John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: December 6, 2017 9:46 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - December 6, 2017

d\plainGood morning,

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d\plainHere’s the morning news summary for today:

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d\plainCoverage of the OEB’s Market Surveillance Panel report into Goreway dominates today’s clips. First highlighted story features interview with MSP chair. The story requires password access, so it is pasted here, followed by links to similar stories about the MSP report. OEB mentions highlighted throughout.

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d\plainQP Briefing: Energy companies overcharged ratepayers by $200 million, bringing a record fine

d\plain\u59552?05.12.2017 Hains

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d\plainNine companies "gamed" Ontario's energy system for $200 million, resulting in a record fine and the province recouping most but not all of the funds in settlements.

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d\plainThe findings come following an Ontario Energy Board report on Brampton-based natural gas company Goreway, the worst offender. The company was responsible for $100 million in ineligible claims from 2009 to

2012, and was fined a record $10 million. Goreway executive Rob Coulbeck, who joined the company in April 2013, resigned from the province's market renewal panel on Friday.

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d\plainGoreway reached a confidential settlement with the Independent Electricity System Operator for its claims, which the regulator tells QP Briefing recoups the "bulk" of ratepayer costs. In total, $168 million of the $200 million was recovered with settlements from a total of nine companies. The difference in overall costs and settlements results from disagreements between the IESO and the companies over accounting treatments, and consideration of legal costs and other risks.

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d\plainThe opposition was quick to criticize the government over the issue.

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d\plain"It's another gas plants scandal for this government to deal with," said PC energy critic Todd Smith, who added that he expects the issue to be a highlight of the auditor-general's report on Wednesday. "Electricity customers were being bilked out of $100 million," he added.

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d\plainBrad Duguid, speaking for Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault who was unable to attend Queen's Park because of a death in the family, argued that the fact Goreway was caught and was fined proves the system is working.

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d\plain"There's never any defending a company that games the system," he said following question period.

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d\plain"The IESO, which governs these kinds of situations within our energy system, found out what was going on, did a thorough investigation — $100 million has been recovered back — and this company has been fined $10 million, which is the largest fine on record."

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d\plainIn a statement to QP Briefing through a company spokesperson, Goreway said it has worked with the IESO to remain in compliance since the findings:

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d\plain“Goreway, like other generators, engaged in an exhaustive audit process conducted by the IESO. As a result of that audit, Goreway voluntarily reimbursed amounts through a settlement agreement reached with the IESO in December 2015. The company has worked closely with the IESO to ensure that its submissions going forward are consistent with the IESO’s requirements, and Goreway has taken steps to enhance its internal controls and compliance oversight.”

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d\plainThe lost funds occurred under the province's Real-time Generation Cost Guarantee program. Begun in 2002, the GCG is supposed to pay for the costs associated with companies firing up their plants to meet demand needs. While some power sources, such as nuclear, are almost always on, that is not the case with gas. The GCG is meant to provide an industry incentive to ensure power reliability for ratepayers.

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d\plainBeginning in 2009, there was a spike in claims under the GCG program that made the OEB suspicious.

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d\plainAccording to the report, one former Goreway executive responded with glee to a 2009 change in the GCG program that allowed for more incremental charges. In an email to staff, he or she wrote: "Put a bow on it, Christmas came early!"

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d\plainAs some loopholes were shut down, the report says management tried to find other ways to use the program to offset costs. Among the claimed costs filed under the program were "toolboxes, locks, ear muffs, and rain jackets."

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d\plainFacing a September 2009 budget shortfall of $5.5 million, the Goreway management team padded GCG estimates for each time they started up the plant by $25,000, a decision worth an additional $5 million for 2010. The company also submitted projected future expenses through the program that were $33 million more than their internal numbers, with the report concluding that these claims were unnecessary and redundant.

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d\plainOf the $139 million in GCG claims made by Goreway from mid-2009 to mid-2012, $89 million was deemed ineligible, according to the report.

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d\plain"It came to the attention of the panel originally because of the disproportionate size of the claims of one market participant," explained Glenn Leslie, chair of the Market Surveillance Panel for the OEB, in an interview with QP Briefing.

