

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: November 24, 2017 8:00 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, November 24, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, November 24, 2017
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 24 Results



Hydro One proposes prepaid meters; Critics claim the system will harm low-income customers, demand it be banned as in U.K.

Toronto Star - Fri Nov 24 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$17,020
Reach: 361323 **Page:** GT7

Hydro One is seeking permission to use prepaid meters, a move critics say will only hurt low-income customers. In a lengthy proposal to the **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) regarding ...



'Giving people choice'; No threat to poor in hydro meter plan: Thibeault

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 24 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$5,026
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A9

Hydro One customers will be able to opt in or out of a proposed program to "prepay" **electric** bills, **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** insists. Thibeault also insisted the controversial ...



'Pre-paid'hydro plan repugnant

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$1,857

Reach: 171076 Page: A16

We're suspicious of the Wynne government's assurance that a proposal by privately-controlled **Hydro One** to install "prepaid" **electricity** meters for people who are behind in their payments will be "voluntary". ...



Hydro One mulls use of pre-paid meters; Electricity

National Post - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline:Allison Jones

Ad Value:\$7,420

Reach: 159480 Page: FP8

Hydro One is considering allowing its customers to use pre-paid meters for their **electricity** use. The proposal is contained within a massive **Ontario Energy Board** ...



Hydro One considering use of pre-paid meters for electricity | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Hydro One is considering allowing its customers to use pre-paid meters for their electricity use. The proposal is contained within a massive Ontario Energy Board application, which also asks for a rate increase of 0.5 per cent this year and 4.8 per ...



Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

--- (Pre-Paid-Meters) Ontario's **energy** minister says a proposal for pre-paid smart meters for **electricity** use is only in the preliminary stages. Glen Thibeault says if the meters do happen, they would be an opt-in choice for ...



Prepaid hydro meters being considered

London Free Press - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$522

Reach: 70995 Page: A4

Hydro one is considering letting customers use pre-paid meters for their **electricity** use. The proposal is contained within an **ontario energy Board application**, which also ...



Hydro One seeks rate hike in remote First Nations - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 23, 2017

OEB is mentioned.

Hydro One wants to increase electricity rates for residents of 21 remote communities in northern Ontario, most of which are First Nations.



Collingwood First Public Look at EPCOR deal in Collingwood News Centre News

www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 23, 2017

OEB is mentioned.

A first public meeting today for people to find out about the sale of Collingwood's electricity utility to a company based in Edmonton.



Kathleen Wynne and your hydro bill

Whitby This Week - Thu Nov 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$39

Reach: 79700 Page: 1

On Thursday, Oct. 26, the Kathleen Wynne Liberals released their Long-Term **Energy Plan**, intended to be a guide to the province's **energy** system over the next two decades. Unfortunately, this **plan** is ...



Liberal hydro policies destroying Ontario

North Bay Nugget - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value:\$427

Reach: 11505 Page: A5

To the editor: Are the Liberals deliberately destroying **Ontario** with their **hydro** policies? Lets start with the Liberals'green **energy** policy where they paid up to 40 cents a kWh for **wind power** ...



Hydro One Cutting Eight Thunder Bay Jobs | CJUK Thunder Bay | Magic 99.9

www.magic999.ca - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Thunder Bay's loss is Sudbury's gain when it comes to Hydro One administrative jobs. Spokesperson Tiziana Baccega Rosa says the utility will be moving eight positions from its local office on Burwood Road to the Sudbury facility over "the next ...



PC Leader Brown speaks at business lunch

Kitchener Post - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative** Page: 1

If elected premier next June, Tory Leader Patrick Brown said he'd take a slower approach to increasing the minimum wage and put an urgent focus on safety when it comes to providing marijuana to the **public**. During a stop in ...



Here's how Brown must build policy platform

Northumberland Today.com - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Randall Denley

Ad Value: \$463

Reach: 23714 Page: B2

After two years of drifting without a policy rudder, the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives might finally set a new course this weekend. The party's policy convention will be a real test for leader Patrick Brown, who has steered clear of ...



How a clean-fuel standard will build an industry

The Globe and Mail - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: MERRAN SMITH, JEREMY MOORHOUSE

Ad Value: \$16,812

Reach: 309154 Page: B4

If asked what the federal government is doing to cut carbon pollution, most Canadians would likely point to the policy they've heard the most about: carbon pricing. But there's another tool in the pan-**Canadian** framework on clean growth ...



Financial review finds nuclear refurb should provide low-cost, low-emissions electricity , but not without risk

Clarington This Week - Tue Nov 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$90

Page: 1

CLARINGTON/PICKERING - Overall refurbishment of nuclear reactors is expected to provide **ratepayers** with a long-term supply of relatively low-cost, low-emissions **electricity**, according to Ontario's Financial Accountability ...



Nebraska says 'yes' to Keystone XL pipeline

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,476

Reach: 63465 Page: A10

This editorial appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press: Nebraska's **public utility** board has narrowly approved construction of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline across a corner of the state. The pipeline, aimed at speeding export ...



Turbine developments part of a larger conspiracy

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Nov 24 2017

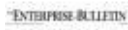
Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Brock Turner

Ad Value: \$190

Reach: 15320 Page: A4

The damaged waters wells referred to by MPP Monte McNaughton (Nov. 22, Chatham Daily News) are that of my neighbour's. A **turbine** was also just erected about 400 metres behind our house. Following the **North** Kent 1 ...



