Infomart Newsletters

From:	Infomart Newsletters
Sent:	November 29, 2017 7:54 AM
To:	Rosemarie Leclair
Subject:	Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, November 29, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 20 Results

'Simplified' electricity bill coming to Ontarians | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario Energy Board calls for public input before possible Hydro One rate increase in remote areas | CBC News

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Hydro One customers who live in remote communities in northwestern Ontario could soon see a rate increase on their monthly bills starting from May of next year.

Bisson tables bill to regulate gas prices - TimminsToday.com

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Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value: $220
Reach: 3014 **Page:** A1 / Front

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Generating station smoke stacks set to come down

Brantford Expositor - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Monte Sonnenberg

Ad Value: $732
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A1 / Front

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Ontario set for last cap-and-trade auction before joining Quebec and California

National Post - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

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Terence Corcoran: Ontario PCs will only succeed if voters buy carbon tax shell game

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Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

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Byline: Thomas Walkom Toronto Star

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Reach: 361323 **Page:** A15

Patrick Brown's feint to the left will cheer Red Tories in his Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. But history shows it may not be enough to put him in the premier's chair. Brown is riding high after launching his election platform ...

Wynne scoffs at PC's $12B budget savings

Ottawa Citizen - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $790
Reach: 114846 **Page:** A7

The Progressive Conservatives'suggestion that $12 billion could be cut from Ontario's budget is "ridiculous," Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne says as her party crystallizes its criticisms against the Tories'newly unveiled election platform. The ...

Tory promises code for 'cuts,' says Wynne; Premier responds to Brown's platform, saying spending already 'leanest per-capita'

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In the People's Republic of China, Premier Kathleen Wynne is seeing red over the Progressive Conservative People's Guarantee manifesto. As in red ink - and blood on the floor from anticipated budget cuts. Speaking to the Star from Nanjing - a stop ...

PC Leader Brown speaks at business lunch

Kitchener Post - Tue Nov 28 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 ...

Progressive Conservative Party leader Patrick Brown speaks in Port Hope

Northumberland News - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $584
Reach: 22800 **Page:** 1

PORT HOPE - Progressive Conservative Party Leader Patrick Brown was in Port Hope on Nov. 27, where he hosted a town-hall meeting to unveil the party's new policy platform. Speaking at Port Hope High School that night about that platform, called ...

U.S. city wins appeal against local gas transmission

Windsor Star - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,496
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A8

A city facing long odds of stopping a section of a US$2-billion **natural gas** pipeline to Canada from being built there was handed a victory last week when a federal appellate court issued an emergency order that temporarily ...

Pipeline 'will take some time'; Enbridge commits to replace crossing under St. Clair River , but approvals could take a year

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $754
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A1 / Front

Enbridge says it could take a year to get government approvals on both sides of the border to replace a pipeline crossing under the St. Clair **River**. The project is included in commitments Enbridge made in an agreement announced Monday ...

All Eyes On The Gulf; Gridlocked in Canada, TransCanada sees promise for exports in U.S. region

Windsor Star - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $6,103
Reach: 54680 **Page:** B5

At TransCanada Corp., the big new roads lead to the Gulf of Mexico for both **Canadian** oil and **gas**. In presentations to investors Tuesday, senior executives at the Calgary-based pipeline giant said that's where they see the ...

Energy news worth celebrating

North Bay Nugget - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: John R. Hunt

Ad Value: $400
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A4

One recent edition of The Nugget carried a lot of good news for this city. The news was important not only because of its immediate impact but it also promised beneficial future activity. The **North Bay** news was dominated by ...

TransCanada Holds Growth Outlook Despite Keystone XL Limbo - Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

TransCanada Corp. reaffirmed forecasts for profit and dividend growth a week after a Nebraska regulatory decision left the fate of the company's $8 billion Keystone XL pipeline megaproject clouded.

Gridlocked in Canada, TransCanada eyes Gulf Coast for oil and LNG exports | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue Nov 28 2017
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Full Articles

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Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof says the introducion of a bill regarding the regulating of **gas** prices by fellow MPP Gilliies Bisson, is something he fully supports.

On Friday, Bisson announced his intention to table a private member's bill to protect consumers from price gouging by regulating the retail price and wholesale mark-up of petroleum products in **Ontario**.

"The price of **gas** is a constant point of frustration in the **North**," Vanthof said. "In Timiskaming -Cochrane, the price at the pump often varies by 15 cents a litre and the spread across the province can be 30 cents at times. People in the **north** are very sensitive to the price of **gas** because there are very few forms of **public transportation**. We need cars to get to work, to appointments, get groceries, and everything else you can think of. Our vehicles tend to be bigger as well to deal with adverse weather and road conditions."

The Bill would allow the price to be set regionally as well as weekly. This would help stop the gouging that occurs during prime driving periods like long weekends.