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d\plainHe added the investigation took a while in part because of the complexity of the subject matter, and the focus looked at Goreway from 2009 to spring 2012.

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d\plainThe OEB issued search warrants for thousands of Goreway documents and compelled interviews from six Goreway employees in March and September 2015, including the former plant manager and a project manager.

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d\plainThe OEB found that Goreway was submitting ineligible expenses to the GCG program. At the time, energy companies did not have to submit itemized expenses to get reimbursement from the program.

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d\plainTerry Young, a vice-president for the IESO, said the GCG program is still needed to ensure system reliability, but the controls on it have been tightened. "We have put in changes in the program," Young said.

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d\plainNow companies have to submit itemized expense reports to be reimbursed, and 14 of 15 cost categories have specific price limits to ensure the system is no longer gamed.

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d\plain"They know what costs are eligible now," said Young speaking about the nine companies who overcharged the program to the tune of $200 million. He added the IESO has seen consistently declining costs in the program.

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d\plain"The system is much more disciplined," agreed Leslie from the OEB.

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d\plainLeslie added that, following the OEB investigation into Goreway, the IESO conducted a separate audit of nine energy companies. However, Young said this audit, which determined there was $200 million worth of overbilling in total, will remain confidential.

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d\plainThe OEB report that highlighted problems at Goreway was released on its website in early November, but was not reported on until a Tuesday morning report by CBC. The OEB did not issue a press release for the report, but made it available on its RSS feed, which its says is standard practice.

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d\plainThe PCs also attacked Goreway executive Rob Coulbeck, who had been participating on the government's panel on market renewal. Coulbeck resigned from the post last week. Smith, the PC energy critic, criticized the move, saying it was akin to putting a juiced-up former baseball slugger in charge of a panel on steroid use.

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d\plainThrough an email sent by a spokesperson, Goreway said of Coulbeck:

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d\plain“With more than 30 years’ experience in the energy industry, Mr. Coulbeck is an expert in energy demand management and brought significant value to the Market Renewal Working Group. However, with respect to Market Surveillance Report, Mr. Coulbeck decided it would best if he removed himself from group at this time."

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d\plainSimilar coverage found here:

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d\plainToronto Star: Brampton power plant 'gamed' Ontario electricity system for millions, fined $10M (Earlier version of Toronto Star story also in Brampton Guardian).

d\plainToronto Sun (via CP): Brampton gas plant 'gamed' system out of $100M

d\plainCBC: Power company 'gamed' $100M from Ontario's electricity system, investigation reveals (This updates CBC's story that was flagged in yesterday's clips, adding reaction from Queen's Park)

d\plainCTV News (via CP): Ontario gas plant 'gamed' ratepayers out of $100M: report

d\plainiPolitics: Evening Brief: Backtracking and getting left behind (One paragraph highlighted here)

δ∴λι720∴φι −360∴πλαιν• The Ontario Energy Board has found that a Brampton natural gas plant "gamed" the system out of nearly $100 million — costs borne by ratepayers. A report from the OEB's market surveillance panel — quietly posted online last month — concluded that Goreway Power Station repeatedly exploited defects in the system over several years. It says the systems in place create opportunities for exploitation, to the serious financial disadvantage of ratepayers, and Goreway's conduct offers a clear illustration of those flaws. That story from the Canadian Press.

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d\plainRelated:

d\plainCP: Ontario auditor general examines health care, school boards, electricity in annual report δ∴λι720∴φι −360∴πλαιν• Another area of the massive report will look at whether the Independent Electricity System Operator and the Ontario Energy Board are sufficiently overseeing electricity generators and if they are playing by the rules.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMorning News Clippings

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainDate: Wednesday, December 6, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Contact Editor

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainClippings Summary

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNews - 14 Results

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain THE $120M POWER GRAB; Liberals face tough questions about why a Brampton gas plant was able to 'game the system' by overbilling ratepayers - and keep some of the cash

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Star - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $20,295

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA Brampton **gas** plant that the government admits "gamed" Ontario's **electricity** system for $120 million in overbillings will pocket $10 million despite a $10-million fine and $100-million repayment order. The situation uncovered ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Gas plant 'gamed'system out of $100M

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $3,681
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A6