Wind turbine woes won't be forgotten

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Peter Epp

Ad Value: \$233

Reach: 18500 Page: A4

When Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months ago that her government was suspending Ontario's **renewable energy** procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a **public** backlash ...



Braid: NDP hopes tide is turning as Notley gets cheers in Calgary | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, November 24, 2017

Energy East is mentioned.

Rachel Notley seemed to be bouncing on air as she walked along the hallway in the Telus Convention Centre, on her way to a news conference.



Premier Notley outlines results of her pipeline pitch in Ontario | CTV Calgary News

calgary.ctvnews.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, November 24, 2017

Energy East is mentioned.

Premier Rachel Notley addressed a gathering in Calgary on Thursday where she shared some of the details of her recent pipeline meetings in Ontario.



Baystreet.ca - Why TransCanada's Stock Isn't Soaring Despite the Keystone XL Approval This Week

www.baystreet.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, November 24, 2017

Energy East is mentioned.

TransCanada Corporation (TSX:TRP)(NYSE:TRP) got some good news at the start of the week when regulators in Nebraska gave the okay for the company's Keystone XL pipeline project.



Premier Rachel Notley blasts Ottawa for stalling pipelines at AUMA

www.660news.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 23, 2017

Energy East is mentioned.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley stopped by Calgary to speak to regions and municipalities across the province.



Chris Warkentin applauds Keystone XL progress - My Grande Prairie Now

www.mygrandeprairienow.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, November 23, 2017

Energy East is mentioned.

The approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline alternate route in Nebraska is welcome news to Grande Prairie-MacKenzie MP Chris Warkentin. He calls it an important step towards forward for the project. Warkentin also says this is a much needed boost for ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Hydro One proposes prepaid meters; Critics claim the system will harm low-income customers, demand it be banned as in U.K.

Toronto Star - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$17,020

Reach: 361323 Page: GT7

Hydro One is seeking permission to use prepaid meters, a move critics say will only hurt low-income customers.

In a lengthy proposal to the **Ontario Energy Board (OEB)** regarding **rate** increases, **Hydro** One includes a pitch "to install prepayment meters, which require the **customer** to pay first before they get any **electricity**," said New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns (**Toronto**-Danforth).

"Everywhere that prepayment meters have been used, they have hurt struggling families," said Tabuns, his party's **energy** critic, demanding the government ban them, as has happened in the United Kingdom.

Hydro One executives and **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** insist the meters, if approved, would be optional.

The **energy** board, Thibeault told reporters, is mandated to "have the **ratepayers**' best interests in mind, and so we leave the decisions, when it comes to **rate** applications, to the **OEB**."

Regardless of the type of meter, no one will be cut off from **electricity** in the winter, he added.

Hydro One's proposal to the **OEB** states that "one method of enabling **customer** control of their **electricity** consumptions, while in arrears condition, and minimizing **Hydro** One Network's financial risk, is through the use of prepaid meters. Prepaid meters are a type of **energy** meter that requires users to pay for **energy** before using it. This is done via a smartcard, token or key that can be 'topped up' at a corner shop, via a smartphone **application** or online.

"For customers who are high collection risk, the financial risk will be minimized by rolling out this type of meter. With a prepaid meter, **electricity** is paid upfront.

Once the prepaid amount is used up, **power** is cut-off until the **customer** is able to load the meter with more credits."

Ferio Pugliese, **Hydro** One's executive vice-president of **customer** care and corporate affairs, said "absolutely, this will not be forced" on customers and that it is simply providing them more choice.

The meters, he said, are "an option that we had put into our **rate** filing as another potential option to be available to customers should they choose it."

Pugliese likened it to customers choosing equal billing payments, "where they don't like fluctuations in their bill so they pay a fixed charge." In this case, he said, it could appeal to those "who might be on a different income cycle, who like to prepay everything upfront or through a period of time."

Thibeault said hunters who have camps they use in the fall "might like to see something like this - they can opt-in and have two months of **electricity**."

However, he also said, the meter request remains "just a thought."

"At the end of the day, we are still a long way from this even being approved," Thibeault said. "This is just a thought, it's two paragraphs in a 2,000-page document."

But Tabuns believes the meters will circumvent **rules** preventing **electricity** cut-offs in the winter.

"**Hydro** One's installation of prepayment **hydro** meters would bypass **Ontario's rules** for **disconnections**," Tabuns said. "**Hydro** One won't have to disconnect anyone; the **power** will be cut off automatically if the **customer** doesn't feed the meter."

Thibeault also noted that under **Hydro** One's filing, future **rate** increases will be no more "than the cost of inflation for the next four years" and in line with the government's promised 25-per-cent reduction in **hydro** bills.

[Back to Top](#)



'Giving people choice'; No threat to poor in hydro meter plan: Thibeault

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$5,026

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A9

Hydro One customers will be able to opt in or out of a proposed program to "prepay" **electric** bills, **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** insists.

Thibeault also insisted the controversial **application** by **Hydro** One - to replace some smart meters with new "prepaid" meters - won't target the poor.

"When I talked to **Hydro** One about this specifically, they said this is about giving people choice," Thibeault said Thursday.

