

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: December 15, 2017 8:26 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, December 15, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 34 Results



Newsroom : Ontario Establishing Panel to Modernize the Ontario Energy Board

news.ontario.ca - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario is launching a review of the province's independent energy regulator--the Ontario Energy Board (OEB)--to ensure it can best adapt to innovative services and new technologies.



BlackburnNews.com - Union Gas Bills Will Likely Come Down January 1

blackburnnews.com - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

If you're a Union Gas customer, there's a good chance you will soon pay less to heat your home.



Support program

Sudbury Star - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$278

Reach: 14934 Page: A3

'Tis the season to spread cheer - and spread the word about **OESP** Do you qualify for **OESP** or know someone who may? Help spread the word. The

Ontario Electricity Support Program is a provincial program that ...



Guelph City Council Approves Guelph Hydro Merger with Alectra

globenewswire.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

After more than a year of industry research, a comprehensive financial analysis and community engagement on a potential transaction, Guelph City Council voted today in favour of a merger between Guelph Hydro Electric Systems and Alectra Inc.



You could be eligible for a \$75 credit on your electricity bills - Sudbury.com

www.sudbury.com - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, December 15, 2017

OEB is mentioned.

Greater Sudbury Hydro is asking for Sudburians to spread the word about the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP).



Certification Denied In Proposed Class Action Against Hydro One Alleging Widespread Billing Problems - Litigation, Mediation & Arbitration - Canada

www.mondaq.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

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Justice Perell's November 28, 2017, decision in Bennett v Hydro One Inc., 2017 ONSC 7065 [Bennett] to deny certification of a putative class action alleging that Hydro One was systemically negligent in billing customers serves as a powerful reminder ...



Guelph Hydro merger with Alectra approved by city | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

After debating the issue for hours and hearing from dozens of delegations, Guelph councillors decided to relinquish full control of their hydro future in the name of preserving lower electricity rates.



Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company

Stoney Creek News - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$88

Reach: 31639 Page: 1

Nearly a decade after rejecting a merger with Horizon **Utilities**, **Guelph** councillors endorsed a proposed **plan** that will see **Guelph Hydro** join the

growing Alectra **Utilities** Inc. ...



Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company | HamiltonNews.com

www.hamiltonnews.com - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Nearly a decade after rejecting a merger with Horizon Utilities, Guelph councillors endorsed a proposed plan that will see Guelph Hydro join the growing Alectra Utilities Inc. company and its nearly one million customers, stretching from ...



Erie-Thames Power Lines and Goderich Hydro to Move Forward on Merger - My Stratford Now

www.mystatfordnow.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Goderich town council has given the green light for Goderich Hydro to merge with Erie-Thames Powerlines.



Helicopter crash kills 4 people in Ontario

THE NATIONAL - Thu Dec 14 2017, 9:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: KATIE SIMPSON; KIM CLAYTON; PETER ROWNTREE; CONST. SHANNON CORK; FERIO PUGLIESE

IAN HANOMANSING (HOST): Today in **Ontario**, another crash, this one deadly. Four workers were killed when a helicopter owned by the **utility Hydro One** plunged onto a farmer's field, less than two weeks ...



Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

--- (Ont-Helicopter-Crash) (Audio: 04) Investigators will return this morning to the scene of a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** that killed four people. Darkness and plunging temperatures forced officials to suspend their ...



Fatal Hydro One Helicopter Crash

CTV - CTV NATIONAL NEWS - Thu Dec 14 2017, 11:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: LISA LAFLAMME

LISA LAFLAMME: There were no survivors of a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** today, being called one of the worst workplace accidents in the province's history. Four **hydro** workers doing routine maintenance were killed when ...



Four killed in crash of Hydro One chopper; Crew doing work on towers in Tweed, Ont

National Post - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier and Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$9,121
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A5

A **Hydro One** helicopter crash has killed four people in the municipality of Tweed, about 90 kilometres **west** of **Kingston**, the **Ontario** Provincial Police has confirmed. Emergency services first ...



Chopper Crash Kills 4

Toronto Sun - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Steph Crosier and Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$4,514
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A22

Four people have been killed in a **Hydro One** helicopter crash in the municipality of Tweed, the **Ontario** Provincial Police have confirmed. Emergency services first responded to a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed ...