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe **Ontario Energy Board** has found that a Brampton **natural gas** plant "gamed" the system out of nearly $100 million - costs borne by **ratepayers**. A report from the OEB's market ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Power company 'gamed' $100M from Ontario's electricity system, investigation reveals - Toronto - CBC News

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHydro customers shelled out about $100 million in "inappropriate" payments to a natural gas plant that exploited flaws in how Ontario manages its private electricity generators, CBC News has learned.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Ontario gas plant 'gamed' ratepayers out of $100M: report | CTV Barrie News

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainbarrie.ctvnews.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA natural gas plant in Brampton, Ont., "gamed" the system and ratepayers out of approximately $100 million, a regulatory investigation found -- and it's not alone. The Ontario Energy Board quietly posted a report online last month that was largely ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Brampton power plant 'gamed' Ontario electricity system for millions, fined $10M

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainBrampton Guardian - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,155
Reach: 120000 **Page:** 1

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA Brampton power plant "gamed" Ontario's electricity system to get at least $89 million in payments it was not entitled to over a three-year period ending in 2012, says an explosive new report that warns it could happen ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Evening Brief: Backtracking and getting left behind - iPolitics

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainipolitics.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat14\plainPaul Crawford noted on Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Pick up on the CP story (and OEB mention) about 10 paragraphs down.

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Ontario Energy Board has found that a Brampton natural gas plant “gamed” the system out of nearly $100 million

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Report examines health, electricity

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,376
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A6

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario's auditor general is set to release her annual report Wednesday, with several sections looking at the province's health-care sector. Bonnie Lysyk's report this year dedicates five of her 14 value-for-money audits to aspects of health, ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Ontario auditor general to examine health care, school boards, electricity | CTV London News

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainlondon.ctvnews.ca - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHealth care, electricity and school boards are among the issues Ontario's auditor general will be shining a spotlight on in her annual report today.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Wynne brings town hall road show to Brampton; Premier to take the hot seat for the second time in hopes of hearing public concerns

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Star - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

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Ad Value: $17,724
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A16

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAfter taking heat from Toronto voters who wanted to vent, Premier Kathleen Wynne is reprising her road show in Brampton next week. Wynne will host her second public town hall at the Century Gardens Recreation Centre ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain PC tax plan too much like Liberals'

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Beneisen

Ad Value: $2,704
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A15

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainUnfortunately, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario's recently released election platform implicitly calls for continuing many of the most economically damaging Liberal government policies. Let's start with taxes. On personal income tax ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain No To Carbon Tax

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Curt Shalapata

Ad Value: $1,215
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMark Cameron's claim that "Patrick Brown's carbon tax is a win-win" is - to put it bluntly - nothing but an attempt to mislead Ontario voters (Dec. 3). The Brown carbon tax plan is patterned after the revenue neutral carbon tax ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Muskoka hospitals rising electricity costs - using less, paying more

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainBracebridge Examiner - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe electricity bill for Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare has increased by $265,462 over five-year period, according to a press release from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. And Harold Featherston, chief executive of ...

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain MPP Ted Arnott lays out Conservative alternative to Liberals' cap and trade program

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIndependent Free Press - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $117
Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWellington-Halton Hills MPP, Ted Arnott says Ontarians have nothing to worry about when it comes to his Progressive Conservative Party's stance on the environment and climate change. Arnott, ...

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain Hydro One Simplifying Electricity Bills | CKDR.net

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.ckdr.net - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainYou'll soon notice some changes to your Hydro One electricity bill.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainClippings Summary

Full Articles

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainTHE $120M POWER GRAB; Liberals face tough questions about why a Brampton gas plant was able to 'game the system' by overbilling ratepayers - and keep some of the cash

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Star - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $20,295
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA Brampton gas plant that the government admits "gamed" Ontario's electricity system for $120 million in overbillings will pocket $10 million despite a $10-million fine and $100-million repayment order.

The situation uncovered in a month-old Ontario Energy Board report Tuesday left Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals on the defensive with a provincial election just six months away. Opposition parties raised concerns that the 2015 settlement with the Goreway Station Partnership - which rejects assertions it "deliberately" gamed ratepayers - was hushed up for political reasons and called for a deeper investigation, possibly by police.

