Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: November 22, 2017 8:06 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, November 22, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 27 Results

Ontario Energy Board embarks on customer service guidelines review

East York Mirror - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral **Page:** 1

Should customers with poor credit records or a history of late payment be required to provide security deposits? The Ontario Energy Board wants to know. The provincial energy regulator is in ...

Quebec -California cap-and-trade auction sells out

National Post - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $1,731
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP6

Quebec and California's latest joint cap-and-trade auction has sold out, weeks before Ontario is set to become part of that market. The results of last week's auction, released today, show the third ...

Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative

--- (Borutski-Trial) The judge in the first-degree murder trial of Basil Borutski is to charge the jury today in an Ottawa courtroom. After that, deliberations are to begin in the case of the 60-year-old man accused of killing three ...

Business risk from climate change now top of mind for Canada's corporate boards; As companies grapple with how to measure, mitigate and disclose potential liabilities, inconsistency in policy poses a looming issue

theglobeandmail.com - Wed Nov 22 2017, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
Reach: 1188000

Michael Sabia has a message for Canada's corporate directors as he weighs how to deploy one of the biggest pools of investment capital in the country: **Climate change** is top of mind. Mr. Sabia - the chief executive officer of ...

Liberals'energy fiasco costing us billions

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,864
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A16

The scariest thing about Ontario's Liberal government is not just that it regularly makes billion-dollar mistakes, but that it refuses to learn from them. A report by the **Ontario** Society of Professional Engineers Tuesday estimates the ...

Federation misses mark on hospital hydro

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mpp Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: $499
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

A current media campaign underway from the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation (Nov. 20, The Observer) is cherry-picking from hospital **hydro** bills, while failing to see the bigger picture on both the health-care and **energy** ...

FOI documents show Orangeville hospital spent $3.1M on hydro in last five years

Orangeville Banner - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $313
Reach: 23500 **Page:** 1

Documents obtained through a freedom of information request have revealed the Headwaters Health Care **Centre** has spent more than $3.1 million on **electricity** since 2012. The billing information obtained through a freedom of ...

Lambton in line for hydro upgrades; Hydro One replacing transformer station near Wyoming to address power issues

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $543
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A5

Hydro One is set to spend $60 million or more replacing and upgrading **electricity transmission** equipment in Lambton County. Work began in September on a $30-million to $35-million construction project to ...

FAO backs nuclear plan

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $935
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

A report by an **independent** financial watchdog has concluded that the Kathleen Wynne government's nuclear refurbishment **plan** is the most cost efficient option to provide base **electricity** **power** for decades ...

CTV News | News Video - Top National News Headlines - News Videos

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Liberals do not deserve support of voters

Sudbury Star - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Gayle Cividino

Ad Value: $261
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

One can certainly tell there is an election in the near future. The Liberals are suddenly giving millions to **Northern** **Ontario** (anywhere **north** of Parry Sound but not Barrie), between road expansion to homeless ...

You can shape energy planning

North Bay Nugget - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Terry Young, Vice-President

Ad Value: $375
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A4

To the editor: On Nov. 9, the **Independent** **Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**) visited **Sudbury** for a **regional** **electricity** forum, which was focused on exploring ways to better manage ...

Matthew Lau: Meet Catherine McKenna's new job-creation plan: Endless costly climate rules

Financial Post - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

New clean fuel regulations are coming to Canada "in the coming months," federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna announced earlier this month. She says the policy - titled the Clean Fuel Standard - is "a really important piece of our ...

Federal government invests 400K in North York alternative energy company

North York Mirror - Thu Nov 16 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $865
Reach: 95965 **Page:** 1

A **North** York based company will receive a federal investment of up to $400,000 to scale up activities for its **solar** and **wind** powered control system, it was announced Thursday, Nov. 16. Clear Blue Technologies ...

Ontario blowing in the wind

The Sault Star - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jane Wilson

Ad Value: $1,473
Reach: 17077 **Page:** A6

Every time I am interviewed by the media, or speak at a **public** meeting, I am asked: Why is **Ontario** continuing to push ahead with its program of industrial-scale **wind** turbines and **wind** **power**, ...

No to Nation Rise

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Ruby And Joe Mekker

Ad Value: $350
Reach: 15286 **Page:** A6

An open letter to Ms. Wynne, Mr. Thibeault, Mr. Ballard: Merry Christmas /Happy Holidays; As you are the premier and ministers accountable, I trust it is **fair** to say you chose to post the Nation Rise **Wind** Farm on Nov. 10 with ...

Hydro meeting in Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood to look at expansion

York Guardian - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $178
Reach: 26539 **Page:** 1

A community workshop meeting is being held in Toronto's Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood regarding ongoing **hydro** work and area improvements. **Hydro** **One** and **Toronto** **Hydro** are working together ...

Committee fights over green dollars

Ottawa Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jon Willing

Ad Value: $1,326
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A8

Proposed increases to water and sewer bills received the environment committee's endorsement on Tuesday, but councillors spent several hours considering the funding of new green schemes as part of the city's draft 2018 budget. **Public** ...

On tour, Notley beats drum for new pipelines

The Globe and Mail - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $16,312
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Alberta's support for a national climate-change policy depends on the rest of the country ensuring its energy workers are treated fairly - and that means new pipelines must be built, Premier Rachel Notley said on ...

Clean Power, Dirty Deal; Province lost up to $2B selling its surplus

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $5,306
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A9

Ontario lost between $732 million and $1.25 billion over the past two years selling surplus clean electricity outside the province, an analysis by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) estimates. ...

Alberta premier tells Ottawa to 'step up' to get pipelines built - Edmonton - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley is using her cross-Canada speaking tour to take aim at everyone from the federal government and her own national party to activists opposed building more pipelines.

Canadian drilling to increase in 2018; 'muted stability' may return | Service & Supply | JWN Energy

www.jwnenergy.com - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Market conditions remain fragile for Canadian drilling and service contractors despite an expected increase in activity next year, according to the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC).

Alberta premier tells Ottawa to 'step up' to get pipelines built - Edmonton - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 21 2017
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Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
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Alberta Premier Rachel Notley is using her cross-Canada speaking tour to take aim at everyone from the federal government and her own national party to activists opposed building more pipelines.

Shareholders urge TransCanada to back Keystone XL despite risk

finance.yahoo.com · Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

ransCanada Corp should push ahead with an $8 billion Keystone XL pipeline expansion after the state of Nebraska on Monday approved a route that would raise the cost of the controversial project, some shareholders said.