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns, who raised the issue this week in the **Ontario** Legislature, suggested the Minister isn't credible when he says requiring consumers to pre-pay for **power** won't focus on the poor.

"I think they're going to say to people who have a bad credit rating or have arrears, here's the meter we're putting in... If you want **power**, here's the meter that you're going to have to have," Tabuns said.

"I don't believe there's going to be any real choice. This is all about protecting **Hydro One**, this is all about making sure their investors make the most money possible," he said.

"Families in the winter, not a concern on their part."

Tabuns wants the Liberals to kill the proposal.

And in fact, on page 2,038 of a 2,076-page **application**, under "The cost of **electricity** in **Ontario** has been steadily increasing," **Hydro One** points out. "This has resulted in a number of customers having difficulty in paying their bills on time."

The current arrears collection system involves a series of escalating steps, from a reminder phone call to location visits, **Hydro One** says in the submission to the **Ontario Energy Board**.

"One method of enabling **customer** control of their **electricity** consumptions, while in arrears condition, and minimizing **Hydro One** Network's financial risk, is through the use of pre-paid "Once the pre-paid amount is used up, **power** is cut-off until the **customer** is able to load the meter with more credits."

The **application** does not specify that it will be voluntary.

Thibeault, meanwhile, denied the proposal buried deep in the **application** was a 'Trojan Horse'intended to cut off delinquent customers.

And he suggested it's just a proposal.

There are already programs in place to prevent **electricity disconnections** in winter and to help people manage their **hydro** accounts, he said.

"But at the end of the day we are still a long way away from this even being approved," Thibeault said. "This is just a thought. It's two paragraphs on a 2,000-page document."

The **OEB** is tasked with protecting **consumer** interests when **energy** companies seek **rate** increases or changes like a pre-payment meter.

The **Ontario** Liberal government sold off a majority stake in **Hydro One**, which was previously 100% owned by citizens of the province.
aartuso@postmedia.com

[Back to Top](#)



'Pre-paid'hydro plan repugnant

Toronto Sun - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$1,857

Reach: 171076 Page: A16

We're suspicious of the Wynne government's assurance that a proposal by privately-controlled **Hydro One** to install "prepaid" **electricity** meters for people who are behind in their payments will be "voluntary".

Hydro One's submission to the **Ontario Energy Board**, seeking regulatory approval for its "Collection Enhancements" **plan**, buried on page 2,038 of a 2,076-page document, doesn't specify it will be voluntary.

It argues the increasing number of customers in default because of the rising cost of **electricity** justifies installing prepaid meters as a way of "minimizing **Hydro One** Network's financial risk."

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** insisted Thursday **Hydro** One has assured him the program will be a voluntary method for its customers to control their **electricity** consumption and in any event may not be approved.

This after New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns said the **plan** is designed to target the poor.

It's not surprising **Hydro** One wants to minimize non-payment for its services.

But the idea senior citizens living on fixed incomes could be forced into paying in advance for **electricity** after the Liberal government's mismanagement drove **electricity** prices in **Ontario** to the highest level in the country, is both morally repugnant and indefensible.

The fear is that people unable to pay their bills in advance will have their **power** cut off, a frightening prospect as we enter into winter, despite **Hydro** One's insistence that won't happen.

Small comfort given the **utility**'s appallingly bad and incompetent history of billing customers, as identified by former **Ontario** Ombudsman Andre Marin in the era before Premier Kathleen Wynne sold off the province's control of **Hydro** One to the private sector, which put the **utility** beyond the scrutiny of the ombudsman.

Marin reported thousands of complaints from **Hydro** One customers, many of whom were over billed and had their bank accounts raided to pay for **electricity** they never used, customers who were then refused reimbursement by the **utility**, which said it would only apply over billed amounts to future **hydro** bills.

For that reason alone, the **OEB** should reject this proposal, regardless of the Wynne government's massive **public** borrowings to lower **hydro rates** by adding billions of dollars in new debt, which will have to be paid, with interest, by all **Hydro** One customers.

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro One mulls use of pre-paid meters; Electricity

National Post - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Allison Jones

Ad Value: \$7,420

Reach: 159480 Page: FP8

Hydro One is considering allowing its customers to use pre-paid meters for their **electricity** use.

The proposal is contained within a massive **Ontario Energy Board application**, which also asks for a **rate** increase of 0.5 per cent this year and 4.8 per cent next year.

The **application** says the pre-paid meters would minimize **Hydro** One's financial risk by requiring customers to pay for **energy** before using it - in particular for customers who are deemed to be a high collection risk.

But **Hydro** One's executive vice-president of **customer** care and corporate affairs said it would not be used as a collection tool, adding that the language in the **application** to the **OEB** is very generic and "somewhat out of context."

If the **OEB** allows **Hydro** One to move forward with pre-paid meters, they would be offered to customers as a choice and wouldn't be forced upon anyone, Ferio Pugliese said.

The NDP believes the move would allow **Hydro One** to circumvent a winter disconnection ban.

"They're going to move forward with this and they're going to go after anyone who has a bad credit score, anyone who's in arrears - anyone who they think is vulnerable," said **energy** critic Peter Tabuns.