"This company gamed the system and paid a price for doing that," Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid said of the record fine and the repayment order levied on Goreway by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator.

IESO vice-president Terry Young confirmed to the Star that the overbilling totalled $120 million over several years, leaving $10 million in Goreway coffers after the fine and the $100-million repayment figure, which was blacked out in the energy board report.

"There's a process in place where these kinds of things are determined," Duguid added when asked why Peel Region police were not alerted.

But critics said the settlement leaves unanswered questions about Goreway's "ineligible expenses" for firing up its natural gas-fuelled power plant and how long it took to flag costs that were higher than for all other gas plants combined.

"Taxpayers and electricity customers in Ontario were being bilked … that's lot of money," said Progressive Conservative MPP and energy critic Todd Smith, who is insisting on full repayment by Goreway.

The Conservatives will consider alerting police, as they did over concerns about deleted documents in the scandal over two gas-fired power plants that were cancelled before the 2011 election, and events related to a 2015 Sudbury byelection. Both resulted in investigations and charges, although the Sudbury case was dismissed by a judge.

"It's something that we're definitely going to look into because we have to act in the best interests of hydro customers in Ontario," Smith added. "This is just another example of how the Liberals have been asleep at the wheel."

The NDP said the Liberal government is known for issuing scads of self-promotional press releases, but was content to leave details of the Goreway case quietly buried in the Ontario Energy Board's website.

"This $100 million is a massive fraud and the people of Ontario are the victims," New Democrat MPP John Vanthof charged during question period in the legislature.

"Why did this Liberal government keep this information so quiet and not do a press release, as it does will all other hydro announcements?"

Duguid later told reporters that it's up to Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, "to determine if any further actions ought to be taken" over the way the case was handled from a public relations and settlement perspective.

"There's no defending this company here and this government has no intentions to do that," said Duguid, standing in for Thibeault, who was absent because of a sudden death in the family.

Thibeault's office said Goreway has repaid $91 million of the $100-million repayment order to date. Duguid confirmed Goreway executive Rob Coulbeck was removed Dec. 1 from a panel studying ways to renew the electricity market.

Smith said having a Goreway official on the body advising Thibeault on modernization measures was "kind of like putting A-Rod in charge of getting steroids out of baseball."

Coulbeck did not reply to a request for comment. A source said he did not join the company until after the questionable expenses were detected.

Provincial auditor general Bonnie Lysyk's annual report, to be released Wednesday, will examine whether surveillance of electricity suppliers by the Ontario Energy Board and IESO are "sufficient."

Young, of the IESO, said police were not called about Goreway because the agency, which runs the day-to-day needs of the power grid to keep the lights on across the province, was following the regulations it established for companies in Ontario's electricity marketplace.

"We do have market rules that are designed to deal with this type of situation … to recover these costs," Young added, noting the agency had to consider the additional expense of trying to drive a harder bargain in the settlement.

"We used the process."

The Goreway settlement was one of nine in which recovery orders totalling $168 million were issued based on $200 million in "ineligible costs" discovered through audits after suspicions were raised starting in 2009, Young said. Goreway was the only company fined and the **IESO** would not reveal the names of the eight other suppliers.

In a statement to the Star Tuesday, Goreway, which has 41 employees, said its management team has changed since the ineligible costs were billed.

"None of the current executives of Goreway were on the executive team during the period in question," said chief compliance officer Emma Coyle. "The project sponsors have also taken active steps to enhance internal controls and compliance oversight."

Coyle added she does not know if any Goreway staff, past or present, have been contacted by police.

"Not that we're aware of."

Goreway is now working closely with the **IESO** to ensure its billings are "consistent" with requirements and said payouts remain subject to audits under market **rules**.

"Though the exhaustive audit process, it was determined that some of the costs Goreway submitted for reimbursement should be refunded to the **IESO**, which Goreway agreed to do," Coyle said. "Goreway rejects any assertion that it deliberately 'gamed' the **IESO** reimbursement programs" as stated in the **Ontario Energy Board** report, she added.

