Infomart Newsletters

From:	Infomart Newsletters
Sent:	November 17, 2017 8:00 AM
To:	Rosemarie Leclair
Subject:	Morning News Clippings - Friday, November 17, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Friday, November 17, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 15 Results

Alectra sells utility shares back to Collingwood

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $304
Reach: 18500 **Page:** A5

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Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Allison Jones

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Reach: 171076 **Page:** A10

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Hydro One CEO says politics around utility 'will sort themselves out'; Election Issue Privatized firm stresses independence

National Post - Fri Nov 17 2017
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Byline: Geoff Zochodne

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Group pitches energy plan; Ontario energy companies, consumers search for smart solution

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THE DAILY PRESS

Canada lags behind U.S. in climate change battle

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Nov 17 2017
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THE TRIBUNE

Pushing for continued coal use; Pair of provinces lobby Liberals for right to burn coal beyond 2040

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Byline: Mia Rabson

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Reach: 13164 **Page:** B1 / Front

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Where are the voters?; Ontario more disengaged than any other province

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TransCanada Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil in South Dakota | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu Nov 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 16, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

ransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

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Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Nov 17 2017
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Alectra **Utilities** has decided to sell its 50% share in **Collus** **PowerStream** back to the Town of Collingwood, meaning that **EPCOR** will become the sole owner, purchasing 100% of the **utility** from Collingwood.

In 2016, council decided to sell its 50% stake in **Collus** and through an RFP process, chose to negotiate **hydro** share sales with **EPCOR**.

The Unanimous Shareholders Agreement (USA) entered into by the town and Alectra in 2012 contained an exit provision, which required Collingwood to present a buy/sell option to Alectra for the sale of the town's shares.

In an agreement between Collingwood and **EPCOR**, when Alectra decided to sell its shares, **EPCOR** is set to become the sole owner of the **utility**.

An **application** will now be made to the **Ontario Energy Board** to approve the transaction. This process could take anywhere from three months up to one year. A **Public** Information Session will be held in the next few weeks to provide further details of the agreement, according to a press release from the town.

Representatives from EPCOR will make a presentation at that session.

Customers are assured that electricity distribution rates are set, and will continue to be set by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB).

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Hydro says rate hike needed

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 17 2017
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Hydro One has applied for a rate increase in order to keep the power system stable, its president and CEO said Thursday.

Speaking after delivering remarks to the Empire Club, Mayo Schmidt spoke about the application that's currently before the Ontario Energy Board, which seeks to increase rates by 0.5% this year and 4.8% next year.

Hydro One has kept its distribution rates flat, what it is seeking is an increase to transmission rates, he said.

"What we apply for is to keep the system stable and functioning," Schmidt said. "If in fact we don't apply for capital that's required to replace aged equipment and that equipment fails, the system fails, so Ontario - in whatever region that would be - would be without power."

Ontario's Liberal government cut hydro bills by an average of 25% this year, after soaring costs for ratepayers helped send Premier Kathleen Wynne's approval ratings to record lows.

Schmidt took some credit for the hydro plan in his speech Thursday, telling the audience that when he started at Hydro One two years ago one of the company's first initiatives was to advocate for rate relief. Hydro One customers have seen an average 31% decrease in bills, he said.

After the cut to bills this year, the government has said rate increases will be held to the rate of inflation for the next four years. The OEB will set Hydro One's rates some time this fall.

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Hydro One CEO says politics around utility 'will sort themselves out'; Election Issue Privatized firm stresses independence

National Post - Fri Nov 17 2017
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Mayo Schmidt may have learned something from the politicians.

Schmidt, president and chief executive of Hydro One Ltd., spun a pol-worthy yarn Thursday involving an elderly customer, butter tarts, and Tupperware that drew laughs at the Fairmont Royal York, where a lunchtime crowd gathered to hear a speech more-or-less marking the second anniversary of the Toronto-based electricity company going public.

But Schmidt is not a politician. He just has them watching him and his company like hawks. That political scrutiny could be cranked up with a provincial election in **Ontario** about seven months away, with one opposition party, the NDP, proposing to buy back shares of the **utility**, and with **electricity** prices still a live political issue.