Judge Hears Arguments On Whether Oil Pipeline, Terminating In South Portland, Can Reverse Flow | Maine Public

mainepublic.org · Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Attorneys were back in federal court Tuesday arguing about a lawsuit brought by the Portland Pipe Line Corp. against the City of South Portland over its Clear Skies Ordinance.

Keystone XL oil pipeline will go ahead despite last week's spill | New Scientist

www.newscientist.com · Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Nebraska has given the okay for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to run through the state – even though the existing Keystone pipeline spilled thousands of barrels of oil just last week.

StarPhoenix Letter of the Day: Wall must reflect on strong words | Saskatoon StarPhoenix

thestarphoenix.com · Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 21, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Premier Wall has been a trenchant critic of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and has often expressed his opposition to Liberal policies using strong and at times undiplomatic language.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario Energy Board embarks on customer service guidelines review

East York Mirror - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral **Page:** 1

Should customers with poor credit records or a history of late payment be required to provide security deposits? The **Ontario Energy Board** wants to know.

The provincial **energy regulator** is in search of **public** feedback as it undertakes a **review** of **customer service** guidelines set in 2011, which all **Ontario energy** providers, **electricity** or **natural gas**, are legally required to follow.

According to the board, all **public** feedback will be considered in the establishment of an updated set of guidelines as part of a **review** of the board's mandate. To garner opinions, the **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) has teamed with market research pollsters Ipsos to create an online survey for provincial residential and small business **energy** customers.

In addition to the question of security deposits, the survey also asks when **customer disconnections** can take place and on what condition, as well as questions related to payment period and making late payments.

The updated **customer service** policy is also expected to provide new **customer** guidelines for sub-meter providers such as condominiums or apartments which have their own meters and bill residents directly. As part of provincial legislative changes, the **OEB** will have a **greater** mandate to regulate the dealings of such providers.

In a statement, the **OEB** said all feedback provided including demographic information will be kept confidential.

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Quebec -California cap-and-trade auction sells out

National Post - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Positive
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Quebec and California's latest joint **cap-and-trade** auction has sold out, weeks before **Ontario** is set to become part of that market. The results of last week's auction, released today, show the third sellout in a row for current credits as well as the second sellout in a row for 2020 credits. Experts say strong sales of future credits show confidence in the longevity of the market. Quebec and California have been jointly holding **cap-and-trade** auctions since 2014, and as of Jan. 1, 2018, those will include **Ontario**. The system aimed at lowering greenhouse **gas** emissions puts caps on the amount of pollution companies in certain industries can emit, and if they exceed those limits they must buy allowances at auction or from other companies that come in under their limits.

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Business risk from climate change now top of mind for Canada's corporate boards; As companies grapple with how to measure, mitigate and disclose potential liabilities, inconsistency in policy poses a looming issue

theglobeandmail.com - Wed Nov 22 2017, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: ALEXANDRA POSADZKI
Reach: 1188000

Michael Sabia has a message for Canada's corporate directors as he weighs how to deploy one of the biggest pools of investment capital in the country: **Climate** change is top of mind.

Mr. Sabia - the chief executive officer of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec - wants **climate**-related factors to be at the core of how the country's second-largest pension fund approaches all of its investment decisions, regardless of asset class.

"That's what I think is going to be required for investors like us to benefit from the opportunities and protect ourselves from the risks that are obvious here," Mr. Sabia says.

Last month, the pension fund announced plans to slash the **carbon footprint** of its investment portfolio by 25 per cent by 2025. It also aims to boost its low-carbon investments by 50 per cent - to the tune of more than $8-billion - by 2020.

The term "**carbon footprint**" refers to the amount of greenhouse **gases** produced by a particular company or person. As part of its commitment, the Caisse says it will be reducing its exposure to the most carbon-intensive assets in its portfolio, such as activities related to coal. The pension fund will also begin disclosing data on the portfolio's greenhouse **gas** emissions in its annual report.

The Quebec-based pension fund is part of a growing tide of institutional investors - which includes giants such as Vanguard and BlackRock Inc. - pressing companies for more information on how they will manage the transition to a low-carbon economy. Companies in carbon-heavy industries such as **energy** and mining face the highest pressure, as investors fear being stuck holding stranded assets: companies who fail to **plan** for the future and whose valuations will likely plummet as a result.

"It's a risk that we could be left holding the bag in a Minsky Moment and it could be quite costly," says Toby Heaps, chief executive and co-founder of Corporate Knights Inc., a **Toronto**-based organization focused on corporate social responsibility. "I wouldn't say we need to sound the fire alarm, but certainly it's time to pause and take a serious look at how we can accelerate our transition to a low-carbon economy."

The pressure has catapulted **climate** risk to the top of the agenda in many of Canada's boardrooms as companies grapple with how to measure, mitigate and disclose potential liabilities. Last year, the board at Suncor **Energy** Inc. recommended that shareholders approve a proposal put forward by NEI Investments to enhance the company's **climate**-related disclosures. Shareholders voted overwhelmingly in favour of the resolution.

Suncor president, CEO and director Steve Williams says the company has made efforts to bolster its sustainability efforts, including by elevating carbon risk to one of its principal risks.

"Although we have had a **climate** action **plan** since 1997, 2017 was the first year that we released a report outlining the long-term resilience of our strategy," Mr. Williams said in an e-mail. "We also have better discussions with shareholders and include a 10-year forward-looking impact of carbon pricing on our costs and net asset value."

But even as directors train their sights on this growing liability, experts caution that a lack of consistency between how various companies measure and disclose **climate**-related risks leaves much work to be done.

"There aren't defined standards on exactly what companies should be measuring and how to measure it and how to report on it," says Andrew MacDougall, a partner at Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP who specializes in corporate governance. "The practices tend to vary between issuers, not only in terms of the amount of disclosure that is available, but also the elements that are disclosed."

There is a dizzying number of best-practice guidelines for **climate** disclosures, including the recommendations put out recently by a task force struck up by the Financial Stability Board, the international body established in 2009 to monitor financial risk. The lack of consistency between how companies measure and disclose **climate** risk often leaves investors comparing apples with oranges.

Some companies, such as Barrick Gold Corp., have opted to combine the "hodgepodge" of guidelines into their own internal best-practice standards. "We look at the best ones, the ones that are most applicable," said Peter Sinclair, Barrick's chief sustainability officer.

Climate change has taken on an increased sense of urgency in corporate boardrooms since the signing of the Paris **climate** accord in 2015. Nearly 200 countries have signed on to the global agreement that aims to tackle **climate** change.