That report stated "Goreway routinely submitted what were obviously inappropriate expenses to be reimbursed by the **IESO** and ultimately borne by **Ontario ratepayers**."

The **rules** by which suppliers are reimbursed for expenses are complex and create "opportunities for exploitation," the report warned.

Young said regulations for eligible expenses have been "strengthened" and reduced disputes to $23 million last year compared with $61 million in 2014, for example.

Goreway, opened in 2009 to meet intermittent peak **power** needs, is a subsidiary and joint venture of Toyota Tshusho **Corporation** and JERA Co. Inc.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainGas plant 'gamed'system out of $100M

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $3,681
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A6

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe **Ontario Energy Board** has found that a Brampton **natural gas** plant "gamed" the system out of nearly $100 million - costs borne by **ratepayers**.

A report from the **OEB**'s market surveillance panel - quietly posted online last month - concluded that Goreway **Power** Station repeatedly exploited defects in the system over several years.

It says the systems in place create opportunities for exploitation, to the serious financial disadvantage of **ratepayers**, and Goreway's conduct offers a clear illustration of those flaws.

The **OEB** says Goreway agreed to a settlement with the **Independent Electricity** System Operator to repay a "substantial portion" but the amount is blacked out in the report at Goreway's request.

The company was also fined $10 million, but it said through a lawyer in a letter attached to the report that it disagrees with many of the conclusions, including suggestions that Goreway gamed the system or deliberately misled the **IESO**.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** says the **IESO** discovered the issues with Goreway early on and senior leadership at the company have since been replaced.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain**Power company 'gamed' $100M from Ontario's electricity system, investigation reveals - Toronto - CBC News**

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHydro customers shelled out about $100 million in "inappropriate" payments to a natural gas plant that exploited flaws in how Ontario manages its private electricity generators, CBC News has learned.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain**Ontario gas plant 'gamed' ratepayers out of $100M: report | CTV Barrie News**

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainbarrie.ctvnews.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA natural gas plant in Brampton, Ont., "gamed" the system and ratepayers out of approximately $100 million, a regulatory investigation found -- and it's not alone. The Ontario Energy Board quietly posted a report online last month that was largely complete about a year ago into Goreway Power Station, concluding it repeatedly exploited defects in the system over several years.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainBrampton power plant 'gamed' Ontario electricity system for millions, fined $10M

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainBrampton Guardian - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,155
Reach: 120000 **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainA Brampton **power** plant "gamed" **Ontario**'s **electricity** system to get at least $89 million in payments it was not entitled to over a three-year period ending in 2012, says an explosive new report that warns it could happen again.

The **Ontario Energy Board** found the Goreway Station Partnership "repeatedly exploited defects" in the system by which the provincial **Independent Electricity** System Operator pays suppliers for **power**.

"Goreway routinely submitted what were obviously inappropriate expenses to be reimbursed by the **IESO** and ultimately borne by **Ontario ratepayers**," the **energy** board concludes in a 55-page report first revealed by CBC Radio.

Goreway has been fined $10 million and repaid a "substantial portion" of the inappropriate payments received - but the report does not specify how much and says that information will remain confidential at Goreway's request.

The **rules** by which suppliers are reimbursed for expenses are complex and create "opportunities for exploitation," the report notes.

While the **IESO** - which is in charge of arranging **Ontario**'s daily **electricity** supply from all suppliers to the system, from **gas**-fired plants to hydroelectric dams and nuclear plants - is working on the problem, the report adds "that solution is many years away."

Along with the payback amount from Goreway, names of personnel involved in the management and operation of the **power** plant have also been redacted from the report.

Lawyers for Goreway disputed elements of the investigation by the **energy** board's market surveillance panel (MSP) in a letter dated August 1.

"Although Goreway does not agree with many of the draft report's findings and conclusions, including that Goreway engaged in gaming or that it deliberatedly misled the **IESO**, Goreway takes the MSP's position on these issues seriously," wrote lawyer George Vegh of McCarthy Tetrault.

"Goreway has implemented initiatives designed to ensure that compliance is a central operating principle at Goreway, that a culture of compliance is supported throughout the organization."

The measures include the appointment of a chief compliance officer who reports to Goreway's board of directors.