Schmidt, though, pointed to a governance agreement that was drawn up with the help of former TD Bank chief Ed Clark - who was on the panel that recommended the **Hydro** One IPO, and who also serves as an adviser to Premier Kathleen Wynne - that sets out what role the province can actually play in the company.

"That is really a key document for both the province and whoever the leadership will be now or in the future, and the organization, because that says that the province will be a shareholder, and only act as a shareholder, and that they will not engage in the business affairs of the company," Schmidt said in an interview with the Financial Post. "We run the business, and we inform them at the same time as all other shareholders."

Ontario's Liberal government held an initial **public** offering of **Hydro** One shares in November, 2015, throwing a 15-per-cent chunk of the province's largest distributor and transmitter of **electricity** up for grabs.

Since then, the government has sold just over half of the company, reaping approximately $9 billion in proceeds and other benefits for infrastructure projects and debt repayment. By law, the province can own no less than 40 per cent of **Hydro** One, and no other individual investor can own more than 10 per cent.

Instead of worrying about politics, Schmidt and **Hydro** One are stressing their focus on customers, who were not always fond of the company when it was provincially owned. Pre-IPO, a provincial ombudsman's investigation of **Hydro** One's billing practices and **customer** **service** saw the watchdog receive an "unprecedented" 10,565 complaints, according to a May, 2015, report.

Hydro One now points to a variety of positive-sounding, post-IPO stats, such as improving billing accuracy to 99 per cent. Schmidt said his company lobbied for **electricity**-**rate** relief for its customers with the government, which came out this year with a **plan** to reduce the average household bill by 25 per cent.

Schmidt also noted that the company's privatization has allowed **Hydro** One to enact big changes at the company, which went from "Crown to commercial," he said.

"We will continue to effectively run the business in the best interests of the **customer** and the shareholder," Schmidt said. "And we believe that any politics associated with that will sort themselves out in a fairly minimal way because the population of this province, not only are they our customers, but the fact is that the majority of our shares are held by **Ontario** residents."

Hydro One shares were up 0.09 per cent Thursday, closing at $22.51. The stock is down 4.54 per cent for the year, but up 3.49 per cent since its debut.

Hydro One announced this summer that it was targeting a $6.7-billion takeover of northwestern U.S. **energy** company Avista Corp., which is awaiting regulatory approval. The company is aiming for approval by U.S. state and federal regulators by August of next year.

Schmidt, former chief executive of agri-business firm Viterra Inc., suggested that **Hydro** One may not be done making moves.

In his speech to the Empire Club, Schmidt, whose bio also includes a brief stint with the National Football League's Miami Dolphins, said that consolidation among utilities is continuing apace, and that Hydro One expects to see $100-billion in enterprise value organizations popping up in the sector.

"We think that it is not in our best interests to stand on the sidelines, and we wouldn't stand on the sidelines," Schmidt told the Post. "We will participate, but we'll do so at a time of our choosing when it's appropriate for us to. And right now, the primary focus is Avista."

Meanwhile, Hydro One is still fighting a regulatory decision tied to $2.6 billion in expected tax savings, which arose out of the company's IPO. The utility warned in its latest disclosures that the decision, if upheld, could result in a one-time hit to its net income of up to $885 million, "resulting in an annual decrease to (funds from operations) in the range of $50 million to $60 million."

And the June, 2018, provincial election did loom somewhat over Hydro One's third-quarter conference call last week.

Schmidt told analysts that there was "no doubt" electricity policy would be a topic of debate, but said he expected it to peter out postelection.

"There will be, let's use the word noise in the marketplace related to hydro," Schmidt said. "And following that, we just think the conversation around hydro is going to diminish significantly."

gzochodne@postmedia.com Twitter.com/geoffzochodne

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NDP misses mark on Fair Hydro Plan

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 17 2017
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Byline: Glennthibeault

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It's not surprising to see Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath fear mongering about the electricity system: ("Ontarians pay hydro price for Liberal smoke-and-mirrors", Nov. 7.)

She has had every opportunity to either support our Fair Hydro Plan, or to provide credible ideas of her own on how to reduce hydro rates. So far, neither has happened.