"The NDP has long supported the regulation of **gas** prices. We included it in our last two election platforms. This bill reinforces our commitment to this principal. **Gasoline** is an essential commodity to Northeners and they need to have assurance that they are not paying more than other parts of the province."

Bisson's bill, Fairness in Petroleum Products Pricing Act, 2017, would allow the **Ontario Energy Board** to regulate the retail price and wholesale mark-up of petroleum products in **Ontario**. The Lieutenant Governor in Council would be given **power** to govern the Board. The Bill would guide the **Ontario Energy Board** and Lieutenant Governor in Council to: protect the interest of consumers with respect to the predictable and consistent retail pricing of petroleum products; prevent pricing practices that undermine the stability and competitiveness of retail markets for petroleum products, including retail markets in remote, rural and **northern** areas; and ensure transparency and reasonableness with respect to the prices of petroleum products.

Vanthof pointed out that after its introduction, it would be debated for second reading in two weeks.

The **OEB** recently studied the **gasoline** market and it found that in some jurisdictions that regulated the sector, prices were actually higher. For example, there is evidence that in Newfoundland, retailers were setting their prices at the regulated maximum, the **OEB** found.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, who is also **Sudbury** MPP, pointed to that report in a statement Friday and did not express support for Bisson's bill.

"The report confirms that regulating **gas** prices, as the NDP is calling for, would hurt consumers right across the province," Thibeault wrote.

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Report: Ontario Nuclear Refurbishment Good Way to Supply Low- Emission Power

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A decision by the Canadian province of Ontario to refurbish 10 units at the Bruce and Darlington nuclear generating stations (BNGS and DNGS) and extend the life of the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station (PNGS) will likely provide a low-risk means of supplying residents low-emission, low-cost electricity, according to a November 21 report published by the province's Financial Accountability Office (FAO).

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Brantford Expositor - Wed Nov 29 2017
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A landmark along the **north** shore of Lake **Erie** will disappear in the new year.

Ontario Power Generation is in the process of demolishing the coal yard at the former Nanticoke Generating Station. In February, plans are to take down the giant stacks that are visible for miles around from Lake **Erie**.

The province is reconfiguring the property to make way for a 44-kilowatt **solar** farm.

"The first part of the demolition process for the Nanticoke Generating Station was the removal of the coal-handling machinery and left-over coal and ash," **Ontario Power Generation** says in its fall newsletter in Haldimand County.

"The coal-yard demolition project is progressing well, with completion expected in November. Over 40,000 tonnes of unused coal have been collected and taken off-site to be used in other industries.

"Recycling over 100,000 tonnes of ash from the site continues and will be used in the manufacturing of cement."

The 4,000-megawatt station was built in the early-1970s. For decades, it was the largest coal-fired generating station in the world.

The plant was once the site of 650 good-paying jobs. As well, the plant paid millions a year in property taxes.

The **Ontario** government shut down the plant due to concerns over airborne pollutants, par ticulate matter and greenhouse **gases**, such as carbon dioxide that some fear are artificially warming the planet.

OPG has hired the firm Delsan- Aim Environmental Services to oversee the demolition.

Members of the project team will hold an open house this week to discuss the demolition and answer questions about their **plan** to minimize its impact on the

surrounding community.

The open house will be held at the Nanticoke Community Hall on Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The hall is located at 38 Rainham Rd. in Nanticoke.

Six Nations Development Corp. is a partner with OPG in the rede velopment of the Nanticoke site as a solar installation.

In September, OPG applied to the province's Independent Energy Service Operator to install a battery energy storage system in Nanticoke.

MSonnenberg@postmedia.com mailto:MSonnenberg@postmedia.com

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Ontario set for last cap-and-trade auction before joining Quebec and California

National Post - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

TORONTO - Ontario's final cap-and-trade auction before entering a joint market with Quebec and California next year is set for today.

The province launched the program aimed at lowering greenhouse gas emissions this year and has seen three sell-out auctions, bringing in about $1.5 billion for green projects.

The system 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.

As of Jan. 1, Ontario will join Quebec and California's carbon market, which has also seen three sold out auctions in a row for current credits.

Critics in Ontario have slammed both the cost to consumers - an extra 4.3 cents per litre to the price of gasoline and about $80 a year to natural gas home heating costs, as well as indirect costs - and the potential cost to the economy.

The auditor general has said that when Ontario links its market with Quebec and California, an estimated $466 million will leave the Ontario economy over three years, because it will be cheaper to buy allowances from those jurisdictions.

Both the environmental commissioner and the auditor have said that means greenhouse gas emissions won't actually be cut in Ontario.

But the Liberal government has staunchly defended the plan, saying it is far more cost effective and is effective at reducing emissions than a carbon tax.