Canada's resource-heavy stock markets may be particularly vulnerable to a potential "carbon bubble" in the valuations of fossil-fuel-dependent companies. Combined, **energy** and mining companies make up 20 per cent of the issuers on the **Toronto** Stock Exchange, compared with only 2 per cent for clean technology and **renewable-energy** companies. The disparity is even wider on the **TSX** Venture Exchange, where mining and oil and **gas** companies account for 68 per cent of the index, compared with 4 per cent for renewables.

Additionally, Mr. Heaps says Canada lags its global peers in terms of the amount of disclosure provided to investors. He points to the fact that **Canadian** companies aren't legally required to report their direct and indirect greenhouse **gas** emissions, although a number of them do so voluntarily.

"We have leading companies, and institutions that are leaders globally, but in aggregate, we are big laggards," Mr. Heaps said.

There are a myriad of ways in which **climate** change can impact a business. Severe weather events such as floods, hurricanes and forest fires can prompt oil producers to shut down some of their sites, as was seen during the forest fires that ravaged **Fort** McMurray last year.

But extreme-weather events can have a financial impact on businesses outside the resource sector, as well. For instance, a company may have a major supplier or vendor located in **Fort** McMurray or other disaster-affected regions.

In September, Quebec-based Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. reported that its convenience-store chain was hurt by Hurricane Harvey. The **TSX**-listed company said that 123 of its Texas stores were affected to various degrees and had to close for a period of time. The financial toll of the closings, which occurred just after the company's first quarter, has yet to be reported.

"I think virtually every company is exposed to some degree," says Jennifer Longhurst, a partner at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP. "The job is to figure out how much."

For mining companies, paying close attention to their environmental footprint - including their carbon emissions and how they manage their tailings ponds - is of the utmost importance. That's why the resource sector is typically more sophisticated than others when it comes to measuring and disclosing **climate**-related risk, Ms. Longhurst says.

Barrick Gold director Nancy Lockhart says the company's adherence to environmental policy is key to maintaining the co-operation of the local communities where the mining giant operates.

"Our license to operate depends on us having strong environmental policies, making sure our people go home safe every day, paying attention to human rights and just general corporate social-responsibility issues," said Ms. Lockhart, who also chairs Barrick's corporate responsibility committee.

Beverley Briscoe, vice-chair of the Goldcorp Inc. board, echoes the sentiment, calling the board's role in the oversight of environmental risk "critically important." In recent years, the company's board and other stakeholders have placed increased emphasis on its published sustainability reports, Ms. Briscoe said in an e-mail.

"These **public** reports have improved the transparency and accountability of the company's stewardship of the environment," Ms. Briscoe said. "I expect that this increase in transparency and accountability will continue as the understanding of **climate** change and environmental risk evolves."

Another financial risk associated with **climate** change is the regulatory burden. Companies may see their costs rise in the future as a result of carbon-pricing programs and other regulatory changes - including if securities regulators mandate a higher level of disclosure.

Earlier this year, the **Canadian** Securities Administrators launched a **review** of the current state of **climate**-change disclosure in Canada. The report is expected to be published next year.

"Currently, reporting issuers in Canada are required to disclose material risks, which may include risks associated with **climate** change, among other environmental matters, in their periodic disclosure," a spokesperson for the **Ontario** Securities Commission said in an e-mail.

Although much of the conversation about **climate** change is focused on risk, Mr. Sabia notes that there are positives, as well.

"There are going to be huge investment opportunities created here - smart grids, **solar power**, **wind power**, battery technology, urban transit, environmentallly friendly **real estate**," he says. "This coin has two sides."

What can a board do to manage **climate**-change risk?

1. Set up a board committee to focus on the issues. The committee's role includes evaluating the potential impact of environmental issues on the company, overseeing the development of a formal **climate**-change strategy and developing disclosure practices.

2. Consider using the United Nations' sustainable-development goals or similar environmental references to generate dialogue about potential **climate**-change risks that could affect the company. Boards can ask management to delve into issues to assess their potential relevance.

3. Ask for feedback from major shareholders, especially institutional investors who are developing their own **climate**-change guidelines to govern their investing decisions.

4. Update the company's risk-management policies and practices to consider **climate**-change issues and assign responsibility for assessing and monitoring the evolution of the risks. The board should also **review** its mandate to include oversight of **climate**-change risk.

5. Consider building **climate** change into financial reporting. Many reporting standards are available to help companies quantify risks and report on their

potential impact.

Source: Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, Davies Governance Insights 2017

How boards oversee climate change and other environmental and sustainability issues

Barrick Gold Corp.

The gold miner's board of directors monitors environmental issues through its corporate responsibility committee, which has four independent directors. The committee is responsible for overseeing environmental, health, safety, corporate social responsibility and human-rights issues. Among its activities, it reviews regular reports on key sustainability-performance indicators and oversees an assurance program that monitors compliance with sustainability requirements.

Teck Resources Ltd.

Teck's board has a six-member safety and sustainability committee which oversees safety, environmental and sustainability commitments. Teck has set targets to cut energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 2030, and the committee is reviewing progress toward the targets. The sustainability committee organized presentations in 2016 on topics such as mine closings, legacy properties, tailings management, climate change and carbon pricing to keep abreast of issues.

Suncor Energy Inc.

Suncor's board oversees environmental issues through its environment, health, safety and sustainable development committee. The five-member committee reviews how effectively the company is meeting its environmental and other objectives, which includes oversight of Suncor's broad framework to manage operational risk. The committee also reviews stewardship reports and monitors the results of various external and internal investigations into environmental, health and safety issues.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Business risk from climate change now top of mind for Canada's corporate boards (www.theglobeandmail.com)

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Liberals' energy fiasco costing us billions

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,864
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A16

The scariest thing about Ontario's Liberal government is not just that it regularly makes billion-dollar mistakes, but that it refuses to learn from them.

A report by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers Tuesday estimates the Wynne government is losing $1 billion of public money annually selling surplus clean electricity (wind, hydro-electric and nuclear power) at a loss to neighbouring jurisdictions, or dumping it without using it.

The OSPE estimates that in the 21-month period between January, 2016 and September, 2017, Ontario lost up to $1.25 billion, and a minimum of $732 million, selling clean power below cost to neighbouring jurisdictions.

That's in addition to $1 billion the OSPE estimated in June that the government wasted in 2016 alone by dumping clean energy, known as curtailment.

"Curtailment ... means the power was not needed in Ontario and could not be exported, so it was dumped," energy expert Paul Acchione, former president and chair of OSPE, said at that time.

"It's when we tell our dams to let the water spill over the top, our nuclear generators to release their steam and our wind turbines not to turn, even when it's windy.