Hydro One helicopter crash leaves 4 people dead | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink



Four Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash in eastern Ontario

Toronto Star - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$3,788
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A10

Four **Hydro One** employees were killed Thursday when the helicopter they were travelling in crashed in a field outside Tweed, northwest of **Kingston**, just before noon. Kim Clayton, who lives near the crash site, said ...



4 Hydro workers killed In Ontario helicopter crash | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

4 employees with Hydro One were killed in a helicopter crash near Kingston. The crash occurred around lunchtime. Local residents raced to the scene. Abigail Bimman reports.



Helicopter crash kills 4 people in Ontario | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink



Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash near Tweed

The Globe and Mail - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Ad Value: \$9,062

Reach: 309154 Page: A11

Four **Hydro One** employees were killed Thursday when the helicopter they were travelling in crashed in a field in Eastern **Ontario**, police and the **utility** reported. No one survived the crash that occurred ...

THE SUN TIMES

Hydro One helicopter crash kills four

Owen Sound Sun Times - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$244

Reach: 13178 Page: A2

Four **Hydro One** employees were killed Thursday in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario**, police and the **utility** reported. The crash occurred about noon in Tweed, **north** of **Kingston**, ...

The Intelligencer

Four killed in helicopter crash; Hydro One helicopter creashes in Tweed, victims won't be named until next of kin notified

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier And Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$2,263

Reach: 9723 Page: A1 / Front

Four people have been killed in a **Hydro One** helicopter crash in the municipality of Tweed, the **Ontario** Provincial Police have confirmed. Emergency services first responded to a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed ...

PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER

Copter crash kills four; Hydro One workers killed while working near Tweed

Peterborough Examiner - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Terry Pedwell

Ad Value: \$1,746

Reach: 19693 Page: A1 / Front

With little daylight at their disposal and a deep freeze setting in late Thursday, investigators quickly scoured the wreckage of a deadly helicopter crash about 95 kilometres east of **Peterborough**. None of the four **Hydro** ...



'Twas the night before holiday break; Ontario legislature takes a festive tone as politicians speak in Christmas rhyme

Toronto Star - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$22,568

Reach: 361323 Page: A4

It was a slam poetry throwdown, Christmas-style. Question period at the Legislature - usually a rambunctious, testy hour reminiscent of the Festivus "airing of grievances" on Seinfeld - took on an unusually festive tone Thursday. Progressive ...



CBC Listen | Superior Morning | East - West Energy Line

www.cbc.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

It's all about power to the people. Chief Johanna Desmoulin talks about the opportunities the east-west transmission project will mean for her community of Pic Mobert.



Trudeau misleads on carbon pricing promise

North Bay Nugget - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Positive**
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$632
Reach: 11505 Page: A4

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau misled Canadians when he promised his national carbon pricing **plan** would be revenue neutral for the federal government. As a report by the **independent**, non-partisan Parliamentary Budget Officer ...



Label everything with its carbon footprint

Peterborough Examiner - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Kurt Crist

Ad Value: \$241
Reach: 19693 Page: A4

Cap and trade, carbon capture and storage, or carbon tax are all euphemisms for business as usual. Politicians will never be serious about **climate change** as long as they are held in thrall by ...



Is the Ontario government's hydro plan amoral or immoral?

Peterborough This Week - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**
Ad Value: \$25
Reach: 47038 Page: 1

To the editor Amoral is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. Immoral is knowing that something is wrong, but you go ahead and do it anyway. Decide for yourself which term best applies to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the ...



As session ends, NDP keeps focus on health care and hydro – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

For NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, the 2017 legislative session was all about families struggling to cope in overcrowded hospitals, and families struggling to pay their hydro bills – and at her final press conference for the session, she made clear ...



Wynne provides wrongdoings aplenty for AG - ObserverXtra

observerxtra.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, December 14, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

Christmas comes early and often to the handful of beneficiaries of Kathleen Wynne's hydro giveaway. Ripped off consumers can expect nothing but a lump of coal, however.