Hydro One's application says once the pre-paid amount on a meter is used up, "**power** is cut off until the **customer** is able to load the meter with more credits."

But Pugliese said that would "absolutely not" be the case, noting **Hydro One** was the first **utility** to voluntarily stop winter **disconnections**.

"We are not about to go about the business of disconnecting people, especially remotely once something like this runs out," he said.

Energy Minister Glen Thibeault stressed that pre-paid smart metres are in very preliminary stages and their inclusion in the approximately 2,000 page **application** is a small detail. They would be opt-in for customers, he said.

"This is about giving people choice," he said. "This isn't ... a Trojan horse. It's two paragraphs in a **rate application** that may not even get through."

If the **OEB** gives its approval, **Hydro One** would study the pre-paid meters idea, then find vendors, then test the technology, then field test it, Pugliese said, stressing the idea is in a very preliminary stage.

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro One considering use of pre-paid meters for electricity | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One is considering allowing its customers to use pre-paid meters for their electricity use. The proposal is contained within a massive Ontario Energy Board application, which also asks for a rate increase of 0.5 per cent this year and 4.8 per cent next year.

[Back to Top](#)



Prepaid hydro meters being considered

London Free Press - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$522

Reach: 70995 Page: A4

Hydro one is considering letting customers use pre-paid meters for their **electricity** use. The proposal is contained within an **ontario energy Board application**, which also asks for a **rate** increase of 0.5 per cent this year and 4.8 per cent next year. The **application** says the meters would minimize **hydro one's** financial risk by requiring customers to pay for **energy** before using it, in particular for customers who are deemed to be a high collection risk. **hydro one** says the meters would be offered to customers as a choice and wouldn't be forced on anyone.

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro One seeks rate hike in remote First Nations - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One wants to increase electricity rates for residents of 21 remote communities in northern Ontario, most of which are First Nations.

[Back to Top](#)



Collingwood First Public Look at EPCOR deal in Collingwood News Centre News

www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

A first public meeting today for people to find out about the sale of Collingwood's electricity utility to a company based in Edmonton.

[Back to Top](#)



Kathleen Wynne and your hydro bill

Whitby This Week - Thu Nov 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$39

Reach: 79700 Page: 1

On Thursday, Oct. 26, the Kathleen Wynne Liberals released their Long-Term **Energy Plan**, intended to be a guide to the province's **energy** system over the next two decades.

Unfortunately, this **plan** is nothing but an **Ontario** Liberal Party re-election document. It will do nothing to calm the nerves of overburdened local families worried about what's coming next.

For 14 years, politically-motivated and reckless decisions in our **electricity** system have left **Ontario** families reeling from skyrocketing **electricity** costs. This all stems from politically-motivated games played by the Liberal government that have left hardworking families paying more and getting less.

The Liberals' Long-Term **Energy Plan** is simply their latest **hydro** coverup. They are anything but open and transparent. And despite all their rhetoric, it's clear: **rates** will continue to skyrocket.

It took a secret, leaked cabinet document to show that the Wynne Liberals' "Unfair **Hydro**" scheme will leave **Ontario** families paying the highest **electricity rates** in our province's history after the next election.

And recently, **Ontario**'s auditor general exposed that the Liberals are using shady accounting to keep their "Unfair **Hydro**" scheme off the books in order to claim they've balanced the budget.

The result?

It's costing **Ontario** families \$4 billion more than announced. This is on top of the province's **independent** financial watchdog revealing that future generations - your children and grandchildren - could be on the hook for up to \$93 million for the Liberal government's **plan**.

What's more, the auditor said the Liberals have stonewalled access to hundreds of thousands of documents, and "brushed aside" the accounting standard for all federal and provincial governments in Canada in order to hide

the true cost of their **plan**.

This speaks volumes about the lengths to which the Wynne Liberals will go to cling to **power**. They don't care about making life more affordable for **Ontario** families. They are only interested in their own political survival.

Life is harder under the Wynne Liberals, and their re-election gimmicks in the **electricity** system are only going to make it worse. We can't trust them on the **hydro** file ever again.

It's time for a change in **Ontario**. As the member of provincial parliament for **Whitby-Oshawa**, I want to see families pay less and get ahead.

It's time for a government that works for you, not insiders.

- Lorne Coe is the member of provincial parliament for **Whitby-Oshawa**. He was first elected on Feb. 11, 2016. He serves as critic for post-secondary education, and associate critic for education for the **Ontario** Progressive Conservative caucus. He is also currently a member on the standing committee for social policy in the **Ontario** Legislative Assembly and has been serving the area of **Whitby-Oshawa** for over 15 years.

[Back to Top](#)



Liberal hydro policies destroying Ontario

North Bay Nugget - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value: \$427

Reach: 11505 Page: A5

To the editor: Are the Liberals deliberately destroying **Ontario** with their **hydro** policies? Lets start with the Liberals' green **energy** policy where they paid up to 40 cents a kWh for **wind power** and 80 cents a kWh for **solar power** and for the next 13 years we are still on the hook because they did not want to buy cheap **hydro electric power** back in 2010.

It was only after they recognized they created an **energy** crisis in 2016 did they purchase cheap excess hydroelectric **power** from Quebec.