If elected in June 2018, the Progressive Conservatives would withdraw Ontario from the cap-and-trade program by July 1, 2019, and instead implement a carbon tax. The party would instead opt into federal carbon pricing benchmarks and use the money to fund an income tax cut.

Auction results are typically released one week later.

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Terence Corcoran: Ontario PCs will only succeed if voters buy carbon tax shell game

Financial Post - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Terence Corcoran
Reach: 607500

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown has been a carbon taxer from the start. Last weekend Brown, joining the self-described caped crusaders at the Ecofiscal Commission, nailed the carbon-tax policy to the masthead of the Conservative's run for power. With an election set for next year, some say the strategy could succeed, which it might - but only if Ontario voters buy into the fiscal shell game the party is trying to pull off.

As Andrew Coyne has concluded, the new Brown platform is mostly a load of vapid mush. It nicks and ticks at hundreds of trending political topics, and makes a few stabs at good policy - such as promising to kill the Green Energy Act - but otherwise Brown's ship sails off in many dubious directions.

This is especially true of the party's new carbon-tax plan, a shifty numbers game in which Ontario's middle class will be asked to vote to pay for their own tax cuts.

The headlines followed the con: "Leader Patrick Brown's electoral blueprint includes tax cut." The party platform has a big-typeface claim of a "22% tax cut for the middle class."

That's the sales pitch, but keep an eye on the peas. What the headlines don't explain is that the 22 per cent tax cut for middle-income taxpayers will be paid for by an 81 per cent increase in the existing 14.7-cent provincial tax on a litre of gasoline. As with all carbon taxes, the tax is paid disproportionately by lower- and middle-income taxpayers.

According to information in the Brown platform's "fiscal plan," by 2022 Ontario citizens and industry will be paying $5 billion in higher prices for gasoline and other fossil fuels - the money collected first by Ottawa then sent to Ontario. Between 2018 and 2022, a Conservative Ontario government would receive $15 billion in carbon-tax revenues to pay for income-tax reductions for lower and middle income taxpayers worth $7 billion.

The shell game appears to have been carefully orchestrated in cahoots with the Ottawa-based EcoFiscal Commission, a self-appointed commission headed by economists funded by green-tinged foundations; EnviroEconomics, headed by environmental economist Dave Sawyer; and CleanProsperity, a carbon-tax-supporting outfit headed by Mark Cameron, a former policy advisor to Stephen Harper with links to assorted sustainable/environmental organizations. CleanProsperity's board includes radical green political fixer Bruce Lourie, a major force behind the Ontario Liberal's Green Energy Act fiasco.

Just two weeks ago, these organizations coincidentally published brief supportive blurbs that appear to endorse the Ontario carbon tax plan. How did Ontario's PCs hook up with this lot? Worth investigating, but the main story at the moment is the Ontario Conservative endorsement of Ottawa's carbon framework.

Under the plan, Ottawa will begin collecting a $10-a-tonne carbon tax next year. The tax will rise to $50 by 2022, when total revenue will hit $5 billion a year (according to a reference to a two-page note from EnviroEconomics). Since carbon-tax economists say a carbon price would have to be $200 a tonne to be effective, this is just the beginning.

Exactly how these monies will be distributed is unclear in Brown's fiscal plan. While EnviroEconomics estimates carbon-tax revenue in 2022 will be $5.1 billion, the fiscal plan claims only "net" carbon-tax revenue of $2.4 billion. Where does the money go? Whatever the breakdown, it will be inexplicable to voters.

Brown justifies the carbon tax as a superior replacement for the Kathleen Wynne Liberal cap-and-trade plan. Cap and trade uses regulation to limit the volume of carbon emissions by industry and forces corporations to buy carbon-emission permits on an international market. The Ontario cap-and-trade regime is part of an open-market trading connection with California and Quebec.

A straight carbon-tax plan avoids the regulation and goes straight to a tax that, in theory, will raise the price of fossil-fuel energy and lead to a reduction in demand.

The likely benefit of switching to a straight tax on fossil fuels is all theory and no facts. All carbon-tax data crunching is dependent on economic models that may or may not reflect reality.

A brief note from the EcoFiscal Commission says the existing Wynne Liberal Ontario cap-and-trade system would deliver a lower carbon price that "might drive more emissions reductions in global terms, thanks to a more ambitious cap and the use of revenues to support low-carbon technologies and other emissions -reducing activities." On the other hand, a new Brown Conservative direct carbon tax would raise more revenue but would also deliver more emissions reductions within Ontario.

And on still another hand, according to the footnoted comment from Dave Sawyer at EnviroEconomics, "The trade-off would be lower total GDP, with the carbon tax and recycling to income tax reductions outperforming the proceeds recycling scenario."

That's not much of an election slogan. And, in the context of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party's new election run, totally irrelevant whatever it means. The objective is to tax taxpayers more via a carbon tax so that politicians can reward taxpayers with tax cuts.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is climate policy in action.