The Fair Hydro Plan has lowered the average residential hydro bill in Ontario by 25%.

As many as half a million small businesses and farms are also benefitting.

And as Horwath well knows, the advertising campaign for the Fair Hydro Plan pointed to Ontario.ca/FairHydroPlan where low-income people who need additional help can sign up for programs to help lower their hydro bills even further.

Some low-income customers in the most rural and Northern communities can see reductions of up to 50%.

Since running our advertising campaign, thousands more people have enrolled. That's thousands more getting the support they need.

Short on details

But let's talk about Horwath's plan. The NDP hydro proposal is short on details and long on hollow promises.

Many rely on a vague and yet-to-be-determined "expert panel" that will be convened in the future, as well as pie-inthe-sky negotiations with the federal government.

These offer little to Ontarians in the short-term or the long-term.

The NDP's most expensive idea - buying back $10-billion in shares of **Hydro** One - will not take one cent off **electricity** bills.

Over and above the 25% on average **electricity** bill cut for every family and small business, our **Fair Hydro Plan** has expanded low-income programs like the **Ontario Electricity** Support Program to provide targeted help to the most vulnerable Ontarians.

The expanded program provides an additional $180 to $276 per year for eligible families.

Support for low-income Ontarians doesn't even factor into the NDP **plan**, other than a promise to consider it in the future.

Ontario's **Fair Hydro Plan** also eliminates the delivery charge for on-reserve First Nations customers and removes some monthly **service** charges.

Save $85 a month

This measure will save the average **customer** $85 a month and is a move that **Ontario Regional** Chief Isadore Day has commended.

She has acknowledged it will "allow a path forward for **greater** quality of life for First Nations in **Ontario**".

Under the NDP proposal, First Nations are not mentioned.

And as if the NDP proposal wasn't damaging enough, it would scrap **Time of Use** pricing, which would dial back conservation savings, and potentially lead to supply gaps.

Time of Use has been a success, reducing our peak demand by up to five per cent, which means we don't need to build costly new **electricity** generation facilities.

However, it may not be the best model for everyone in the province.

That's why we are already piloting different models that can give **electricity** customers choice in how they're billed.

But this needs to be implemented responsibly, not through a short-sighted system like the NDP have drawn up on the back of a napkin.

Ontario's **Fair Hydro Plan** is the single largest **rate** reduction in the province's history, and a way to ensure **greater** fairness in our **electricity** system.

The Progressive Conservatives have no **plan** and the NDP **hydro** proposal offers nothing practical or substantial when it comes to real relief for **Ontario** families and small businesses.

Thibeault is **Ontario**'s **minister of energy**

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NDP allege Liberals' hydro hike to fund private profit, CEO pay

www.manitoulin.ca - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha agrees with NDP Energy Critic Peter Tabuns who says Premier Kathleen Wynne and her governments ongoing privatization of Hydro One has left Ontario hydro users facing another huge rate increase, at the same time as Hydro One executives and investors take home massive pay and profits.

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Group pitches energy plan; Ontario energy companies, consumers search for smart solution

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Ad Value: $666
Reach: 6045 **Page:** B6

Canada's most populous province has had a chequered history with **electricity** policy, due in no small part to some politically charged decisions.

Now, a coalition of major **energy** companies and consumers is pitching **Ontario** on a process that would try to keep politicians and regulators in their respective lanes.

Recommendations made Thursday by the **Ontario** **Electricity** Stakeholders

Alliance could be viewed as somewhat self-serving - groups involved in the effort may have members interested in winning government contracts or paying less for **power** - but the coalition says their framework "provides the roadmap **Ontario** needs for smart **electricity** decisions through the principles of transparency, competition, objectivity and independence."

The timing of the suggestions is interesting, as **Ontario** is about seven months out from its next provincial election, slated for June 2018. They also come as industrial **electricity** prices in the province are set to climb over the coming years.

"All three main political parties have at one point in **Ontario**'s history struggled tremendously with **energy** planning," noted the alliance in a release.

One of the suggestions made by the coalition was for the government to stick to providing "broad, overall **electricity** policy direction and goals."

