claiming he didn't know what was going on in his own office.

Brown has emerged as PC leader with considerable baggage of his own. As a Harper MP he opposed gay marriage, abortion and a carbon tax. As **Ontario** PC leader, he's had a change of heart on all these issues. So it appears it's Brown who will say almost anything to get elected.

The content of an effective attack ad has to be believable. One of the Trudeau ads depicted him stripping to the waist and looking like a buffoon with good hair. However, viewers quickly learned the clip was Trudeau raising money at a charity event.

The Wynne ad plays out on a dark, ominous background. It's accompanied by the sound of a jail door clanking closed, leaving the impression Wynne should be jailed - echoing the Trump rally chant of "Lock her up" without saying so directly. Brown has also refused to apologize for saying Wynne "stands trial" in the Election Act court case when in fact Wynne was only testifying at the trial of others. Taken together, the PCs'campaign is moving beyond believable.

Attack ads are used mostly to rally the base of a party. They energize those who are excited by confrontational politics. They use anger and fear to prompt members to contribute money and get out and vote.

They don't work as well on informed voters, who see them as dumbing down policy alternatives in favour of character assassination. Brown has to be careful his staff's Trumpesque tendencies don't backfire the way they did with Harper.

Let's hope the next election is a fight of competing ideas and direction for **Ontario**. And that it doesn't descend into a slugfest of personal attacks and recrimination. R. Michael Warren is a former corporate director, **Ontario** deputy minister, TTC chief general manager and Canada Post CEO. r.michael.warren@gmail.com

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Hydro Zero

Toronto Sun - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gregg W. Collins

Ad Value: $580
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A14

Hydro One keeps offering me money to update the heating, cooling and lighting systems in my home so I can reduce my **energy** use. Then, because **Ontario** produces more **energy** than it uses, the extra is sold at a loss to Quebec and the U.S.A. They are also offering contracts for private **solar** installations to produce even more **electricity** that we don't need, paying more for the **hydro** produced than they sell it for. Would some high-priced **hydro** executive please explain to me how this makes sense.

GREGG W.

COLLINS ORO-MEDONTE, ONT.

(It makes perfect sense once you realize **Ontario**'s Liberal government has no idea of what it's doing on the **energy** file)

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Hydro sparks water rate increase

St. Catharines Standard - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Allan Benner

Ad Value: $800
Reach: 21194 **Page:** A4

Increasing **electricity** and maintenance expenses are driving up the cost of water and sewer treatment, leading to a two per cent increase in the **Niagara** Region's wholesale **rates**.

"Consistent with the last few years one of the most significant pressures is the increase in **hydro** costs," said **Niagara**'s deputy treasurer Helen Chamberlain, discussing the 2018 water and waste water budget during Thursday's budget meeting.

Regional Council will consider approval of the $116.7 million water and wastewater budget on Nov. 16.

The two per cent overall increase will add $933,014 to water treatment funding, and $1,298,924 more for wastewater, compared to 2017.

Responding to a questions from St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms, Chamberlain said individual municipalities will determine how the Region's rate increases impact the water bills sent out to Niagara ratepayers.

She said the retail rate is "obviously going to have a very different impact than what we distribute to local municipalities."

"You're going to see very different outcomes in terms of how this translates to the customer," she said.

Chamberlain said despite initiatives designed to reduce energy usage, Niagara's water and waste water treatment plants electric bills are expected to cost about $1 million next year.

Public works commissioner Ron Tripp later added that the Region is spending $600,000 annually in energy efficiency programs.

"It's really not savings, it's offsetting increases," he said.

Tripp said investing in new high efficiency equipment will also help reduce energy costs.

"One of our biggest energy drivers are our pumps, and the replacement of those pumps will ultimately take place through infrastructure renewal," Tripp said.

Fort Erie Coun. Sandy Annunziata pointed out that the increased electricity costs the Region is paying are entirely the result of increasing electricity charges, rather than increased power usage.