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No hidden agenda, Brown's a Red Tory

Toronto Sun - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,891
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown's "People's Guarantee" election platform is a strategic political document that helps him in two key ways.

First, by releasing it seven months before the vote, Brown has kept his promise that Ontarians would have plenty of advance notice about what a government under his leadership would do.

Second, Brown has defined himself before his opponents could - as a Red Tory in the tradition of former Ontario premier Bill Davis, not a "common sense revolutionary" like former premier Mike Harris.

This has effectively blunted attempts by Wynne and her union allies to portray him as a Canadian Donald Trump with a "hidden agenda".

On issues ranging from tax cuts for the middle class, to financial help for young families, to lowering hydro bills, to almost non-existent debt reduction, Brown's platform could have been written by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

It could almost have been written by Wynne. Not only will Brown keep Wynne's 25% reduction in electricity rates - which he denounced when it was passed as fiscal flimflammery based on massive borrowing - he's promising to reduce them 12% more.

Nowhere in Brown's 147 promises is there anything for social conservatives.

For example, no mention of reforming Wynne's sex-ed curriculum, which Brown floated when he was running for PC leader.

To his credit, Brown has tackled the third rail of politics for Conservatives - man-made **climate** change - saying he will cancel Wynne's $6 billion **cap-and-trade** political slush fund and replace it with a revenue neutral carbon tax, verified by the auditor general, based on Trudeau's compulsory carbon prices.

Brown's promise to quit after four years if he hasn't fulfilled five key promises is unnecessarily gimmicky. What if he wins a minority and the Liberals and NDP combine forces to stop him, for example? We don't think Brown is being forthright enough with voters about the economic pain Ontarians will have to endure to undo the economic damage caused by 14 years of Liberal rule, that has left the province as the world's most indebted sub-sovereign borrower.

That said, Brown is clearly preferable to the politically corrupt Liberals, who drove us into that ditch by repeatedly doubling down on fiscally reckless, billion-dollar boondoggles like their green **energy** disaster.

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Brown's deke to the left may spook his own party

Toronto Star - Wed Nov 29 2017
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Byline: Thomas Walkom Toronto Star

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Patrick Brown's feint to the left will cheer Red Tories in his **Ontario** Progressive Conservative Party. But history shows it may not be enough to put him in the premier's chair.

Brown is riding high after launching his election platform this week. Titled the "People's Guarantee," it bears an uncanny resemblance to the platform that Justin Trudeau's federal Liberals used to win **power** nationally.

It would lower taxes for middle income earners and small businesses, introduce a new child care benefit and have the government play a more active role in social policy.

Like the Trudeau platform, it is unusually casual about deficits and, indeed, promises to temporarily put the province's finances back into the red.

While savagely critical of Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals, it borrows shamelessly from her playbook.

Like the Wynne Liberals, the Brown Tories would lower **electricity rates** by sleight of hand - using money that already belongs to taxpayers to subsidize residential **hydro** bills.

While they would delay Wynne's **plan** to increase the minimum wage to $15 an hour, they would not reverse it.

They would keep the Wynne Liberals' modest pharmacare program and introduce a very rudimentary form of denticare for the elderly poor.

For all of this, Brown has been lauded by the tribunes of the **centre** left. His platform has been compared to that of former premier Bill Davis, the last Red Tory to govern **Ontario**.

In fact, if all **Ontario** Tory voters were red, Brown would be virtually guaranteed victory in the next provincial election, scheduled for June.

But as a former PC leader named John Tory found out to his chagrin, not all **Ontario** Tories are red.

Tory is now **Toronto** mayor. But in 2007, he was seen as the man who could return the **Ontario** PC party to its Red Tory roots - and to **power**.

The reigning assumption then was that the PCs, having taken a brief detour to the hard right under former premier Mike Harris, were ready to take up their traditional centrist role again.

Tory, a former Davis aide, was seen as the one who could do the job. His **plan** for **public** funding of all faith-based schools was seen to be the vehicle.

But Tory forgot how divided his party was over the school funding issue. Some PC voters thought the idea of publicly funded Jewish or Muslim schools just fine. But many did not.

Tory faced grumbling in his caucus. Two weeks before the election, that grumbling turned into open revolt.

He tried to backpedal on the funding issue to appease voters on the right of his party. But it was too late. The PCs were clobbered. The Liberals under Dalton McGuinty, who had gone into the election campaign as a weakened force, emerged with a second majority government.

The Conservatives, convinced that Red Toryism no longer worked, chose the ill-fated Tim Hudak, a Mike Harris acolyte, as their new leader,

Can Brown avoid John Tory's fate? Will right-of-**centre** Conservatives accept the Trudeauesque package released this week? Or will they stay at home on voting day? Will enough PC voters migrate to minor groupings, such as the Christian Heritage Party or Trillium Party, to make a difference?