When it comes to carrying out government policy, that "should be left to properly resourced **independent** agencies," the group says, such as the **Ontario Energy Board** and **Independent Electricity** System Operator, which can be held to account by the provincial legislature.

And when those provincial **energy** agencies do take meetings with **Ontario** government officials, the regulators should reveal - "in a timely manner" - what was talked about and who attended, the association said.

"We're trying to move away from the blurred lines between the policy and the implementation, "said Vince Brescia, president and chief executive of the **Ontario Energy** Association, a member of the alliance.

The group also recommended that the government should "reinvigorate **independent** sector oversight with an appropriately resourced" **Ontario Energy Board**, the **regulator** of the **electricity** and **natural gas** industries in the province.

The stakeholder alliance is made up of 19 different groups, including ones for farmers, hoteliers, **power** producers, and **regional** chambers of commerce. Two of the groups involved are the **Ontario Energy** Association - whose members include publicly traded companies such as Enbridge Inc., **Hydro** One Ltd. and TransCanada Corp. - and the **Canadian** Manufacturers and Exporters, which represents more than 10,000 firms across the country.

plan said the province's industrial **electricity** consumers currently face prices lower than that of the average for the Great Lakes region, the **plan** also showed that the cost will rise to $116 per megawatt hour by 2035, a nearly 40 per cent increase from the projected 2017 price of $83 per megawatt hour.

Brescia noted that the **energy** sector is undergoing technological change, and that the provincial government is saddled with tough decisions on the **electricity** file, which requires an engaged legislature.

"There's just no way to remove politics from those decisions," he said. "And so what we speak to in our recommendations is the way in which decisions get made."

One recommendation by the alliance takes aim at **Ontario** government **energy** policy that could also double as **climate** policy, as the province has curtailed greenhouse **gas** emissions coming from the **electricity** sector by closing coal-fired **power** plants, invested in costly **solar** and **wind energy** projects, and instituted a capand-trade system that requires businesses to buy permits to cover their carbon emissions.

"Policies and programs to achieve **climate** change objectives should be compared and evaluated based on their economy wide costs and benefits, and not be targeted specifically to the **energy** sector in isolation from other sectors," suggested the alliance. gzochodne@postmedia.com Twitter: @geoffzochodne

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Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance comes together to announce Power Framework for smart

www.newswire.ca - Thu Nov 16 2017
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Today, the Ontario Electricity Stakeholders Alliance, a diverse group of 19 energy consumers, businesses, producers and distributors from across Ontario, took the unprecedented step of joining together to announce its Power Framework to ensure smart electricity decisions.

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Canada lags behind U.S. in climate change battle

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $518
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A4

While Environment and **Climate** Change Minister Catherine McKenna trolls the U.S. at the United Nations **climate** summit in Bonn, figures released at the summit show compared to the U.S., Canada is the **climate** laggard.

According to the 2017 Global Carbon Budget, compiled by 76 scientists from 57 research institutions in 15 countries and published in three scientific journals, the U.S. has outperformed Canada in reducing industrial greenhouse **gas** emissions linked to **climate** change for almost 30 years.

Between 1990 and 2016, U.S. emissions rose by an average of 0.2 per cent annually, dropping by 2.1 per cent in 2016.

Canada's rose by an average of 0.8 per cent annually from 1990 to 2016, dropping by 1.2 per cent in 2016, Justin Trudeau's first full year in **power**.

The U.S., vilified as the only country to withdraw from the Paris **climate** accord, is also one of 22 countries cited by the Carbon Project for having lowered emissions over the past decade, while growing its economy.

Canada's isn't even on the list. U.S emissions in 2017, Donald Trump's first full year in office, are expected to drop 0.4 per cent, slower than previous years, mainly due to a rise in coal consumption caused by a spike in the price of natural gas.

While there's no 2017 estimate for Canada, from 2014 to 2016, which includes more than a year of the Trudeau government, our emissions dropped 0.9 per cent, or by an average of 0.3 per cent annually, lower than the 0.4 per cent the U.S. is expected to achieve this year.