The green **energy** contracts the Liberals signed led up to **Ontario** having the highest **hydro rates** in **North** America, which lead to thousands of homes being in arrears on their **hydro** bills in 2015 while it costs Ontarians roughly \$1 billion a year to get rid of our excess **hydro** to neighbouring jurisdiction which are our competitors.

So in 2017 the Liberal solution to this **energy** crisis is a false 25 per cent **rate** reduction on our **hydro rates** -yes they did remove the eight per cent **HST** that they added on to our **hydro** bill to begin with in 2010, but they did not cancel the eight per cent we pay so we still pay it but in another way. Lets just call this a Liberal shell game.

Can the Liberals explain to me why I should thank them when they have more than tripled our **rates** since taking office which has forced them to offer multiple temporary **rate** reduction programs in which they are robbing Peter to pay Paul? Going back to this temporary false **hydro rate** reduction just before next year's election, This 25 per cent **rate** reduction **plan** will cost Ontarians \$45 billion for \$24 billion in temporary savings if the government balances its books for the next 30 years. If this can't be done, this Liberal shell game could end up costing Ontarians up to \$93 billion.

After the four years of a temporary **rate** reduction, get ready for these **rate**

increases annually. A leaked Liberal document shows could this be why **Hydro** One wants to install pay-as-you go **hydro** meters.

So if the CEO of **Hydro** One makes \$4.5 million a year now what will he make when these **rate** increases kick in? Ross Ayotte Smiths Falls

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro One Cutting Eight Thunder Bay Jobs | CJUK Thunder Bay | Magic 99.9

www.magic999.ca - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Thunder Bay's loss is Sudbury's gain when it comes to Hydro One administrative jobs.

Spokesperson Tiziana Baccega Rosa says the utility will be moving eight positions from its local office on Burwood Road to the Sudbury facility over "the next while."

[Back to Top](#)



PC Leader Brown speaks at business lunch

Kitchener Post - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Negative** Page: 1

If elected premier next June, Tory Leader Patrick Brown said he'd take a slower approach to increasing the minimum wage and put an urgent focus on safety when it comes to providing marijuana to the **public**.

During a stop in **Kitchener** at a **Greater** KW Chamber of Commerce lunch on Thursday, Brown said the province's framework for marijuana was an intentional rush job that diverted attention from the start of two Liberal corruption trials this fall.

"The week after that the police were making their testimony before the health committee in **Ottawa** to express what they need, what their concerns are," he said, adding that law enforcement currently doesn't have the resources or technology to keep our streets safe in the face of federal pot legalization that takes effect next summer.

"I certainly don't believe the province's assurances that they're ready, they've done their homework and due diligence," Brown said.

The province can't do much to delay legalization, but Brown said it needs to be careful as to how the substance is purveyed.

Much like **Ontario**'s framework for legalized pot, increases to the minimum wage are also being rushed through irresponsibly with an election coming, Brown believes.

After going from \$11.60 to \$14/hr on Jan. 1, the minimum wage is slated to increase to \$15/hr come 2019.

"I get that you can't live on \$11 an hour, but my criticism is how the government's going about this," he said, pointing to studies that forecast tens of thousands of job losses affecting some of the most vulnerable people in society.

British Columbia is also in the process of raising its minimum wage to \$15/hr but is doing so over four years, he said.

"A four-year phase is a much more responsible approach to the remaining parts of this labour legislation approach and frankly, that's what we've already committed, that's what we've heard when we've been travelling the province, and that's what's we've heard from the chambers.

"I want to get to higher wages but protect jobs at the same time."

Ultimately Brown said he wants to create a culture where **Ontario** has the ability to compete again, but that isn't the case for many businesses that are leaving the province due to higher taxes and **utility** bills.

"Since 2009, we've given away \$6 billion in surplus **electricity**," he said, blaming ill-conceived green **energy** contracts signed by the governing Liberals.

"The government puts policies in and they don't realize what the consequence is.

"Certainly if I'm premier of **Ontario**, the only way taxes will go is down to create a more competitive environment for our job creators."

[Back to Top](#)



Here's how Brown must build policy platform

Northumberland Today.com - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Randall Denley

Ad Value: \$463

Reach: 23714 Page: B2

After two years of drifting without a policy rudder, the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives might finally set a new course this weekend. The party's policy convention will be a real test for leader Patrick Brown, who has steered clear of ideas for so long that reasonable people might think he doesn't have any. He can't let that impression persist.

Normally, a policy convention is like a big straw vote on party members' favourite ideas, but it doesn't have much to do with the sharply focused and intellectually coherent work required to put together a solid election platform.

This time, the PCs are trying something different. Members have already voted on a long list of ideas. If Brown and his policy team are on their game, they will have crafted those recommendations into something that looks like a platform.

Part of the platform challenge for any party is finding an attractive theme for its campaign, something that is easy to understand and speaks to voters' real concerns.

The Liberals have grabbed a good one - fairness. Whether the Liberal ideas will enhance fairness or make life fairer for some and less **fair** for others is debatable, but as a sales pitch, it has merit.

The PCs need a unifying theme and four or five key ideas that support it. Having been through this process as part of the PC policy team in the last election, let me be bold enough to offer some advice.

The PCs must combat their image as a party that is more interested in economics than people, one that doesn't understand urban **Ontario**.