Can Brown manage his own party?

Certainly, he has had his troubles. Social conservatives used to support him. But now, after he shifted his position on same-sex marriage, abortion and sex education, many shun him.

He has also had difficulty navigating the reefs and shoals of the **Ontario** PCs. All political leaders run into trouble in some local nomination races as they try to balance electability against democracy. But Brown has been unusually prone to this. He has faced embarrassing controversy in at least six nomination battles.

In one case, an entire riding executive resigned to protest the direction their party was taking. In another, police are investigating allegations of ballot-box stuffing.

Ontario Conservatives of all hues may hold their noses and come together behind Brown's centrish platform - simply to get rid of Wynne. But they are an obstreperous breed. In the end, many may not.

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Wynne scoffs at PC's $12B budget savings

Ottawa Citizen - Wed Nov 29 2017
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The Progressive Conservatives'suggestion that $12 billion could be cut from **Ontario**'s budget is "ridiculous," Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne says as her party crystallizes its criticisms against the Tories'newly unveiled election platform.

The recently announced PC **plan** reveals their platform six months ahead of the campaign and has also provided previews of what's sure to be a consistent Liberal line of attack until the June vote. The Tory platform says $12 billion in savings could be found over three years - $6 billion from cancelling **Ontario**'s **cap-and-trade** program and another $6 billion they say could be found from a value-for-money audit.

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Tory promises code for 'cuts,' says Wynne; Premier responds to Brown's platform, saying spending already 'leanest per-capita'

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Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

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In the People's Republic of China, Premier Kathleen Wynne is seeing red over the Progressive Conservative People's Guarantee manifesto.

As in red ink - and blood on the floor from anticipated budget cuts.

Speaking to the Star from Nanjing - a stop on her two-week trade mission to China, Hong Kong and Vietnam - she was incredulous about Tory Leader Patrick Brown's campaign platform unveiled Saturday.

"We've been waiting for quite awhile to see something substantial come out of Brown and the Conservatives. So we've seen those now and the thing that jumps out at me is the pretty serious cuts," Wynne said.

"We're the leanest per-capita program spending government in the country," added the premier, who has read the Tories' 78-page platform. "So to suggest that there's this bloated government and you can come in and slash $12 billion and nobody will feel pain is nonsense," she said. "

That's a reference to Brown's pledge to cut income taxes, eliminate the **cap-and-trade** **climate** change **plan** that brings in $1.9 billion annually, and conduct a "value-for-money" audit to find $6.1 billion in savings over three years if elected.

"I mean 'efficiencies' - that's the language that they use - and in my experience, 'efficiencies' has always been code for 'cuts' for Conservatives," Wynne said.

"Conservative leader after Conservative leader has talked about efficiencies so we're looking at . . . a scale of $12 billion. In reality, it would be impossible to realize that kind of cut without cutting education and health care in some way."

Campaigning at a Scarborough manufacturing plant, Brown insisted "every Ontarian is going to pay less" under his People's Guarantee **plan**, which will also bolster services.

"Under Kathleen Wynne, you work harder, you pay more, and you get less. This is not right and this is not fair."

He is promising to reduce hydro rates by 12 per cent, invest $5 billion in a TTC subway network that will be uploaded to the province, reduce middle-class provincial income tax rates by 22.5 per cent, and enable parents to write off up to 75 per cent of child-care costs while boosting the number of daycare spots by 100,000.

Wynne said some of that seems to be cribbed from the Liberals.

"It's great that they have now come around to acknowledging that they agree with our Fair Hydro Plan because, I mean, they want to add to that," she said, referring to the Liberals' 25-per-cent reduction in electricity rates that the Tories voted against in the Legislature.

"The 100,000 child-care spaces, I mean, we're implementing that, so that's great that they agree with that. It's not an additional 100,000 child-care spaces. They're basically just doing what we're already doing."

As for the Tories' plan to return Ontario to deficit next year - with a $2.8 billion shortfall - Wynne, who is projecting budget surpluses for the next few years, was gobsmacked.

"I'm sure there was a lively internal conversation about that - that's for sure," she said with a laugh, mindful of fiscal conservatives' concerns.

"Starting to pay down the debt starts with balancing the budget - and keeping it in balance," she said. "This document is all about having it both ways or all ways: 'so we're going to run a deficit, we're going to cut fat that's not there, we're going to start to pay down the debt.' There are all sorts of inconsistencies in what he's suggesting."

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PC Leader Brown speaks at business lunch

Kitchener Post - Tue Nov 28 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 K-W 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 per hour on Jan. 1, the minimum wage is slated to increase to $15 per hour 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 per hour 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 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."

The provincial Tories will be holding their policy convention in **Toronto** this weekend where they are expected to roll out a lot of the policies they will be running on in next June's provincial election.