Energy Ministry officials were not immediately available for comment Tuesday morning.

The **energy** board report was quietly posted on the agency's website November 2.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainEvening Brief: Backtracking and getting left behind - iPolitics

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainipolitics.ca - Tue Dec 5 2017
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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe Ontario Energy Board has found that a Brampton natural gas plant “gamed” the system out of nearly $100 million

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainReport examines health, electricity

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario's auditor general is set to release her annual report Wednesday, with several sections looking at the province's health-care sector.

Bonnie Lysyk's report this year dedicates five of her 14 value-for-money audits to aspects of health, including cancer treatment services, community health centres, health lab services, **public** drug programs and **public** health.

It will examine whether Cancer Care **Ontario** is ensuring cancer treatments are provided in a timely, cost-efficient and **fair** way, whether accurate lab test results are being provided in a timely manner, and if people receiving **public** drug coverage get timely Lysyk also dedicates two sections to school boards, examining both whether they are using operating funds properly and whether the government has effective oversight to ensure they are doing so.

Another area of the massive report will look at whether the **Independent Electricity** System Operator and the **Ontario Energy Board** are sufficiently overseeing **electricity** generators and if they are playing by the **rules**.

Lysyk has previously skewered the Liberal government's handling of the **electricity** sector, concluding both that customers paid $37 billion for the government's decisions to ignore its own planning process for new **power** projects.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainOntario auditor general to examine health care, school boards, electricity | CTV London News

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainlondon.ctvnews.ca - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Neutral

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainHealth care, electricity and school boards are among the issues Ontario's auditor general will be shining a spotlight on in her annual report today.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWynne brings town hall road show to Brampton; Premier to take the hot seat for the second time in hopes of hearing public concerns

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Star - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value: $17,724
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A16

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainAfter taking heat from **Toronto** voters who wanted to vent, Premier Kathleen Wynne is reprising her road show in Brampton next week.

Wynne will host her second **public** town hall at the Century Gardens Recreation **Centre** on Vodden St. E.

"**Ontario**'s economy is doing well, but we know that those numbers don't tell the whole story," the premier said in a statement Tuesday.

"Too many people are being left behind, and that's why our **plan** to create more fairness and opportunity is about making sure that everyone has the chance to share in our province's prosperity," she said.

"Nobody knows our province better than our people - and I am looking forward to hearing about the issues that matter most to you, the people of **Ontario**."

Former Rogers TV host Nav Nanwa will moderate next Wednesday's event, which is open to anyone. Doors open at 6 p.m. and it starts at 7 p.m.

The town halls are considered government events, meaning they are organized and paid for by the **public** and not the **Ontario** Liberal Party.

But if the raucous first forum was any indication, it is unlikely to be a Liberal pep rally.

At the Concert Hall on Yonge St. on Nov. 20, Wynne was peppered with tough questions from the audience of 200 people - including from Progressive Conservative supporters who arrived with protest signs.

She faced a barrage for 90 minutes on **electricity** bills, child-care costs, the health-care system, anti-Black racism, **wind** turbines, home warranty woes, the **Hydro** One privatization, HIV policies and her decision to have the province control the recreational cannabis market.

Still, the premier managed to avoid talking about politics - she never mentioned her party, the June 7, 2018 election or the names of main rivals Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain**PC tax plan too much like Liberals'**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun · Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Beneisen

Ad Value: $2,704
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A15

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainUnfortunately, the Progressive Conservative Party of **Ontario**'s recently released election platform implicitly calls for continuing many of the most economically damaging Liberal government policies.

Let's start with taxes. On personal income tax (PIT), **Ontario** is hopelessly uncompetitive.

The province maintains a 53.5% top combined federal and provincial marginal tax **rate**.

Of all the provinces and states in Canada and the U.S., only Nova Scotia's top **rate** is higher.

Not only does **Ontario**'s high top **rate** create a disincentive for highly productive Ontarians to work hard and succeed, it makes it harder for the province to attract and retain mobile high-income earners, including engineers, entrepreneurs and other highly-skilled professionals.