Brown needs to zero in on policies that will make real changes in people's lives. He needs to offer a sustainable, affordable, measured approach to government, in contrast to the wild and expensive policy swings of the Liberals.

PCs have always shied away from health care, considering it a Liberal area. That's a mistake. The PCs should make better care for seniors their key health policy. That benefits not just seniors, but the families who support them.

The Liberals talk a good game on home care and long-term care but haven't done much. Brown needs a policy to meet the need in both areas.

Education needs a sharper focus on developing skills required to find a job. **Ontario** already has a high school program that blends work experience with education, but it's not promoted. It should become the norm.

More attention and money should be devoted to our colleges and their job training function. **Ontario's** economy is not sustainable without skilled workers and young people have no future without appropriate education.

Brown will have to offer a cogent alternative to the Liberals' confusing **cap-and-trade** regime. He has already promised a carbon tax. That makes more sense than trade with California. He should make the tax revenue-neutral and use the proceeds to cut taxes in the lowest bracket.

Our cities are struggling to pay for roads and transit. Brown could help by gradually phasing out the \$6 billion a year the province collects in property taxes. That's more sustainable than big promises of borrowed money.

Finally, the PCs need to show compassion for disabled Ontarians. We expect the disabled to live on a little more than \$1,100 a month in provincial support. Rather than spend years studying a basic income for all, as the Liberals are doing, increase support for the disabled, who need it most.

The Liberals have done a mediocre job for our seniors, **students**, environment, cities and disabled Ontarians. This is Patrick Brown's chance to show he can do better. Randall Denley is an **Ottawa** commentator, novelist and former **Ontario** PC candidate. randalldenley1@gmail.com

[Back to Top](#)



How a clean-fuel standard will build an industry

The Globe and Mail - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: MERRAN SMITH, JEREMY MOORHOUSE

Ad Value: \$16,812

Reach: 309154 Page: B4

If asked what the federal government is doing to cut carbon pollution, most Canadians would likely point to the policy they've heard the most about: carbon pricing. But there's another tool in the pan-**Canadian** framework on clean growth and **climate** change that will cut far more carbon pollution than federal carbon pricing, and you probably haven't heard of it.

It's called the clean-fuel standard and, while still in the design phase, it aims to cut 30 million tonnes of CO2 a year by 2030. That's equal to taking more than seven million cars off the road, making it the biggest carbon-pollution-cutting policy the federal government has planned.

The clean-fuel standard targets not only **transportation fuels**, such as **gasoline** and diesel, but also those used in buildings and industry, such as **natural gas**. It would require fuel suppliers to reduce the carbon intensity (the amount of carbon pollution released for every unit of fuel consumed) of their product, while offering flexibility in how they choose to do so. A **gasoline** provider could blend **ethanol** into their fuel to make it less carbon-intensive, for instance - something **Canadian** fuel providers already do.

But what does the clean-fuel standard mean for jobs, the economy and **Canadian** households?

Clean **Energy** Canada partnered with Navius Research to model the potential economic impacts of the policy, and we uncovered some encouraging results.

Clean-fuel use in Canada could more than triple by 2030 with a clean-fuel standard, expanding our clean-fuel sector by \$5.6-billion a year. It could also create up to 31,000 jobs for skilled workers to build, operate and supply new clean-fuel facilities. Indeed, Canada's biofuel industry, the biggest beneficiary, could roughly double in size - thanks to this single policy.

Montreal-based Enkern, which employs roughly 200 people, is exactly the kind of company that would find new growth opportunities with a clean-fuel standard in place. Enkern's Edmonton facility converts a portion of the city's waste into low-carbon **ethanol** (yes, it turns garbage into fuel) and that fuel is then sold to British Columbia. Why? Because Canada's westernmost province has had a clean-fuel standard since 2010 - and has seen clean-fuel use double.

But B.C. isn't the only place with a clean-fuel standard (also known as a low-carbon-fuel standard). The policy originated in California and now Oregon is introducing a cleanfuel standard of its own.

Study after study has reached the same conclusion: For Canada to achieve its 2030 and 2050 **climate** targets, we must switch to cleaner **fuels**. But this switch will take time, so we need to start now. The fact that it takes time is why the policy was created in the first place. In California and B.C., the clean-fuel standard provides a long-term, consistent signal to reduce the carbon intensity of **transportation fuels**. Companies can take the long view and invest wisely because they know what to expect for years to come.

Royal Dutch Shell is already preparing for this kind of change on a global scale. Last summer, Shell struck a deal with Edmonton's SBI BioEnergy, a biofuels company, and last month purchased an **electriccar**-charging firm in Europe.

It's early days for Canada's cleanfuel standard and it remains to be seen how politicians, industry and Canadians will respond. Some may cite cost as a concern, but for **Canadian** households, that cost equates to a single cup of coffee a month. The policy would gear up gradually, costing \$5 a month for a typical **Canadian** household by 2030, or just \$2 for an **energy**-conscious one.

We also modelled a number of existing and proposed federal and provincial policies aimed at helping Canadians save **energy**. As a result of these policies, typical **Canadian** households will save \$17 a month by 2030 and **energy**-conscious households a whopping \$82 - and that's with a clean-fuel standard in place. Canadians, in short, will be saving on **energy** over all, while Canada will be able to follow through on the promise it made to the world as part of the Paris Agreement.