Since 1990, the U.S. has outperformed Canada through the Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, Obama and Trump administrations, meaning 12 years of Republican and 16 years of Democratic presidents.

That compares to 28 years of Mulroney, Chretien, Martin, Harper and Trudeau - divided almost evenly between Conservative and Liberal governments.

The U.S. outperformed Canada while rejecting the UN's Kyoto climate accord, which Jean Chretien signed in 1997, even though the Liberals knew they couldn't achieve its targets, before Stephen Harper withdrew from Kyoto as unworkable in 2011.

The U.S. outperformed Canada without imposing a carbon price on its citizens, which the Trudeau government announced last year.

The U.S. outperformed Canada while building, during the Barack Obama administration alone, as Obama boasted in 2012, enough new gas and oil pipelines to more than encircle the Earth, while Canada struggled to get pipelines approved, including the Keystone XL, which Obama vetoed and Trump revived.

The reason the U.S. has been far more successful at cutting emissions than Canada is that Americans treat energy security as an economic issue, not an opportunity to engage in virtue-signalling, which is pretty much all Trudeau and McKenna do.

Unlike Chretien, the Clinton administration, even with global warming guru Al Gore as vicepresident, refused to implement Kyoto because it made no demands on developing nations like China, responsible for 28 per cent of global emissions, and where, from 1990 to 2016, emissions rose by an average of 6.3 per cent annually.

When the Americans were able to free up domestic reserves of cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas through fracking, they rapidly cut back on coal-fired electricity, leading to huge reductions in U.S. emissions.

In Canada, provincial governments are banning fracking, displaying our tendency to cut our own economic throats, while proclaiming our virtue to the world, while the rest of the world plays us for suckers.
lgoldstein@postmedia.com

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THE TRIBUNE

Pushing for continued coal use; Pair of provinces lobby Liberals for right to burn coal beyond 2040

Welland Tribune - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mia Rabson

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OTTAWA - Canada and the U.K. have enticed 18 other nations to adopt their mutual goal of weaning themselves off coal-fired power - but at least two provinces are trying to negotiate their way out of the federal government's own domestic plan.

Only four provinces still need coal to make electricity, but Alberta is currently the only one with a plan to phase it out by Ottawa's 2030 deadline. Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia are both trying to convince the Liberal government to let them use coal beyond the year 2040.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna was all smiles Thursday as she and her British counterpart officially launched the Global Alliance to Power Past Coal at the United Nations climate change talks in Germany.

Eighteen countries, five provinces and two states signed onto the Canada-U.K. alliance.

"We're seeing huge momentum for this move away from coal and towards clean power," McKenna said in a conference call after the event in Bonn, Germany.

China and India are two of the biggest consumers of coal for power purposes - India gets about 75 per cent of its power from coal, China 70 per cent - but neither was represented at Thursday's event.

The alliance aims to have 50 members by the time the UN climate talks take place in November of next year.

McKenna said her department is working with Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta on the coal phase-out strategy, including offering up federal infrastructure dollars to help turn off the coal plants by 2030.

Saskatchewan, however, doesn't want to do it, provincial Environment Minister Dustin Duncan said Thursday. Several plants in the province would have to be retrofitted before 2030 to keep them operating, but there is one that won't hit its 50-year lifespan until 2042 and Saskatchewan has no interest in turning it off early.

Saskatchewan is the only Canadian jurisdiction with a coal plant equipped with carbon capture and storage, which traps the carbon emitted by burning coal and buries it. That plant, known as Boundary Dam 3, has carbon emissions "well below" the current federal standards, Duncan said.

Saskatchewan wants to get credits for that plant's efficiency, using them to offset whatever carbon excesses the other plants produce.

"We think we're pretty close (to an agreement)," Duncan said. "My expectation is and certainly my interest is that the equivalency agreement, the wording, will be agreed to by the federal minister shortly, in the next couple of weeks."

Saskatchewan currently relies on coal for more than 50 per cent of its electricity. About 25 per cent comes from natural gas power plants and 18 per cent from hydroelectricity and other forms of renewables. The province hopes to get to 50 per cent renewables by 2030.