Given that people face a host of other taxes - including a 13% **HST** on almost everything they buy with their after-tax dollars - it's not hard to see how such a high top marginal **rate** distorts economic decisions and makes **Ontario** a less-attractive destination for highly mobile, skilled and educated workers.

Major tax reform

Ontario's lack of tax competitiveness looms as an even more serious problem when you consider developments in the U.S., where the passage of major tax reform seems increasingly likely.

In recent years, **Ontario** (and all **Canadian** provinces) have benefitted from a substantial tax advantage when it comes to corporate income tax (CIT) because of a high federal **rate** in the U.S.

But U.S. tax reform could soon change this script, eroding or completely erasing **Ontario**'s advantage relative to American states with whom we compete.

And again, the gap between **Ontario**'s PIT and that of the American states would only widen with U.S. tax reform.

Unfortunately, the PC platform took no meaningful action in either area.

It proposes some modest changes to the PIT, but would apparently leave the 53.5% top **rate** in place.

The platform is also silent on lowering the general corporate income tax **rate**.

So Ontarians cannot reasonably expect meaningful action on tax competitiveness, no matter if the Liberals or Conservatives win the election.

Also, it's not just on tax reform where the PC platform prescribes the policy status quo (or something very much like it).

On the minimum wage, for example, the PCs promise to follow through on the Wynne government's commitment to raise the wage floor to $15 per hour, albeit less quickly than the Wynne government.

Nevertheless, Ontario will be on track to implement a minimum wage out of line with many competing jurisdictions.

The consequence of this decision will almost certainly be fewer jobs created for young and less-skilled workers.

On hydro policy, the PCs were ferociously critical when the Liberals announced their "Fair Hydro Plan," which reduces hydro bills in the short term by passing the costs on to taxpayers and future ratepayers in the form of more debt and, therefore, higher future payments.

Yet the PC platform says nothing about removing the Fair Hydro Plan, promising only to reduce hydro payments further.

In short, the policy the PCs criticized so aggressively seems to be the baseline for their own plans.

Ontario desperately needs a new approach to economic policy, including increased tax competitiveness, repairing provincial finances and removing unnecessary regulatory barriers.

Unfortunately, the PC platform fails in each area.

Eisen is director of the Fraser Institute's Ontario Prosperity Initiative

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainNo To Carbon Tax

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Wed Dec 6 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Curt Shalapata

Ad Value: $1,215
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMark Cameron's claim that "Patrick Brown's carbon tax is a win-win" is - to put it bluntly - nothing but an attempt to mislead Ontario voters (Dec. 3). The Brown carbon tax plan is patterned after the revenue neutral carbon tax introduced by the B.C. Liberal government in 2008. Revenue neutral in that large portions of the revenues generated by the carbon tax are rebated to the voters with income tax cuts and by lowering other taxes. However, by 2013 the B.C government had removed the requirement for revenue neutrality and the carbon tax is now very much a cash cow for the B.C. NDP to spend on their favourite social justice projects. How long do you think it would take an Ontario government, of any political stripe, to see the carbon tax as an amazing revenue tool far too valuable to be rebated to the taxpayers? As a life-long conservative and former member of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, I will not be supporting Patrick Brown because of his support of carbon taxes. I am sure there are many conservative voters out there who feel the same and will be sitting on their hands come the next election. Brown's support of carbon tax is a loselose and will cost him a majority government.

CURT SHALAPATA OSHAWA

(Trudeau has imposed carbon pricing on the provinces. Given that reality, Brown's revenue neutral carbon tax is far better than Premier Wynne's **cap and trade** cash grab)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMuskoka hospitals rising electricity costs - using less, paying more

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainBracebridge Examiner - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainThe **electricity** bill for Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare has increased by $265,462 over five-year period, according to a press release from the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation.

And Harold Featherston, chief executive of Diagnostics, Ambulatory and Planning at MAHC says they are using less **electricity**.

Documents obtained by the taxpayer's group show bills growing from $825,816 in 2013 to $1,091,278 in 2017, an increase of over 32 per cent.

"How is Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare expected to manage their budget when **electricity** bills have rising dramatically every year?" asked CTF **Ontario** director, Christine Van Geyn. "The more these hospitals have to spend keeping their lights on, the fewer resources they have for patients."