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Progressive Conservative Party leader Patrick Brown speaks in Port Hope

Northumberland News - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $584
Reach: 22800 **Page:** 1

PORT HOPE - Progressive Conservative Party Leader Patrick Brown was in Port Hope on Nov. 27, where he hosted a town-hall meeting to unveil the party's new policy platform.

Speaking at Port Hope High School that night about that platform, called the People's Guarantee, Brown was joined by David Piccini, the PC candidate for Northumberland - **Peterborough** South, and took questions from the audience.

The leader addressed issues ranging from how the **Ontario** PCs will restore trust in government, ensuring value for money for taxpayers, and addressing the province's skyrocketing **hydro rates**.

"This is the largest grassroots consultation we've ever had as a party," Brown said, adding that the platform stems from those voices. "We went everywhere and listened."

Middle-class families have been beleaguered with the cost of provincial policy in **Ontario**, he said.

"Taxes have gone up, up and up. If you're a middle class family you're struggling to make ends meet and keep your head above water," he said. "We want to change that."

He said the People's Guarantee includes five achievable measures an **Ontario** PC government would take, including a move to lower income taxes by 22.5 per cent for the middle class.

It also proposes to refund 75 per cent of child care expenses for families, 12 per cent more off **hydro** bills, the largest mental health commitment in **Canadian** provincial history, and the first-ever Trust, Integrity and Accountability Act.

"We are so sure that we can bring these five measures that on the weekend I signed a People's Guarantee declaration that said, if we can't enact this in our first term I am not seeking a second," said Brown, adding that every single PC candidate in the province signed it. "We're putting everything on the line."

For Piccini it has been two months since he became the local PC candidate and he said it seems like time has flown since then.

"Last weekend we were in **Toronto** for our policy convention and it was so exciting for me to see the **energy** in the room," he said.

He said that the People's Guarantee includes measures that he address issues he has heard about from residents.

"Seeing those grassroots measures reflected in the People's Guarantee, I couldn't be prouder," Piccini added. "It's really easy to work hard and to run, when you work for the hardest working man in Queen's Park."

Liberal MPP Lou Rinaldi is running again in 2018, but the NDP and Green party have not publicly revealed their candidates.

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U.S. city wins appeal against local gas transmission

Windsor Star - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,496
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A8

A city facing long odds of stopping a section of a US$2-billion **natural gas** pipeline to Canada from being built there was handed a victory last week when a federal appellate court issued an emergency order that temporarily halts the start of construction.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 2-1 decision on Wednesday, ruled that the City of Green, in northeast Ohio's Summit County, is likely to prevail in a federal petition it filed with the court last month claiming that the state Environmental Protection Agency failed to follow its own **rules** when it granted NEXUS **Gas Transmission** a clean water certificate for the project.

Green argues that the 13-kilometre pipeline section could damage environmentally sensitive areas, including a bog that contains protected plant and animal species. The EPA has said in court documents that it followed its **rules**.

NEXUS, a partnership between Calgary-based Enbridge and Detroit's DTE **Energy**, has intervened in the petition to defend the EPA. The company has recently begun construction of a 410-km pipeline capable of transporting 42.5

million cubic metres of gas per day from Appalachian shale fields across northern Ohio and into Michigan and Canada.

The project has received all its federal approvals, but will now have to wait to do any work in Green, a solidly middle-class community of 25,000 residents south of Cleveland, until after the 6th Circuit decides the merits of the city's claims.

Enbridge spokesman Adam Parker said Friday the company doesn't comment on pending litigation. He confirmed pipeline construction has begun in Ohio and Michigan.

The 6th Circuit, in granting Green's motion for an emergency "stay," said not only are the city's chances of prevailing in the petition good, but also that, judging by early arguments, the city would face "irreparable harm" if the pipeline is built there.

Green Mayor Gerard Neugebauer has said the pipeline would cost the city tens of millions of dollars in economic opportunities.

"The case has real merit," Neugebauer said.

"We've stayed the course all this time pursuing the environmental angle. Apparently, it was the right approach."

There are no precedents for a project like

NEXUS being scuttled this far along in the process, something Neugebauer has acknowledged. Since the project was announced more than 2½ years ago, Green has not sought to stop the pipeline from being built altogether but tried to get it moved south to more rural Ohio communities.

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Pipeline 'will take some time'; Enbridge commits to replace crossing under St. Clair River , but approvals could take a year

Sarnia Observer - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $754
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A1 / Front

Enbridge says it could take a year to get government approvals on both sides of the border to replace a pipeline crossing under the St. Clair River.

The project is included in commitments Enbridge made in an agreement announced Monday with the State of Michigan.

While much of the deal focuses on a section of Enbridge's Line 5 oil and natural gas pipeline crossing under the Straits of Mackinac in northern Michigan, it includes a commitment by the Canadian pipeline company to replace the crossing under the St. Clair as soon as approvals are in place.