"These numbers show that Ontario's cleanest source of power is literally going down the drain because we're producing too much," Acchione said.

The OSPE says it has given the government 21 recommendations on how to use this surplus power - enough to power millions of Ontario homes - to lower the hydro bills of homeowners and businesses, without borrowing tens of billions of dollars more under Wynne's Fair Hydro Plan.

But, it says the government isn't listening. "OSPE continues to assert that the government must restore the oversight of professional engineers in the detailed planning and design of Ontario's power grid to prevent missteps like this from happening," Acchione said Tuesday.

Wynne said the government made $236 million from selling and buying all forms of electricity last year, but that's not the issue.

The issue is the Liberals keep doubling down on disastrous policies such as expanding wind power, which two Ontario auditor generals warned, starting in 2011, would add billions of dollars to the cost of Ontarians' hydro bills.

Which is what happened and which the Liberals continue to deny.

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Federation misses mark on hospital hydro

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mpp Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: $499
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

A current media campaign underway from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (Nov. 20, The Observer) is cherry-picking from hospital hydro bills, while failing to see the bigger picture on both the health-care and energy systems in Ontario.

We're talking about numbers, so I'll share a significant that we're proud of as a government. Since coming into office, we've increased hospital funding by 59 per cent. This trend continued in the 2017 budget, which delivered a $4,127,593 funding increase for Bluewater Health, for a total of $134,376,926 this year. In fact, all hospitals in Ontario are seeing funding increases, including 16 in the southwest. This is allowing our hospitals to treat more patients, improve access to care and reduce wait times to some of the shortest in the country.

Meanwhile, we've made investments in our electricity system that have left it significantly cleaner, having eliminated coal generation in Ontario. We have virtually eliminated smog days in Ontario, which is an enormous public health achievement. A Toronto Vital Signs report shows that premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution in that region have dropped by 23 per cent and 41 per cent respectively since 2004. The Taxpayers Federation ignores the fact that eliminating coal has saved billions in health-care costs over the years and will continue to do so, for generations to come.

The reality is that hospitals spend an average of only 1.6 per cent of their total operating budgets on **electricity** bills. That means over 98 per cent of hospital budgets go towards their other priorities - hiring nurses and doctors, keeping wait times low, and ensuring patients have access to high-quality services, where and when they need them.

Ontario hospitals are also eligible for a range of programs, like SaveOnEnergy's audit and retrofit initiatives, to help lower their **energy** bills by becoming more **energy** efficient. The Industrial Conservation Initiative, another program that has been very successful in reducing **energy** costs, can save participants up to one-third on their **electricity** bills. **Bluewater** Health is now taking advantage of the program.

On July 1, **electricity rates** for hospitals dropped by two to four per cent because of our **Fair Hydro Plan**. **Rates** for all residential customers dropped significantly - 25 per cent on average across the province. And any **rate** increases will be held to the **rate** of inflation for four years, while we continue to work hard to take costs out of our **electricity** system.

We are already hearing that these reductions are making a difference in the pocketbooks of families and businesses. For hospitals, the savings from the **Fair Hydro Plan** and programs like SaveOnEnergy and the Industrial Conservation Initiative are building on the health care investments we've made each and every year, and ensure our hospitals can stay focused on putting patients first.

MPP **Glenn Thibeault**

Ontario Ministry of Energy

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FOI documents show Orangeville hospital spent $3.1M on hydro in last five years

Orangeville Banner - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $313
Reach: 23500 **Page:** 1

Documents obtained through a freedom of information request have revealed the Headwaters Health Care **Centre** has spent more than $3.1 million on **electricity** since 2012.

The billing information obtained through a freedom of information request made by the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation (CTF) shows the **Orangeville** hospital's annual **electricity** bill has increased nearly 51 per cent to $728,139 last year from $482,724 in 2012.

"The more the hospital has to spend keeping their lights on, the fewer resources they have for patients," CTF **Ontario** director Christine Van Geyn said in a news release.

"Families across the province all feel the pain of rapid increases to the cost of **electricity** when they pay their home **electricity** bill," she added. "But what many people don't think about is the cost of the **Ontario** government's failed **electricity** policy to the institutions we all rely on."

According to documents obtained by CTF, Headwaters spent $482,724 on **electricity** in 2012, followed by a respective $552,668, $586,616, $671,880 and $728,139 from 2013 to 2016. From January to April of 2017, Headwaters spent $171,878 on **electricity**.

CTF is a not-for-profit citizen's advocacy group dedicated to lowering taxes, reducing wasteful spending and accountable government.

The organization has called on the provincial government to dismantle the **Green Energy Act** and "stop letting green ideology guide our **energy** policies at the expense of **Ontario** **ratepayers** and taxpayers."

Van Geyn reports **Ontario** has seen dramatic increases to the cost of **electricity**, with bills for residential consumers more than doubling in the last decade. As she explained, publicly-funded institutions such as **Orangeville**'s hospital are not immune.

"Instead of paying $245,415 for inflated **electricity** bills, Headwaters Health could have paid for 32 knee replacement surgeries," Van Geyn said. "That's something that **Ontario** patients expect their health care system to spend money on."

Documents detailing Headwaters Health Care **Centre**'s **electricity** bills can be found by visiting bit.ly/2yECUZY.

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Lambton in line for hydro upgrades; Hydro One replacing transformer station near Wyoming to address power issues

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $543
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A5

Hydro One is set to spend $60 million or more replacing and upgrading **electricity** **transmission** equipment in Lambton County.

Work began in September on a $30-million to $35-million construction project to replace **Hydro** One's Wanstead Transformer Station east of Wyoming. Along with that, a $30-million refurbishing project for a 230-kilovolt **transmission** line from **London** to Sarnia is set to start in January, said **Hydro** One spokesperson Nancy Clark.

"A lot of our infrastructure was built in the 1950s and '60s, so we're reaching the point now where we need to replace or refurbish a lot of our equipment," she said.

The Wanstead station has been serving customers in the Lambton County area since the 1950s, Clark said.

"The replacement station will actually ensure that we can continue to deliver the reliable **electricity** that we're delivering now."

A new transformer station is being built next to the existing one, which will eventually be taken down.

That project is expected to be completed by the end of next year, Clark said.

Bluewater **Power**, a municipally owned **electricity** **distribution** **utility** serving 35,000 customers in six Lambton communities, contributed $1 million to the Wanstead project to upgrade its capabilities, said Chris Gould, **Bluewater** **Power**'s vice-president of **utility** development.