"Families across the province all feel the pain of rapid increases to the cost of **electricity** when they pay their home **electricity** bill. But what many people don't think about is the cost of the **Ontario** government's failed **electricity** policy to the institutions we all rely on, like Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare," continued Van Geyn. "Instead of paying an extra $265,462 for inflated **electricity** bills, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare could have paid for 80 C-sections. That's something that **Ontario** patients expect their health care system to spend money on, rather than wasting money on this government's **hydro** rip-off."

"Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare's **electricity** usage (kilowatt hours consumption) has been decreasing consistently over the past five years, but the global adjustment applied by the **Independent Electricity** System Operator is driving **electricity** costs up. Costs associated with the global adjustment are beyond the control of MAHC," said Featherstone. "Between 2012 and 2015, through **energy** savings initiatives implemented at the hospitals to upgrade and improve efficiency of lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, and building automation systems, MAHC used 588,298.80 less kilowatt hours of **electricity**. And in 2016, MAHC used 190,000 less kilowatt hours over 2015. MAHC is required to report annual **energy** use and this information is available on our website at mahc.ca/en/about/**Energy**-Usage-and-Efficiency-.asp."

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainMPP Ted Arnott lays out Conservative alternative to Liberals' cap and trade program

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainIndependent Free Press - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Ad Value: $117
Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainWellington-**Halton Hills** MPP, Ted Arnott says Ontarians have nothing to worry about when it comes to his Progressive Conservative Party's stance on the environment and **climate** change.

Arnott, who also serves as the Progressive Conservative (PC) Caucus Critic to the Minister of the Environment and **Climate** Change, offered a "people's guarantee" while in session at the **Ontario** legislature last week.

"Our Official Opposition Caucus is united in enthusiastic endorsement of the People's Guarantee," said Arnott. "Included in this **plan** are strong statements about the need to protect and preserve our natural environment."

"Our Caucus accepts the scientific consensus on **climate** change. The Earth is warming, human activity is a significant contributing factor, and we in **Ontario** need to do our part to reduce carbon emissions," he added during his address to members of parliament.

During his allotted time, Arnott sought to reassure voters his party is as committed to the environment as the Liberals - but with an added eye toward fiscal responsibility in the process.

Arnott singled out the Wynne government's **cap and trade** program, which the PCs claim will mean paying California $466 million over the next three years to offset the province's expected carbon emissions.

That amount and claim came from the province's auditor general, Bonnie Lysyk, in a report last year. The reasoning behind that figure, according to the auditor general, is that come the new year, it will be cheaper for **Ontario** emitters to purchase carbon credits from California instead.

"In 2018, **Ontario** plans to link its **cap-and-trade** program to a system that already links Quebec and California. Emitters in all three jurisdictions would then be able to trade allowances with each other," said the auditor general.

"Our audit found that, in addition to the $8 billion that the **cap-and-trade** system will cost **Ontario** consumers and businesses, **Ontario** emitters are expected to pay up to $466 million more from 2017 to 2020 to buy allowances from emitters in Quebec and California," she added in the report.

The PCs have a different **plan**, which they claim will see that money returned to the taxpayer through tax credits or cuts.

"Our caucus categorically rejects that approach. But we also know that doing nothing is not an option," he said. "The Trudeau government in **Ottawa** is mandating a carbon pricing benchmark. While no one likes or wants new taxes, all the provinces will need to respond."

"There is a better way for the people of **Ontario**," added Arnott. "We say that every dollar collected in carbon price revenue should be returned to **Ontario** families and taxpayers in the form of corresponding tax relief, as verified by the Auditor General."

Arnott also promised a Conservative commitment to addressing the health of the Great Lakes in his speech, with an emphasis on reducing pollution from sewage draining into the province's waterways. He also proposed a deposit system in an effort to reduce pollution from plastic bottles and containers.

"That is our leader (Patrick Brown)'s assurance to the people of **Ontario**: part of his People's Guarantee," he said.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plain**Hydro One Simplifying Electricity Bills | CKDR.net**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainwww.ckdr.net - Tue Dec 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat7\plainYou'll soon notice some changes to your Hydro One electricity bill.

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