"The process is just getting started, and it will take some time," said Enbridge spokesperson Ken Hall.

"It's probably going to be about a year" to get permits in place from state, provincial, local and national governments, he said.

Hall said he has already spoken with mayors in Sarnia and St. Clair Township in Ontario, and Enbridge plans to meet with officials at the Aamjiwnaang First Nation in the coming days.

"A number of stakeholders need to be engaged, so they understand the concept, the purpose and how we're going to execute the project," Hall said.

Engineers are already looking at specifics of the replacement project, but it's too early to say how much the new crossing will cost to build, he said.

"It's not a cheap undertaking, by any means."

Hall said the current pipeline under the St. Clair River is in good condition and isn't a risk to the environment.

"That we know, for sure," based on monitoring the company carries out, he said.

"But nonetheless, the state has asked us that we look at a replacement there, so that's what we've committed to do."

The agreement calls for the St. Clair River crossing to be replaced using horizontal directional drilling into the riverbed, a process Enbridge used in 2012 when it replaced another pipeline crossing there.

That replacement followed a 2010 spill of heavy crude from an Enbridge pipeline near Marshall, Mich., into a tributary of the Kalamazoo River.

In the days following the spill, it was revealed a dent had been left in the pipeline crossing when it was built.

Hall said the 2010 spill near Marshall "had a huge reputational impact on the company, and it resulted in a loss of trust and a loss of faith" in Enbridge by residents and leaders of the state.

That incident also focused attention and concern in Michigan on the Straits of Mackinac, where the company's Line 5 pipeline crosses under the water. Built in the 1950s, that pipeline carries about 87-million litres of oil and natural gas from the west through Wisconsin and Michigan to Sarnia.

Environmentalists and some state and federal politicians in Michigan have been calling for the crossing to be replaced or shut down over concerns about the impact a spill in the straits would have on the Great Lakes.

Hall said the agreement signed Monday is "an attempt to turn a page, and move that relationship forward." St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold said he believes the agreement "will go a long way for everyone to have confidence in the integrity of the pipeline."

Arnold added the agreement "shows the willingness of the company to try and alleviate public perception and public fears that are negative towards pipelines."

Sarnia and St. Clair Township are home to several refineries and chemical industries making up what's known as the Chemical Valley, and several pipelines cross the St. Clair River there.

"Pipelines are really the single safest way to transport large quantities of material," Arnold said.

Line 5 lands in Ontario at Froomfield, near the intersection of LaSalle Line and River Road, Hall said.

One of the issues the company needs to address is finding somewhere to lay down a large amount of pipe that will make up the new crossing, he said.

Enbridge's agreement with Michigan also calls for evaluating three methods of replacing the crossing at the Straits of Mackinac, as well as other steps to reduce risks from the pipeline and ensure the state and public are kept informed. pmorden@postmedia.com

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All Eyes On The Gulf; Gridlocked in Canada, TransCanada sees promise for exports in U.S. region

Windsor Star - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $6,103
Reach: 54680 **Page:** B5

At TransCanada Corp., the big new roads lead to the Gulf of Mexico for both **Canadian** oil and **gas**.

In presentations to investors Tuesday, senior executives at the Calgary-based pipeline giant said that's where they see the growth markets.

On the oil side, they are moving closer to a final investment decision to build Keystone XL to transport **Canadian** oil to U.S. Gulf refineries. On the **gas** side, they're talking up plans to move British Columbia Montney **gas** all the way to U.S. LNG terminals in the Gulf for overseas exports.

The Gulf beckons because British Columbia's LNG opportunity remains uncertain and because efforts to build oil pipelines to Canada's coasts, including TransCanada's own **Energy** East oilsands pipeline, have yet to deliver. Like others in **Canadian** oil and **gas** affected by the country's pipeline gridlock, TransCanada is taking its business elsewhere.

On Keystone XL, TransCanada said it continues to analyze a permit approval by the Nebraska **Public Service** Commission that involves an alternate route and has started talking to affected landowners.

The company filed a procedural motion last Friday asking the commission if it can ask questions raised by its decision, said Dean Patry, senior vice-president of liquids. "To be very clear, the motion is not an attempt by TransCanada to have the Nebraska PSC alter its approval of the alternate route," he said.

Still, the alternate route "would involve a number of new landowners for us and we are striving to understand their perspectives on the project and we will continue to strive to reach agreement on mutually beneficial terms," he said.

Nebraska's approval was the project's last regulatory hurdle, but the route change to avoid sensitive areas created new uncertainties for the company and was seized by opponents as an opportunity for further litigation.

At the same time, TransCanada is continuing discussions to lock up binding agreements with shippers, and they "have been very encouraging," Patry said.