West: NDP's power plan includes making Hydro One publically owned again - Sudbury.com

www.sudbury.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Liberal Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault continues to claim the Wynne Liberals have gotten hydro bills under control, but let's face it, that's not what families are seeing on their bills. The reality is that after years of calling for action, ...



Canada lags in electric vehicle policy: Report

Toronto Sun - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$2,643
Reach: 171076 Page: A24

A **Canadian energy** think tank says the world is less than a decade away from the tipping point at which **electric** cars will cost the same as conventional **gaspowered** vehicles. But in a report released ...



City looks to install curbside charging stations

Kitchener Post - Wed Dec 13 2017

Tone: **Positive** Page: 1

Kitchener is looking to make a joint grant **application** to install curbside charging units for **electric** vehicles. A recent pilot project in Montreal conducted by FLO, a subsidiary of AddEnergie, proved successful. ...



Canada slow to getting electric cars on the road

WORLD REPORT - Thu Dec 14 2017, 8:00am ET

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: TANYA FLETCHER; DAN WOYNILLOWICZ
Reach: 528000

VIK ADHOPIA (NEWSCASTER): When it comes to getting **electric** cars on the road, Canada is in the slow lane. Other countries sell far more rechargeable vehicles every year. As Tanya Fletcher tells us, a new report says government support is ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Newsroom : Ontario Establishing Panel to Modernize the Ontario Energy Board

news.ontario.ca - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario is launching a review of the province's independent energy regulator--the Ontario Energy Board (OEB)--to ensure it can best adapt to innovative services and new technologies.

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BlackburnNews.com - Union Gas Bills Will Likely Come Down January 1

blackburnnews.com - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

If you're a Union Gas customer, there's a good chance you will soon pay less to heat your home.

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Support program

Sudbury Star - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$278

Reach: 14934 Page: A3

'Tis the season to spread cheer - and spread the word about **OESP**. Do you qualify for **OESP** or know someone who may? Help spread the word. The **Ontario Electricity** Support Program is a provincial program that helps lower-income customers with their **electricity** bills. The **OESP** provides monthly on-bill credits to eligible customers based on household income and household size. Even though the **OESP** has been around for a while, there are still people who have not yet applied to receive the on-bill credit. "We currently have about 1,750 customers enrolled and receiving credits," said Wendy Watson, director of communications for **Greater Sudbury Hydro**. "We think there could be another 600 or so who may qualify ... but you have to apply to get the credit. It doesn't happen automatically." You can find out if you qualify for an on-bill credit by visiting www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca or www.sudburyhydro.com. Applications can be made online or you can pick up an form at the **Greater Sudbury Hydro** office, 500 Regent St. People who need assistance can contact the Red Cross, 1460 Fairburn St., or Low Income People Involvement, 127 Main St. East in Sturgeon Falls. Customers who qualify may receive an **OESP** on-bill credit amount \$45 to \$75 each month.

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Guelph City Council Approves Guelph Hydro Merger with Alectra

globenewswire.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

After more than a year of industry research, a comprehensive financial analysis and community engagement on a potential transaction, Guelph City Council voted today in favour of a merger between Guelph Hydro Electric Systems and Alectra Inc.

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You could be eligible for a \$75 credit on your electricity bills - Sudbury.com

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Greater Sudbury Hydro is asking for Sudburians to spread the word about the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP).

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Certification Denied In Proposed Class Action Against Hydro One Alleging Widespread Billing Problems - Litigation, Mediation & Arbitration - Canada

www.mondaq.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Justice Perell's November 28, 2017, decision in *Bennett v Hydro One Inc.*, 2017 ONSC 7065 [Bennett] to deny certification of a putative class action alleging that Hydro One was systemically negligent in billing customers serves as a powerful reminder to class litigants: where common issues are not a substantial ingredient of putative class members' claims, the common issues requirement will not be satisfied.

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Guelph Hydro merger with Alectra approved by city | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

After debating the issue for hours and hearing from dozens of delegations, Guelph councillors decided to relinquish full control of their hydro future in the name of preserving lower electricity rates.

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Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company

Stoney Creek News - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$88

Reach: 31639 Page: 1

Nearly a decade after rejecting a merger with Horizon **Utilities**, **Guelph** councillors endorsed a proposed **plan** that will see **Guelph Hydro** join the growing Alectra **Utilities** Inc. company and its nearly one million customers, stretching from Penetanguishene to St. Catharines.