"This upgrade that we've contributed to will provide a more reliable and robust supply," he said.

The upgrade will be attractive to industry, while also helping address longstanding issues **Bluewater Power** and Lambton communities have had with their **electricity** supply.

"The smaller municipalities out in the county are fed from the Wanstead station," Gould said. "We were not happy, and neither were they… with the **service** we were receiving from the station."

Kevin Marriott, mayor of Enniskillen Township, said about half of the township's residents are served by the Wanstead station.

"I'm not sure this is going to correct all of our problems," he said. "It's going to help."

He estimated there have been four or five outages this year in the township, including one that lasted eight hours.

Marriott said the work at the Wanstead station is expected to benefit industrial **electricity** users in the area, including a medical marijuana facility British Columbia -based Tilray Canada is developing at an existing greenhouse site in his township.

The work to refurbish a **transmission** line between **London** and Sarnia includes reinforcing 260 steel **transmission** towers, "as well as replacing other components on the line that have reached the end of their life," Clark said.

That project includes replacing a "sky wire" protecting the line from lightning strikes.

Clark said the replacement wire will have telecommunication capability "which, will actually improve our ability to monitor the line and determine where outages are."

Work on the **transmission** line project is expected to run until the end of 2019, Clark said.

"The investment will ensure the line continues to deliver reliable **electricity** to the area," she said. pmorden@postmedia.com

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FAO backs nuclear plan

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $935
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

A report by an **independent** financial watchdog has concluded that the Kathleen Wynne government's nuclear refurbishment **plan** is the most cost efficient option to provide base **electricity power** for decades to come.

Environmentalists are criticizing the report by the Financial Accountability Office of **Ontario** (FAO), saying it failed to take into account that nuclear refurbishment projects routinely go way over budget.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said in a statement Tuesday that the report confirms that his government has carefully considered the nuclear projects at Bruce **Power** and **Ontario Power Generation** (**OPG**).

"The FAO report also makes it clear that there is currently no alternative clean, emission -free generation which could replace nuclear generation at a comparable cost for **Ontario ratepayers**," Thibeault said.

Ontario plans to refurbish 10 nuclear reactors and prolong the life of six more at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

Jack Gibbons, of **Ontario** Clean Air Alliance, said that **hydro** bills will go through the roof if the government heeds this report.

"Every nuclear project in **Ontario**'s history has gone massively over budget on average by two-and-a-half times," Gibbons said.

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CTV News | News Video - Top National News Headlines - News Videos

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Liberals do not deserve support of voters

Sudbury Star - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Gayle Cividino

Ad Value: $261
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

One can certainly tell there is an election in the near future. The Liberals are suddenly giving millions to **Northern Ontario** (anywhere **north** of Parry Sound but not Barrie), between road expansion to homeless shelters.

These are monies that should have been coming here over the past years and not simply because the Liberals need to save face after the byelection fiasco in **Sudbury**, which should have been investigated by the RCMP and any charges heard before a judge from out of province to ensure impartiality and to regain the trust of voters.

This "falling behind" as Premier Kathleen Wynne calls it, has been caused by her party's governance. Health care, **hydro rates**, access to education and **fair** wages are elements that the Liberal government has neglected until now.

When the Liberals return the millions - or I should probably say billions - of dollars that they have cost the taxpayers through their negligence to the people of **Ontario**, I may then consider them a viable option.

Gayle Cividino

Sudbury

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You can shape energy planning

North Bay Nugget - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Terry Young, Vice-President

Ad Value: $375
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A4

To the editor: On Nov. 9, the **Independent Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**) visited **Sudbury** for a **regional electricity** forum, which was focused on exploring ways to better manage energy use and how to participate in the sector to support the growth, resiliency and vibrancy of communities in northeastern Ontario.

Electricity planning and delivery has dramatically changed in recent years as a result of rapid technological advancement, an increasingly engaged consumer, growth in local electricity resources and climate change policies.

Communities, including First Nations and Métis, businesses and residents, now have increasing opportunities to take control of their energy use and participate in the sector. Shaping the future of Ontario's electricity system is now a collective effort.

Thank you to the more than 100 participants from a variety of organizations and backgrounds who joined us in Sudbury. We heard the local perspective from knowledgeable speakers, like Wayne Ross of the Taykwa Tagamou First Nation about the Peter Sutherland Generating Station; Dean Millar from MIRARCO about the hydraulic air compressor demonstration project installed within a Sudbury mine shaft; and Frank Kallonen, the president and CEO of Greater Sudbury Hydro, on what provincial electricity policy means at the local level, among other expert presenters.

But the value of the forum was more than the presentations we heard -it was also a great opportunity to contribute to discussions, share information and develop a dialogue on how your community can leverage change and innovation in the electricity sector.

Our hope is that this will be a continuing dialogue. Even if you didn't attend the forum, we invite you to join the conversation with us. We also encourage you to explore, at ieso.ca, the opportunities to participate with the IESO (through regional planning activities, energy-efficiency programs, funding opportunities, engagement, etc.). We want to hear from you. Your input is important to us and will help inform the future of Ontario's electricity sector. We are as close as your email -communityengagement@ ieso.ca. Terry Young, vice-president, policy, engagement and innovation Independent Electricity System Operator

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Matthew Lau: Meet Catherine McKenna's new job-creation plan: Endless costly climate rules

Financial Post - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

New clean fuel regulations are coming to Canada "in the coming months," federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna announced earlier this month. She says the policy - titled the Clean Fuel Standard - is "a really important piece of our climate plan" and an "economic opportunity" for Canada. The idea behind the plan, which will require fuel producers to reduce the carbon intensity of their products, is being cheered on by Clean Energy Canada, an organization launched by Tides Canada in 2010 and now connected to Simon Fraser University.

According to a recent report from Clean Energy Canada, more federal fuel regulations would be an economic boon for the country. It argues that additional regulations "would increase economic activity in clean fuels in Canada by up to $5.6-billion a year in 2030" and create as many as 31,000 new jobs. Even after accounting for the negative effects of the regulations in other sectors, it is claimed, there will still be a large positive net effect on the economy and employment.

This is nonsense. The "logic" behind the claim that the Clean Fuel Standard would be economically beneficial is that government regulation somehow grows the economy by forcing people and businesses to spend money complying with the regulation. Those of us who don't buy into that thinking might well suspect that politicians who claim economic benefits of punitive **energy** regulations are simply catering to rent-seekers and **climate** activists.

Indeed, if it is good for the economy to institute a clean-fuel regulation to increase economic activity in clean **fuels** by $5.6 billion annually, then why not spur economic growth by encouraging other industries in the same way, by loading on regulations that require costly compliance?