Subject to a final investment decision, construction of the long-delayed pipeline would start in 2018, move forward in segments to optimize the schedule, and be completed in two years, said CEO Russ Girling.

With much of the pipe already in hand, the cost estimate remains unchanged at US$8 billion.

If it moves forward, KXL would yield other expansion options for TransCanada, including new pipelines, storage and terminal facilities. The company expects demand for heavy oil to keep increasing in the Gulf even if global oil demand plateaus in the late 2030s.

Also Tuesday, TransCanada restarted the base Keystone pipeline system, which carries 20 per cent of Western Canada's crude oil exports, after repairing a leak that spilled 795,000 litres of crude oil in South Dakota.

Western **Canadian** **natural gas** production is also struggling with **transportation** bottlenecks and excess supplies that are depressing prices.

Karl Johansson, executive vicepresident for Canada and Mexico **natural gas**, said the big growth opportunities are outside the local market in liquefied **natural gas** exports. TransCanada estimates that LNG, **gas**-fired **power** generation and industrial demand in **North** America would contribute to 27 billion cubic feet a day of demand growth in the next decade, raising total demand to 130 bcfd.

TransCanada is making proposals to Montney producers to transport their **gas** from **North** East B.C. all the way to the U.S. Gulf of Mexico using predominantly its own system, he said.

In a year, TransCanada will be able to transport **Canadian** **gas** all the way to Mexico, he said.

Tariffs would be competitive with options already in use by Western **Canadian** **natural gas** producers reaching the Gulf **Coast** LNG market, he said.

Increasing supplies from shale plays in Western Canada, not enough local demand, and failure to construct a single LNG terminal off the British Columbia **coast** have contributed to low local **natural gas** prices.

TransCanada also continues to work on the $4.8-billion Coastal **GasLink**, a proposed pipeline to carry Western **Canadian** **natural gas** to the LNG Canada project in Kitimat. A final investment decision by the Royal Dutch Shell PLC-led project is expected in 2018.

"We are hopeful that (Western **Canadian** producers can find their) own market out the **West** **Coast**, but if (they) can't, we can actually still access LNG for our producers," Johansson said.

Access to the Gulf would bring relief to long-suffering **Canadian** oil and **gas** producers and even more integration with the U.S. **energy** market. To the rest of Canada, it would be just another reminder of missed opportunities. ccattaneo@nationalpost.com

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NORTH BAY NUGGET

Energy news worth celebrating

North Bay Nugget - Wed Nov 29 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: John R. Hunt

Ad Value: $400
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A4

One recent edition of The Nugget carried a lot of good news for this city. The news was important not only because of its immediate impact but it also promised beneficial future activity.

The **North** **Bay** news was dominated by the creation of a $4.5-million **electrical** microgrid linking Memorial Gardens, the YMCA, aquatic **centre** and Thomson Park. Using locally produced **energy**, it will drastically reduce **electricity** and heating costs.

Microgrids are now being discussed and promoted by environmentalists and progressive engineers. The idea is simple. Instead of relying upon huge centralized generating and **distribution** systems, cities and people will depend upon microgrids. These grids will usually be small and get their **energy** from every available source. They will be much more difficult to knock out by storm or emergency over a wide area.

The recent devastation caused by hurricanes in Puerto Rico has eliminated most of the centralized **electrical** supply. A few microgrids are reported to be operating. Expansion of the microgrid system is claimed by many to be the best hope for the country's future.

Mayor Al McDonald has said that this new microgrid system will put **North Bay** on the global map as a progressive city that is preparing for the future.

It's expected to reduce **energy** costs by a total of $200,000 annually at the arena and YMCA.

Fire Chief Jason Whitely said the project will increase **public** safety in the event of an emergency. The two community facilities will be able to continue to operate and serve as shelters thanks to a large-scale battery that will store unused **electricity**.

The microgrid report was important for today and tomorrow, but there was another good news story in the same paper. The Matachewan First Nation Limited Partnership celebrated the grand opening of a new backfill blending facility in **North Bay**. A company official said that **North Bay** is an ideal location for the $1.6-million plant.

It must have taken many discussions and a few arguments to get the microgrid idea into a reality. Everyone involved must be congratulated. At the same time, let us wish the Matachewan First Nation Partnership the best of luck with its new venture in **North Bay**.

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TransCanada Holds Growth Outlook Despite Keystone XL Limbo - Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral

TransCanada Corp. reaffirmed forecasts for profit and dividend growth a week after a Nebraska regulatory decision left the fate of the company’s $8 billion Keystone XL pipeline megaproject clouded.

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Gridlocked in Canada, TransCanada eyes Gulf Coast for oil and LNG exports | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue Nov 28 2017
Tone: Neutral

At TransCanada Corp., the big new roads lead to the United States Gulf for both Canadian oil and gas.

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