In a 10-3 vote after more than six hours of **public** delegations and questions on Dec. 13, councillors agreed to a merger with Alectra, citing a hefty \$18.5-million initial dividend the city will receive. The deal is also expected to provide more efficient **service** and lower **rates** for residential customers.

"This is about the protection of jobs," said **Guelph** Mayor Cam Guthrie. "The **Guelph Hydro** Board voted unanimously for it. It's the right thing to do."

About 30 of the 130 **Guelph Hydro** employees are expected to lose their jobs because of the merger. Alectra officials say the reductions will be through attrition and retirements. Another 30 jobs will be relocated outside the **Guelph**

area.

Under the merger participation agreement, which is expected to be completed early next year, **Guelph** will receive a 4.63 per cent share of Alectra and have one member on the company's board, similar to St. Catharines' representation in the company.

Under the now merged Alectra **Utilities**, finalized earlier this year, there are 13 board members. Two are from Hamilton, including Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Paul Benson. **Enersource** has four representatives on the board; the City of Vaughan has three; Markham has two; while Barrie and St. Catharines have one representative each.

As part of the agreement, **Guelph** would be scheduled to receive \$10 million over the next decade in dividend payments and Alectra will provide \$5 million in capital costs to develop the new Green **Energy** and Technology **Centre**. The company will also provide \$3 million annually in operating costs. The **centre** will employ about 10 people.

Guelph Hydro's operations will become Alectra's southwest operations hub.

Ron Clark, a lawyer from the **Toronto** firm Aird and Berlis hired by **Guelph** to help conduct the merger negotiations, which took about 14 months, said there are "significant savings" for the city under the deal.

He said from 2019 to 2027, **rate** increases will be below the **rate** of inflation and after a decade the savings will "flow to customers."

But of the 29 people who spoke at the meeting, an overwhelming majority opposed the merger. They argued **Guelph Hydro** was already efficient and providing a benefit to the community. They said last year **Guelph Hydro** provided the city with a \$3-million dividend, higher than the expected dividends from Alectra. Many from the **public**, and even some councillors, were concerned **Guelph** would be losing control of its **utility** and be at the mercy of the six other municipalities that own a portion of Alectra.

Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman told councillors his residents were also concerned about merging Barrie **Hydro**, first with **Powerstream** in 2009 that involved Vaughan and Markham, and then with Alectra. But over the last few years, said Lehman, Alectra has delivered on its promises of large dividends, and providing **greater service** to customers, especially during a nasty ice storm in 2016 that knocked out **service** throughout Barrie and the surrounding communities. While communities beyond Barrie were without **service** for at least a week, Barrie customers had their **power** back on within two days, said Lehman.

"Bigger has been better," said Lehman, who was asked to attend the meeting by Alectra officials.

Residents, including **Guelph Hydro** employees, also characterized the merger as the first steps to "privatize" their **utility** company. They said Alectra was in the market to grow its **customer** base to eventually sell it to a larger, foreign company.

Ron East of the Council of Canadians, **Guelph** chapter, said the city will be giving up control of its **utility** with almost no say in how it will operate.

"If the Alectra merger goes through it will be the largest asset sell-off in the history of **Guelph**," said East. "A vote against this deal is a vote for **Guelph**."

"This is not the right company," said Dan Bertens, the unit chair for **Guelph Hydro** with the International Brotherhood of **Electrical** Workers, local 636. "The city is trying to sell this merger to the **public**. You can't rush this decision."

A few people objected to **Guelph Hydro** merging with Alectra, rather than with a

smaller, local **utility** company within the **Kitchener-Waterloo** area. The city did examine 14 possibilities, but ultimately decided that Alectra was the best fit.

Guelph Hydro has about 55,000 customers, which includes people in Rockwood.

Norm Lowberg, chair of the Alectra Inc., dismissed any idea of selling the **utility** company.

"There are no plans in place or contemplated to privatize Alectra," he said.

Guelph councillors also reassured the **public** the merger with Alectra was not "privatizing" its **utility**.