This is the lens through which we should view the 31,000 new jobs that would be allegedly be created by **Ottawa**'s coming clean-fuel regulations. Is it good for the economy when 31,000 workers, rather than being efficiently employed to produce goods and services that Canadians demand, are instead put to work to achieve compliance with government **rules**?

Anyone still skeptical of the "economic opportunity" that McKenna claims these new regulations will bring might want to **review** the last time we heard grand promises of green economic opportunity from Liberal politicians. Recall the **Green Energy Act** disaster orchestrated by the **Ontario** Liberals, who had promised that their strict new regulations dictating **electricity** generation would create 50,000 green jobs.

Reports from the province's auditor general later found that around 30,000 jobs were "created" as opposed to 50,000, and most of the jobs were temporary construction work. Meanwhile, a recent Fraser Institute study estimated that 75,000 jobs were lost in **Ontario**'s manufacturing sector between 2008 and 2015 as a result of soaring **electricity** costs.

This is apparently what Liberals and **climate** activists consider economic success: diverting scarce resources from the production of desired goods and services to comply with environmental schemes that politicians dictate. The soon-to-be-announced clean fuel regulations are just the latest example. They will make running a business costlier and Canada poorer.

Matthew Lau is an economics writer based in **Toronto** and a contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**.

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Federal government invests 400K in North York alternative energy company

North York Mirror - Thu Nov 16 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $865
Reach: 95965 **Page:** 1

A **North** York based company will receive a federal investment of up to $400,000 to scale up activities for its **solar** and **wind** powered control system, it was announced Thursday, Nov. 16.

Clear Blue Technologies Inc., situated at 30 Lesmill Rd., developed an environmentally-friendly Smart Off-Grid management and control system which enables devices such as outdoor lighting, telecom systems, Internet of Things devices and security cameras to be powered by **solar** and **wind** **energy** and remotely managed, controlled and monitored in real-time, through its cloud software platform.

FedDev **Ontario**'s contribution, through the Investing in Business Innovation initiative, will help the company expand its marketing activities and sell its technology to a broader range of international clients, in sectors such as telecom, rail, oil and gas, and traffic management. This project is expected to create up to 33 full-time jobs.

Established in 2011, Clear Blue Technologies Inc. has developed energy-efficient Smart Off-Grid solutions that can be accessed globally, and currently has clients in 30 countries.

The company's technology was developed in collaboration with Centennial College and George Brown College, through grants provided by the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation and the Ontario Centres of Excellence.

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Ontario blowing in the wind

The Sault Star

The Sault Star - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jane Wilson

Ad Value: $1,473
Reach: 17077 **Page:** A6

Every time I am interviewed by the media, or speak at a public meeting, I am asked: Why is Ontario continuing to push ahead with its program of industrial-scale wind turbines and wind power, when all the facts seem to argue against it? I don't know. I don't understand why Ontario's Liberal government never did a cost-benefit analysis, or why it has ignored the admonitions of two auditors general about impacts and costs, or why it seems unable, or unwilling, to look at the real-world experience of its wind power experiment.

I don't know why the government signed contracts in 2016 for 600 megawatts of wind power when we already have a power surplus.

In 2016, Ontario paid $2.7 billion for generators of electricity from nuclear, gas and hydro not to produce power, because we were forced to accept wind power (when it shows up) to the grid.

In September, a new 100-megawatt wind power facility started commercial operation, but that same month, 42% of wind power in Ontario's west region was curtailed (surplus, not added to the grid).

Ontario's electricity customers paid for that power, anyway.

I don't know why the government keeps adding more new power, which adds costs to people's electricity bills, so much so that "energy poverty" is a new, sad phrase in Ontario.

The government claims to have reduced electricity bills by 25%, but it has done nothing to cut costs by cancelling contracts for unneeded power.

I don't know why we are adding more "green" power when Ontario is already "green" by most standards.

Ontario's engineers point out that more intermittent wind power means more natural gas back-up, which means more fossil fuel use, not less.

I don't know why the government persists in saying wind power is good for the environment when its effect on the natural environment and wildlife is well known.

Last month, Ontario's Environmental Commissioner pointed out that no request to "kill, harm or harass" wildlife had been refused for four years - she cited wind power projects where development actually took precedence over environmental balance.

Finally, I don't know why the government is ignoring the thousands of reports of negative impacts from the huge, noiseproducing turbines.

Between 2006 and 2014, the government received well over 3,100 formal reports of excessive noise and vibration, according to documents provided to Wind Concerns Ontario.

New wind turbine projects will be affected by the Ontario Liberal government canceling their green energy act to save money. Photograph taken on Tuesday September 27, 2016 near Strathroy, Ontario west of London. (Mike Hensen/The London Free Press) When the Green Energy Act was passed in 2009, the government already knew there were problems, but it pushed ahead anyway, going so far as to remove local land use planning power from municipalities seeking to protect their residents.

Of those thousands of reports, more than 50% received no response from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Only 1% resulted in a priority response.

On the formal Pollution Incident Reports kept by the government, there is space to name the "client".

Who might that be, for the ministry whose pledge it is to protect the environment and human health? Not the people of Ontario. On each report, the "client" listed is the wind power developer.

New noise protocols were released earlier this year but guess what? The newly contracted projects don't have to abide by the new rules.

There are concerns about the effect of the vibration from wind turbine construction and operation (picture a giant tuning fork stuck in the ground).

But the environment ministry appears to have abdicated its role as regulator, and relies instead on self-regulation by the multibillion-dollar wind power industry.

What is the reason behind these social, economic and environment costs that so moves the Ontario government to keep pressing ahead with this problematic program? I don't know. The government is not answering. Jane Wilson is a Registered Nurse and health care writer; she is volunteer president of Wind Concerns Ontario, a coalition of 30 community groups and hundreds of Ontario citizens

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No to Nation Rise

STANDARD FREEHOLDER

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Ruby And Joe Mekker

Ad Value: $350
Reach: 15286 **Page:** A6

An open letter to Ms. Wynne, Mr.

Thibeault, Mr. Ballard: Merry Christmas /Happy Holidays; As you are the premier and ministers accountable, I trust it is fair to say you chose to post the Nation Rise Wind Farm on Nov. 10 with a submission date ending Dec. 25.

Is this how the government of Ontario shows respect for the people of Ontario? This project was posted stating, "consisting of up to 33 wind turbines," yet the specified turbine capacities exceeds the 100 megawatts of overall project capacity. That does not seem forthcoming and open.