"The taxpayer is going to get hit twice now," Annunziata said.

"They're getting dinged with respect to the hydro bill they get every month, and now they're getting dinged on their water bill, essentially, because this results in an increase of $1 million."

Chamberlain said repair and maintenance for facilities is also having an impact on next year's budget.

After a few years of postponing those expenses, she said the Region is "trying to get back to a more appropriate level in that area."

The budget includes a $26 million increase in infrastructure investment, above the five year average "allowing us to impact some of our infrastructure backlog and the needs of the asset management plan."

Meanwhile, storm water infiltration continues to plague Niagara's infrastructure.

"The years where projected flows exceeded our actual, those are the years where we've experienced revenue shortfalls and they can be significant," Chamberlain said.

"Every one per cent decline in the revenue relates in a $300,000 revenue loss."

The budget also includes funding for 7.5 full time equivalent staff, including project managers.

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Of towers and billing powers

The Standard

St. Catharines Standard - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Karena Walter

Ad Value: $1,582
Reach: 21194 **Page:** A2

Q: I live near the Ridgemount Road overpass of the QE heading towards **Fort Erie**. Recently, in one day, a tall structure popped up on the east side of the highway. It is a metal framework with about 12 levels (with ladders in between). Can you please find out what it is? (If it is some type of communications tower, I hope it improves my internet speed!) A: You're on the right track. Richard Brady, **Fort Erie**'s director of planning and development services, said the structure is a telecommunications tower and should help with cell phone coverage when it's complete. It's believed to be a private tower for a cell provider. Q: I have noticed for many years now that the Horizon/Alectra billing period each month is so different, even from year to year, it seems to be a deliberate attempt to obfuscate. It is virtually impossible to compare a period from one year to the previous year, or the next year, and so on in order to ascertain how effective one is at reducing **energy** utilization. Or perhaps Horizon (and other **hydro** sellers) use this moving target to hide the ever incessant spate of increases. For example the past 16 billing periods my company has received span the following numbers of days: 29, 33, 29, 28, 29, 32, 29, 28, 38, 25, 33, 30, 28, 34, 30, 33. There seems to be no rhyme or reason. A: There is method to the billing madness.

We turned to John Friesen, spokesman for Alectra **Utilities**, for an explanation.

Friesen said in an email it's not an attempt to hide **rate** increases - those **rates** are determined by the **regulator**, **Ontario Energy Board**, and are publicly available and posted on the **OEB** website as well as Alectra's.

He wrote that Alectra **Utilities** billing cycles do occasionally fluctuate from month to month. The fluctuation is due to the varied number of days each month and is occasionally impacted by statutory holidays.

Bills are not sent on the first day of every month to ensure that the work required to read meters, validate meter reads and perform billing and mailing activities is equalized throughout the number of business days available to staff.

The company also tries to equalize the number of bills sent out daily to better control the volume of **customer** queries received in the call **centre**.

In other words, if everyone got their bill on the first of the month, the calls would come all at once.

"It is important to us that we can be responsive and answer each call quickly to best serve our customers," Friesen wrote.

Despite the variable bill periods, Friesen said there are a number of ways that customers can validate their bills and monitor consumption.

For instance, divide your total consumption by the number of days in the billing period to obtain a daily average. He said monitoring your daily average can assist in better understanding the impact of heating and cooling as well as conservation efforts.

Customers are also encouraged to use the online My Account portal at www.horizonutilities.com that has a number of tools to help them understand their bill, **energy** costs, and consumption. Send your queries to Karena Walter by email at kwalter@postmedia.com; by Twitter @karena_standard or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/karenawalter Fact Finder! Search Engine asked its online readers what their favourite season is (Trees miss cue for showy colours, Oct. 28). Of 366 responses, fall won out with 38 per cent of the vote. It was followed by summer at 31 per cent, spring at 20 per cent and winter in the cold dark spot of last place with four per cent. Another seven per cent said they had no preference. We also asked readers if they'd ever been on TV or in a movie (Lights, Camera, Action! in Port, Oct. 21). Of 423 responses, 52 per cent said no while 44 per cent said yes. Four per cent weren't sure.