The federal government is expected to release a draft framework of the clean-fuel standard in the months ahead, with plans to design the regulation in 2018. We look forward to its implementation. The clean-fuel standard is critical to Canada's fight against **climate** change. What's more, it will create thousands of jobs for Canadians to help fuel our economy, cleanly.

Merran Smith is the executive director and Jeremy Moorhouse is the senior analyst at Clean **Energy** Canada, a think tank at Simon Fraser University.

[Back to Top](#)



Financial review finds nuclear refurb should provide low-cost, low-emissions electricity , but not without risk

Clarington This Week - Tue Nov 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$90

Page: 1

CLARINGTON/PICKERING - Overall refurbishment of nuclear reactors is expected to provide **ratepayers** with a long-term supply of relatively low-cost, low-emissions **electricity**, according to **Ontario's** Financial Accountability Office's assessment of the financial risks of the nuclear refurbishment **plan**.

The Financial Accountability Office (FAO) provides **independent** analysis on the state of the province's finances. On Tuesday, Nov. 21, the FAO released a **review** of how the nuclear refurbishment **plan** will impact **electricity ratepayers** and the province, and identifies how financial risk is allocated among **ratepayers**, the province, **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** and Bruce **Power**.

Ontario plans to refurbish 10 nuclear reactors at the Bruce and Darlington nuclear generating stations, and extend the life of six reactors at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station.

If refurbishment goes as planned, the FAO estimates that nuclear generation would supply a significant proportion of **Ontario electricity** demand from 2016 to 2064 at an average price of \$80.7 per megawatt hour in 2017 dollars. (The 2017 nuclear price is \$69/MWh and the current price of **electricity** for most residential and small business **ratepayers** is \$114.9/MWh.)

Nuclear prices are expected to increase in the short term during refurbishment. The price is projected to peak in 2027, and then gradually decrease (in 2017 dollars) as the refurbished reactors return to **service**, according to the financial **review**.

The nuclear refurbishment **plan** requires a \$25 billion upfront capital investment and price projections are based on costs being spread over a large amount of **electricity** generation over a long period of time. Nuclear generation requires a long-term commitment to recover capital investments, according to the report.

Four major potential financial risks were assessed: refurbishment cost overruns, higher than anticipated station operating costs, lower than expected **electricity** demand and the potential for a lower-cost, low emissions alternative generation option to emerge.

The FAO estimated that a 30-per-cent increase in refurbishment costs on all Bruce and **OPG** reactors would increase the average nuclear price by 5.4 per cent. A 50-per-cent increase in refurbishment costs would increase the average nuclear price by 8.9 per cent.

The province has built potential "off-ramps" into the refurbishment plans. Work on the first reactor at Darlington has to come in on time and on budget before the government will approve going ahead with refurbishment of each of the remaining three units.

However according to the FAO there is limited effectiveness of "off-ramps," due to economies of scale at nuclear generating stations and the cost of alternative generation options, the refurbishment cost increases would have to be very significant to make using an off-ramp economical.

The **Ontario** Clean Air Alliance issued a **public** statement calling the FAO report fundamentally flawed, relying on outdated and incorrect information to draw a misleading picture. The environmental organization said the **review** assumes the price of nuclear **power** won't rise above 9.5 cents per kilowatt hour and that nuclear refurbishment cost overruns will not exceed 50 per cent when past **Ontario** nuclear projects have "gone massively over budget."

"This is a very disconcerting - and highly inadequate - piece of work from an agency that is supposed to provide an impartial, evidence-based look at major economic decisions facing the province," said Angela Bischoff, outreach director for the **Ontario** Clear Air Alliance.

The **Ontario** Clean Air Alliance is petitioning the **Ontario** government to import water **power** from Quebec.

[Back to Top](#)



Nebraska says 'yes' to Keystone XL pipeline

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$1,476

Reach: 63465 Page: A10

This editorial appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press:

Nebraska's **public utility** board has narrowly approved construction of TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline across a corner of the state. The pipeline, aimed at speeding export of Alberta crude oil to the United States' Gulf **Coast**, still faces political opposition, litigation and the risk of weak demand, but the project, for the moment, is still alive.

The Nebraska **Public Service** Commission's five members voted 3-2 to approve the pipeline's route across the state, despite TransCanada's poor recent performance record. The company's Keystone pipeline - an existing line through the Dakotas - had spilled 5,000 barrels of oil into farmland near Amherst, S.D. by the time TransCanada noticed the leak last Thursday.

Regulatory approval in Nebraska four days after the spill in South Dakota showed the strength of local support for the project. Albertans eager to see the line built will be encouraged to hope that development of the oilsands can resume.

This encouraging news came just six weeks after TransCanada abandoned its **Energy** East project for a pipeline from Alberta to Saint John, N.B., which also was aimed at bringing Alberta oil to the world market.

The other project still in the works is Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Expansion Project, linking the Alberta pipeline network to Vancouver. The National **Energy** Board and the federal government have approved Trans Mountain Expansion, though some communities along the route are unhappy about it.

Alberta bitumen now is being hauled to Vancouver and to the U.S. Gulf **Coast** in rail cars. The Trans Mountain Expansion or the Keystone XL line will move that bitumen more safely and efficiently so that Alberta producers may achieve a better price for their product. Neither project is vital for Canada's economic survival, but they are helpful on balance. Pipeline operators should keep improving the reliability of their lines and keep listening to reasonable complaints from their neighbours.