We have written many times to tell you Nation Rise Wind Farm is located: On prime agricultural land where Ontario's food is grown and milk is produced; On a major fragile groundwater source supporting multiple towns and wells; On an air ambulance route between Cornwall and Ottawa; On a major migratory flight path; and, On the West Quebec seismic fault. The municipality voted twice to confirm it is a non-willing host. A petition was presented to the Ontario Legislature saying no to the project.

The municipality hired an independent review of the project, which raised serious concerns.

There are fewer than 30 landowners with signed leases, though almost 7,000 residents saying no.

Ontario's laws still maintain a 550-metre set back regardless of turbine size and the passage of time has led to higher and larger platforms and blade lengths.

In the past, your ministries allowed turbines to be installed less than 500 metres from Ontario homes. Ontario's own medical officers of health stated in 2009 that 2,000-metre setbacks should be a minimum.

Wind is intermittent - it requires a backup system using fossil fuels, which doubles the cost and ignores the environmental impact while Wynne touts cutting back on coal while Hydro One purchased a coal generator in the U.S.

Ontario's cleanest energy - water - with the potential daily output of 8,338.5 megawatts - is used minimally as are the gas plants already built.

This project is not necessary - Ontario continues to sell surplus power at a loss. Cheap Quebec hydro is close by. Hydro-electric and nuclear are already paid for, but throttled back.

Nation Rise alone is quoted at $1.8 million a month for 20 years, with an option to extend it to 40 years. Ontario's debt is rising over $10,000 a minute. Is this in the 40-year energy plan for Ontario? Why did the Grinch steal Christmas from the residents of North Stormont? Why did you select a closing date for comment on Christmas Day, taking us away from friends and family if we are to respond? Why are you doing this at all?

Ruby and Joe Mekker Finch

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Hydro meeting in Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood to look at expansion

York Guardian - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $178
Reach: 26539 **Page:** 1

A community workshop meeting is being held in Toronto's Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood regarding ongoing hydro work and area improvements.

Hydro One and Toronto Hydro are working together to improve electricity infrastructure in the city's west end.

"Power West Toronto is required to strengthen the city's electricity system, accommodate the growing needs of homes and businesses in Toronto and is required to electrify the Eglinton Crosstown LRT," Hydro One said in a meeting invitation.

The project will involve installing new equipment, including two new transformers, to Hydro One's existing Runnymede Transformer Station located at 99 Woolner Ave., which will require expansion.

The meeting will discuss how to further improve the hydro corridor for community use.

It will take place on Monday, Nov. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at David Appleton Community Centre at 33 Pritchard Ave.

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Committee fights over green dollars

Ottawa Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jon Willing

Ad Value: $1,326
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A8

Proposed increases to water and sewer bills received the environment committee's endorsement on Tuesday, but councillors spent several hours considering the funding of new green schemes as part of the city's draft 2018 budget.

Public delegates zeroed in on the city's Energy Evolution program and asked councillors to increase funding for the first phase.

As part of the program, a $500,000 "community energy innovation fund" would be launched in 2018 as part of the city's goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 80% below 2012 levels by 2050. The money would be slotted into the taxsupported budget as a grant program, with the possibility of adding surplus Hydro Ottawa dividends.

Environmental groups, like Ecology Ottawa, want to see $1.5 million spent on Energy Evolution next year, arguing $500,000 won't do much to reduce GHGs. Coun.

David Chernush-enko, who has pushed energy conservation and GHG reductions as environment committee chair, is resigned with the money the city is coughing up for Energy Evolution.

"You fight your fights and push. You take your wins where you get them," Chernushenko said. "I would like more. This is as far as I could get at this time. I have chosen to support what I could get, as opposed to saying, 'It's inadequate, I'm voting against it.'"Pushing envelope

Chernushenko said politicians and voters are sensitive to how far government pushes the green envelope, even if they talk up a big green game. Coun. Catherine McKenney wanted the committee to use $200,000 from the community energy innovation fund in 2018 to hire two full-time temporary staff to work in a new "smart energy office." There's no one at the city leveraging upper-government funding for renewable energy projects, McKenney said.

But when McKenney's motion on staffing went to a vote, it lost on a tie. (Coun. Rick Chiarelli had to leave the meeting moments earlier for an emergency trip to the dentist.)

McKenney and Coun. Jeff Leiper voted against the property tax-supported environment budget.

The environment committee has oversight of two city budgets: the gross $122-million property tax-supported budget, which covers garbage, **forestry**, infrastructure services and other environmental work, and the gross $382-million **rate**-supported budget, which pays for maintenance to water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure.

The water **rate** is poised to increase 4% in 2018, while the sewer **rate** would increase 5%. The stormwater fee would go up by 5%.

The garbage fee on property tax bills would increase by $2, while the garbage fee for homes in multi-residential buildings would increase by $1.

Council will vote on the full 2018 budget on Dec. 13. jwilling@postmedia.com twitter.com/JonathanWilling

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

On tour, Notley beats drum for new pipelines

The Globe and Mail - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $16,312
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Alberta's support for a national **climate**-change policy depends on the rest of the country ensuring its **energy** workers are treated fairly - and that means new pipelines must be built, Premier Rachel Notley said on Tuesday.

The NDP Premier visited **Ottawa** on Tuesday as part of her cross-country tour to defend the province's struggling oil industry and its need for the controversial Kinder Morgan Canada Ltd. Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project to carry crude from Alberta to the B.C. **coast**.

In a speech near Parliament Hill, Ms. Notley urged the federal Liberal government to "step up" its effort to ensure the pipeline project is not derailed by local opposition in British Columbia. Ms. Notley warned that failure to support Alberta's oil industry would fuel a backlash in her province and jeopardize Canada's **climate**-change commitments.

Ms. Notley said her government has implemented the most aggressive greenhouse **gas** (GHG) emission policy in **North** America. It includes plans to phase out coal-fired **power**; impose a carbon price; regulate industry's methane emissions; cap GHGs from the oil sands; and establish **energy**-efficiency programs.

However, she warned that policy won't survive unless Albertans feel their efforts are being recognized and rewarded through more national support for their leading industry.

"Without Alberta, there is no national **climate** **plan**, period," she said. "Any **climate** **plan** that goes ahead and ignores working people is not a **plan**. It would be, what we call in Alberta, all hat and no cattle."

The provincial NDP government has sunk in the polls after Alberta suffered through a punishing recession brought on by the slump in oil prices.