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Killing the goose that laid the golden egg; Increasingly harsh and ever-shifting resource-related government policies are killing jobs

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Nov 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Mark Milke Troy Media.

Ad Value: $4,433
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A19

With the cancellation of TransCanada's proposed **Energy** East pipeline - after the company spent $1 billion trying to jump through ever-changing regulatory and political hoops - Canadians should remind themselves where much of our country's recent economic uptick originated: in resource exploration and extraction.

This was illustrated again, just before the TransCanada announcement in early October, with Statistics Canada's recent release of key census data.

The data revealed how median **Canadian** household income rose to $70,336 by 2015, up almost $6,900 from $63,457 in 2005 or nearly 11 per cent.

The provincial breakdowns are even more revealing. Median income went up by $20,161 in Saskatchewan (37 per cent), $18,151 in Alberta (20 per cent) and $15,068 in Newfoundland and Labrador (29 per cent).

As Statistics Canada noted, "An important factor in the economic story of Canada over the decade was high resource prices." The agency further observed how "that drew investment and people to Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador, boosted the construction sector, and more generally filtered through the economy as a whole."

In contrast to these booming provinces, manufacturing in Central Canada took a hit. Incomes there barely rose: Quebec saw a modest $4,901 rise (8.9 per cent) and **Ontario** was a national laggard with incomes increasing by a paltry $2,753 between 2005 and 2015 (only 3.8 per cent higher).

And that's where a caveat should be added to the Statistics Canada commentary that "high resource prices" explain significantly increased incomes. High resource prices - be they for oil, **gas**, lumber or minerals - help, but only if a province or region allows its resources to be explored, extracted and then shipped to market.

The Maritimes mostly sat out the boom in resource prices because, for example, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick banned onshore exploration and extraction of **natural gas**. That was unlike Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, in its **northern** region.

Unsurprising then, New Brunswick's median income in 2015 was $59,347, the lowest among all provinces. It did record 15 per cent growth over the decade, but that looks less impressive given New Brunswick's low point in 2005 and its still-lowest ranking today. New Brunswick's median income in 2015 was almost $8,000 lower than in Newfoundland and Labrador, where incomes soared by almost double that of New Brunswick. A lack of private investment in a profitable **energy** resource sector will do that.

Quebec provides other examples - of foregone opportunities and the lost potential for income growth - when governments say oui to Canada's comparative advantage in resources instead of non.

The lesson should be obvious: One comparative economic advantage for Canada is in natural resources. And this matters not just for faster-growing median incomes but also for drops in poverty. For example, resource-friendly Newfoundland saw the St. John's low-income **rate** fall to 12 per cent from 16 per cent. Saskatoon's low-income **rate** fell to 11.7 per cent from 15.2 per cent.

In contrast, **Ontario**, affected by the loss of 300,000 manufacturing jobs, recorded dramatic increases in poverty **rates**. That includes **London** (where low-income **rates** rose to 17 per cent by 2015 from 13.3 per cent in 2005) and Windsor (up to 17.5 per cent from 14 per cent).

Some people would still respond to all this with the old line that Canadians should seek to be more than hewers of wood and drawers of water (a phrase that wrongly depicts the **forestry** and **hydro** sectors as backward).

That notion makes little sense because Canadians can and do invent, run and expand businesses in every sector, from high-tech, to green industries to tourism and finance, in addition to responsible resource development. But it's clear from the data that resources are a critical driver of employment and incomes in Canada.

Insofar as politicians overlook resource advantages and hobble the sector with endless, ever-changing regulation, they ignore how what's in the ground helped produce a dramatic increase in Canada's living standards over the last decade.