Nova Scotia is also negotiating an equivalency agreement with Ottawa to get credit for cutting emissions elsewhere that would allow it to continue to use coal power as well. Like Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia anticipates needing coal into the 2040s.

About 10 per cent of electricity in Canada now comes from burning coal, half of what it was 15 years ago largely because Ontario eliminated coal power three years ago.

Ontario's power bills soared partly as a result, and other provinces fear a similar fate if they follow suit. New Brunswick's premier suggested power bills could go up 38 per cent if it is forced to close its one coal plant early.

Electricity accounted for 84 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in

2015, and coal is responsible for almost three-quarters of that. Eliminating coal and replacing it entirely with non-emitting renewables would get Canada about one-third of the way to its 2030 emissions reduction target. - with files from Jennifer Graham in Regina

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Where are the voters?; Ontario more disengaged than any other province

The Hamilton Spectator - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

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An election is the best of times for democracy, but also the worst of times.

In **Ontario**, it couldn't get much worse - a province more democratically disengaged than any other.

Bad enough that Canada has been steadily sliding in voter turnouts, falling well below most developed nations over the decades (despite a 2015 federal election blip).

The bigger problem lies with Canada's biggest province: In **Ontario** elections, far fewer voters bother to cast ballots than they do in federal campaigns. The most powerful province in the country suffers from the weakest electoral turnouts of all - edging out even traditionally apathetic Alberta as the worst performer.

That makes **Ontario** ground zero for a double democratic deficit - a place where voter turnouts are not merely anemic federally, but utterly abysmal provincially.

What's behind the provincial apathy? Can our political parties do anything about their collective failure to engage voters - and will they?

Ahead of the June 7 **Ontario** election, rival politicians will be vying for your vote as they always do, and journalists will be reporting on their various manoeuvres. Over the next few months until voting day, I will try to do things a little differently - asking not just who deserves your vote, but whether anyone will get it.

The stakes are high. What if we held an election and a majority of eligible voters didn't vote for anyone from any party - not Kathleen Wynne's Liberals, nor Patrick Brown's Progressive Conservatives, nor Andrea Horwath's New Democrats.

It's happened before. In the 2011 provincial election, turnout dropped to an all-time low of 48.2 per cent - compared to 70 per cent of Ontarians who voted in the federal election of the same year (and the 73.5 per cent who turned out in **Ontario**'s 1971 election).

Why is our province so predictably undemocratic at election time?

Ontario's government wields more influence than any other province, controlling education, health care, **hydro rates**, nuclear reactors, policing, road-building, water purity, **real estate** taxes - and that's just a partial list.

A declining youth vote is a growing problem, yet **Ontario** oversees more issues of direct interest to young people: post-secondary education, job training, beer and wine sales, cannabis **distribution**, drivers' licences, and mobile phone contracts.

Research shows that voter turnout generally increases with educational attainment - except for our young people, who are more highly educated yet less motivated than previous generations. Statistics Canada found that millennials believe voting is more of a choice than a civic duty. They may also be endowed with extra-sensitive B.S. meters that make them more skeptical of traditional parties.

And they perhaps define engagement

differently. Young people get more news from social media feeds, fragmenting the discussion into Twitter communities while undermining traditional "big tent" parties. The data suggests young people know less about how to vote, notably advance polls (Elections Canada set up extra campus voting stations for **students** in the 2015 federal election, which helps explain a notable youth uptick).

There's another challenge that may be unique to **Ontario**: Statistics Canada found new immigrants are less likely to cast ballots upon gaining citizenship compared to **Canadian**-born voters.

I confess to a certain passion about this issue after covering democracy struggles across Asia and the Middle East for 11 years as a foreign correspondent. Why take voting for granted in **Ontario**?

Collectively, can the major political parties break through the political fog and get more Ontarians of all backgrounds, ages and ideologies to pay attention and vote for them? Any of them?

It's a question I'll be asking again over the next few months - of both readers and leaders.

Martin Regg Cohn's political column appears in Torstar newspapers. mcohn@thestar.ca, Twitter: @reggcohn

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TransCanada Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil in South Dakota | Financial Post

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ransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

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