Jason Kenney, newly elected Leader of the United Conservative Party Opposition and a former federal cabinet minister, has energized right-ofcentre opposition to Ms. Notley's government. He argues its **climate** **plan** imposes onerous costs on the province's leading industry and offers no benefits.

Mr. Kenney said the Premier's speaking tour this month is too little, too late, and said there needs to be clear "consequences" if pipelines aren't built - such as cancelling future hikes to Alberta's carbon-tax **rate**.

The Premier has taken on the pipeline fight with zeal, with a national speaking tour that will take her next week to British Columbia, where fierce opposition to the project remains. In **Ottawa** on Tuesday, she called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to play a more active role in defending a project that his government deemed to be in the national interest.

Ms. Notley welcomed the approval TransCanada Corp. received Monday from Nebraska for a route for its Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry Alberta crude to the U.S. Gulf **Coast**.

But she insisted it remains crucial that the industry diversify its **customer** base away from the United States and access Pacific markets.

She acknowledged that crude pipelines carry some risk of accidents.

Last week, TransCanada's original Keystone pipeline spilled 5,000 barrels of crude in South Dakota, forcing an emergency shutdown while crews are still working on the clean up. But Ms. Notley insisted the expanded Kinder Morgan pipeline through B.C. would carry minimal risks that would be outweighed by the economic and even environmental benefits.

The Premier is also looking for federal help to support workers and communities that will be hit by government policies aimed at phasing out **coal-fired electricity** generation by 2030. Her government established a $40-million Coal Workforce Transition Fund to help coalindustry workers whose jobs will be threatened over the next 12 years.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna is establishing a task force to recommend measures to ease the transition as **utilities** move away from coal-fired **power**.

The federal minister said **Ottawa** will work with Alberta to support workers and communities through the transition, but made no specific commitment.

Labour leader Hassan Yussuff argued it is critical that workers in the fossil-fuel industries are not left behind as governments impose policies that impact their livelihood.

Otherwise, governments will face the kind of populist backlash against **climate**-change policies that contributed to U.S. President Donald Trump's electoral victory last November, he said.

"We might repeat what happened in the United States - people are highly resentful when you talk **climate** change because they think it's about their jobs," Mr. Yussuff, president of the **Canadian** Labour Congress, said in an interview.

With a file from Kelly Cryderman in Calgary

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Clean Power, Dirty Deal; Province lost up to $2B selling its surplus

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 22 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $5,306
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A9

Ontario lost between $732 million and $1.25 billion over the past two years selling surplus clean electricity outside the province, an analysis by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) estimates.

That's the difference between what Ontario agreed to pay to produce nuclear, water, wind and solar power, and the bargain basement price it sold it for on the international market.

Energy expert Paul Acchione, OSPE's past president and chair, said excess clean electricity should be offered first to Ontario businesses and residents at that lower wholesale cost.

"This represents a year's worth of power for more than a million homes that Ontario has sold to other jurisdictions for less than it costs us to produce," Acchione said. "Ontario ratepayers are essentially subsidizing hydro bills in places like Michigan and New York to the tune of $500 million per year."

Only after all possible domestic demand has been satisfied should the provincial electricity system try to sell off its extra clean power to other jurisdictions, he said.

Instead, Ontario has been directly exporting excess clean energy to adjoining power grids since 2014, the OSPE says.

"You don't build clean capacity for export - that's suicide because you can't make enough money on the export market," Acchione said Tuesday. "If you have some extra of the clean electricity you sure as hell don't want to export it. You want to use it yourself."

The OSPE report touched off a debate during Question Period Tuesday with Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith demanding if the Liberal government had actually lost almost $1.25 billion exporting power.

"The numbers from the engineers are staggering," Smith said. "We're subsidizing power for Michigan, New York and other neighbouring jurisdictions and to make matters worse, they're poaching our jobs because they're taking our electricity at a low cost."

Premier Kathleen Wynne said the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) estimates that electricity exports save Ontarians hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

"This net benefit to Ontario was $236 million last year," she said.

The provincial government number includes the export of natural gas generation, which is excluded from the engineers' report.

A statement from Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault's office says that the "net benefit" to Ontarians was $320 million in 2014 and $300 million in 2013.

"We are obligated as a province to produce enough electricity to meet North American reliability standards," the minister's office statement says. "Our electricity supply provides grid reliability and affordability which we lacked before 2005, when Ontario was a net importer of electricity. That lack of reliability was partially responsible for the province-wide blackout of 2003, which was an enormous economic hit."

Acchione said the $236 million in net benefit the government estimates it earned last year does not represent profit to Ontario hydro customers, but rather is a reduction in the loss that the system is incurring by having that capacity idle, he said.

"That's not the way you do accounting in Canada; you can't say you're making a profit unless you pay all your costs," he said. aartuso@postmedia.com INSIDE

EDITORIAL:

Liberals' **energy** fiasco costing us billions Page 16

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Alberta premier tells Ottawa to 'step up' to get pipelines built - Edmonton - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley is using her cross-Canada speaking tour to take aim at everyone from the federal government and her own national party to activists opposed building more pipelines.

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Canadian drilling to increase in 2018; 'muted stability' may return | Service & Supply | JWN Energy

www.jwnenergy.com - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Market conditions remain fragile for Canadian drilling and service contractors despite an expected increase in activity next year, according to the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC).

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Alberta premier tells Ottawa to 'step up' to get pipelines built - Edmonton - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley is using her cross-Canada speaking tour to take aim at everyone from the federal government and her own national party to activists opposed building more pipelines.

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Shareholders urge TransCanada to back Keystone XL despite risk

finance.yahoo.com - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

ransCanada Corp should push ahead with an $8 billion Keystone XL pipeline expansion after the state of Nebraska on Monday approved a route that would raise the cost of the controversial project, some shareholders said.

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Judge Hears Arguments On Whether Oil Pipeline, Terminating In South Portland, Can Reverse Flow | Maine Public

mainepublic.org - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Attorneys were back in federal court Tuesday arguing about a lawsuit brought by the Portland Pipe Line Corp. against the City of South Portland over its Clear Skies Ordinance.

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Keystone XL oil pipeline will go ahead despite last week's spill | New Scientist

www.newscientist.com - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Nebraska has given the okay for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to run through the state – even though the existing Keystone pipeline spilled thousands of barrels of oil just last week.

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StarPhoenix Letter of the Day: Wall must reflect on strong words | Saskatoon StarPhoenix

thestarphoenix.com - Tue Nov 21 2017
Tone: Neutral

Premier Wall has been a trenchant critic of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and has often expressed his opposition to Liberal policies using strong and at times undiplomatic language.

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