To belittle or even attack Canada's comparative advantage in resources is to neglect the positive effect this sector has on **Canadian** living standards. Snubbing opportunities in developing natural resources comes at the expense of additional jobs and better incomes for the poor and the middle class.

Mark Milke is an author, **energy** analyst and contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**.

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Man On Emission; Pushing lie that Canada can hit accord target

Toronto Sun - Sun Nov 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $4,699
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A5

When the next in the series of the United Nations'never-ending, carbonspewing, **climate** change road shows gets underway in Bonn, Germany, Monday, Canadians will be told two big political lies.

The first is that the Paris **climate** accord, signed two years ago, still has a chance to lower global greenhouse **gas** emissions to what it describes as the "safe" level needed to avert the global warming catastrophe by 2100.

The second is that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau still has a chance to meet the emission cuts he agreed to when he endorsed the Paris accord in 2015.

In reality, Canada is so far behind meeting Trudeau's 2020 and '30 emission pledges, the only way to do it will be if Trudeau uses billions of taxpayers'dollars to buy carbon offsets on international carbon markets, which are riddled by fraud.

Indeed, irony of ironies, the United States has done a better job of lowering emissions than Canada, despite never having signed the UN's Kyoto accord, the precursor to the Paris agreement, which expired in 2012.

(Stephen Harper wisely withdrew from Kyoto in 2011.) U.S. emissions dropped 11.5% below 2005 levels (the base year for calculations) over the past decade and 2.3% between 2014 and '15, the last year for which statistics are available.

By comparison, Canada's emissions dropped 2.2% below 2005 levels over the past decade and 0.69% between 2014 and '15.

The major reason for the relatively dramatic drop in U.S. emissions has nothing to do with the UN.

Rather, it was simple economics.

The U.S. has been using cheaper **natural gas** - which burns at half the carbon intensity of coal - to replace **coal-fired electricity**.

It achieved this by accessing new **gas** reserves through the use of fracking technology, which **Canadian** provinces have been merrily banning, displaying our country's alarming propensity for cutting its own economic throat.

While the UN warns that the 196 countries that signed the Paris accord have so far agreed to only one-third of the emission cuts required to avert catastrophic global warming, it was in fact a fraud from the moment it was unveiled.

First, there's no guarantee countries will deliver even the cuts they've agreed to.

Canada won't. Second, the accord contains no binding mechanism requiring countries to live up to their pledges.

Given that the accord is a fraud, what becomes important in the high-flying world of UN diplomacy is not achieving emission reductions, but genuflecting before the UN.

That's why Trudeau won't be criticized in Bonn.

He's the darling of the UN.

Why? Because he committed Canada to the Paris accord after Harper pulled out of Kyoto, because the **Canadian** delegation Trudeau sent to Paris in 2015 was twice the size of the American one and three times the size of the U.K.'s, and because Trudeau contributed billions of taxpayers'dollars to the UN's Green **Climate** Fund (above Harper's commitment), which by 2020 is supposed to transfer $100 billion a year from developed nations to developing ones.

That's what matters to the UN's fatcat, highflying diplomats, not actual emission reductions, which is also why U.S. President Donald Trump will be vilified in Bonn for wisely announcing America's withdrawal from the Paris accord.

The accord, however, has been a roaring success in one sense.

That is, it has given political leaders like Trudeau, **Ontario** Premier Kathleen Wynne and Alberta's Rachel Notley the perfect excuse to extract billions of dollars more annually from the pockets of ordinary Canadians in the name of "fighting global warming" regardless of whether significant or any emission cuts are actually achieved.

The only way to do that - as everyone from the Green Party of Canada to moderate Republicans in the U.S. agrees - would be through a revenueneutral carbon pricing system called carbon-feeand-dividend, which would return every dollar raised through carbon pricing back into the pockets of ordinary Canadians.

But carbon-fee-anddividend is designed to lower emissions, not fatten government coffers, so of course Trudeau and Co. aren't interested. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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