[Back to Top](#)



Turbine developments part of a larger conspiracy

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Brock Turner

Ad Value:\$190

Reach: 15320 Page: A4

The damaged waters wells referred to by MPP Monte McNaughton (Nov. 22, Chatham Daily News) are that of my neighbour's. A **turbine** was also just erected about 400 metres behind our house.

Following the **North Kent 1 Wind** orientation I attended before the project began, I made it clear in writing that the **wind** turbines were not welcome here. Our local bureaucracy seems determined to thwart any attempts made by Well Waters First to compromise the building of these turbines, in spite of the obvious problems they are creating.

The Liberal government has made Judas agreements with organizations around the world, including the Paris **Climate** Accord. This is to ensure that Canada is recognized as a willing candidate for global government through the deception of manmade **climate** change and **renewable energy**. Hence the reason why the **Ontario** Liberal government is not concerned with how ineffective and costly the turbines are. It's all about how Canada is accepted by the United Nations, European Union and other hidden organizations striving for a New World Order. Indeed, these entities would love to have unlimited access to Canada's natural wealth, now that theirs has been ravaged.

Liberal Justin Trudeau is in his glory under this agenda. Unlike former Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Trudeau continues to demonstrate that embracing the world at the risk and expense of Canadians is a part of his destiny. The provincial and now federal Liberals are working to ensure the ongoing promotion of this southwestern **Ontario** travesty.

Brock Turner

Chatham

[Back to Top](#)

Wind turbine woes won't be forgotten

ENTERPRISE BULLETIN

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Nov 24 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Peter Epp

Ad Value: \$233

Reach: 18500 **Page:** A4

When Premier Kathleen Wynne announced 14 months ago that her government was suspending **Ontario's renewable energy** procurement process, she and her Liberal colleagues were caught in the middle of a **public** backlash against skyrocketing **electricity** bills. Halting a costly **plan** that promoted **wind turbine** farms was a quick, convenient response. Indeed, Wynne's own **energy** minister admitted **Ontario** didn't need the **electricity** that would be produced by new turbines.

But there was a problem. Six months earlier, several **wind turbine** projects had been approved, and the September announcement didn't mean they would be cancelled. The contracts would be honoured. **Ontario** would be allowing the development of **wind** turbines to produce **electricity** that wasn't needed.

Among those projects are two in Chatham-Kent and another in Elgin County. One has become an enormous **public** relations problem for the Wynne government, while the other two have the potential to become the same.

The first project is almost complete; but the others should be halted before they begin.

The **North Kent 1 wind** project was mired in controversy even before Wynne announced suspension of the renewable program. Construction activity is

believed to have fouled or clogged at least 16 water wells because of interference to the area's unique geology. Residents with damaged wells have made arrangements to have clean water trucked to their property.

The problems at the **North** Kent 1 project have stirred up fears a few kilometres away, at the Otter Creek project. Work has yet to begin, but residents are worried the same problems will affect their water. They're also worried proposed **turbine** towers, the tallest in Canada, will be erected in an important migratory bird flight path.

Local MPP Monte McNaughton (PC - Lambton-Kent-Middlesex) wants Otter Creek halted.

"These turbines are being built to generate **electricity** we don't need, and they're only going to contribute to driving **hydro** prices even higher," he said.

In Elgin County, meanwhile, residents in Dutton Dunwich continue to campaign against a **wind** farm that has yet to be built.

Kathleen Wynne may have hoped rural **Ontario**'s long-held discontent with the Green **Energy Plan** would be forgotten by the June 2018 provincial election. But that's not about to happen as the remnants of that multibillion-dollar campaign, and its varied controversies, continue to be revealed.

[Back to Top](#)



Braid: NDP hopes tide is turning as Notley gets cheers in Calgary | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Nov 24 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Rachel Notley seemed to be bouncing on air as she walked along the hallway in the Telus Convention Centre, on her way to a news conference.

[Back to Top](#)



Premier Notley outlines results of her pipeline pitch in Ontario | CTV Calgary News

calgary.ctvnews.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Premier Rachel Notley addressed a gathering in Calgary on Thursday where she shared some of the details of her recent pipeline meetings in Ontario.

[Back to Top](#)



Baystreet.ca - Why TransCanada's Stock Isn't Soaring Despite the Keystone XL Approval This Week

www.baystreet.ca - Fri Nov 24 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

TransCanada Corporation (TSX:TRP)(NYSE:TRP) got some good news at the start of the week when regulators in Nebraska gave the okay for the company's Keystone XL pipeline project.

[Back to Top](#)



Premier Rachel Notley blasts Ottawa for stalling pipelines at AUMA

www.660news.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley stopped by Calgary to speak to regions and municipalities across the province.

[Back to Top](#)



Chris Warkentin applauds Keystone XL progress - My Grande Prairie Now

www.mygrandeprairienow.com - Thu Nov 23 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

The approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline alternate route in Nebraska is welcome news to Grande Prairie-MacKenzie MP Chris Warkentin. He calls it an important step towards forward for the project. Warkentin also says this is a much needed boost for the Alberta energy industry.

[Back to Top](#)