"A do nothing approach puts (**Guelph Hydro**) at more risk," said Coun. Dan Gibson. "This is the exact opposite of privatization. We can be stronger through **public** ownership."

Brian Bentz, president of Alectra, and the last speaker of the evening, said the **utility** industry is undergoing a significant transformation and the company wants to be part of it.

"This is the right decision for the community," he said.

Bentz, in answer to a question from council, said Alectra would not reject further mergers in the future. He said if the right proposal came along "we owe it to our shareholders to look at it."

Guelph councillors in 2008 scuttled a proposed merger with the former Horizon **Utilities** after they voted 8 to 5 against the deal. A few of those politicians said they regretted the decision, arguing if **Guelph Hydro** had become part of Horizon, which at the time was owned by Hamilton and St. Catharines, it would now have a larger corporate value. Hamilton and St. Catharines councils had already approved the deal.

"This is the easiest decision in my 40 years of business," said Coun. Karl Wettstein, who was on council when **Guelph** rejected the previous merger proposal.

With council's support, Alectra will apply to the **Ontario Energy Board** to approve the merger. A decision, which Alectra officials are confident of approval, could be made in the fall of 2018. The merged company could be in place by Jan. 1, 2019.

In addition, six municipalities will have to approve the proposed merger. Alectra officials said four of them have already supported the deal.

Alectra is the second-largest municipally-owned **utility** in **North** America behind the Los Angeles Department of Water and **Power**. It employs 1,600 people with a total **rate** base of about \$2.5 billion.

Alectra officials have promised Hamilton councillors the merged company will be able to cut **power rates** by six per cent over the next 25 years, resulting in savings of about \$40 annually for the average homeowner. The merger is also expected to increase Hamilton's dividends from \$13 million to about \$16 million.

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Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company | HamiltonNews.com

www.hamiltonnews.com - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Nearly a decade after rejecting a merger with Horizon Utilities, Guelph councillors endorsed a proposed plan that will see Guelph Hydro join the growing Alectra Utilities Inc. company and its nearly one million customers, stretching from Penetanguishene to St. Catharines.

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Erie-Thames Power Lines and Goderich Hydro to Move Forward on Merger - My Stratford Now

www.mystratfordnow.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Goderich town council has given the green light for Goderich Hydro to merge with Erie-Thames Powerlines.

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Four killed in crash of Hydro One chopper; Crew doing work on towers in Tweed, Ont

National Post - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier and Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$9,121

Reach: 159480 Page: A5

A **Hydro** One helicopter crash has killed four people in the municipality of Tweed, about 90 kilometres **west** of **Kingston**, the **Ontario** Provincial Police has confirmed.

Emergency services first responded to the crash at approximately noon on Thursday, acting Sgt. Tina Hunt of the OPP said.

Hydro One said in a news release that it was "deeply saddened" to confirm that the crash of one of its helicopters resulted in four deaths.

Names of the victims will not be released until next of kin are notified.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time," a statement from **Hydro** One read. "During this grieving process, we will do everything we can to assist our employees and their families who have been affected in any way, by providing counselling and support."

The coroner, along with numerous OPP and **Hydro** One vehicles, were on the scene. The crash occurred near Kim Clayton's home, slightly over a hill, out of sight of the road in a heavily wooded area.

"**Hydro** crews have been working on the **power** lines near our property for the past week-and-a-half, and the helicopter has been working in the area for the past week, so I heard it all week," Clayton said. "But just before noon it was making a bunch of different sounds than I had become accustomed to, and then there was a loud bang and the house shook. I looked out the window and saw all the men scrambling around, so I went outside and heard them yelling to call 911, the helicopter had crashed. It's a terrible tragedy."

Capt. Julie Brunet, **public** affairs officer with 8 Wing Trenton, said that 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron had been dispatched to the scene just after noon Thursday. Brunet said a Hercules aircraft that had been training in the **Peterborough** area was redirected to the site and a CH-146 Griffon helicopter was en route after leaving **Canadian** Forces Base Trenton.

Alex Fournier, spokesperson for the **Transportation** Safety Board, which has sent a team of investigators to the scene, said the chopper was a 1999 AS350 B2. The single-engine helicopters are often used for corporate purposes.

Members of the OPP emergency response team, OPP forensic identification services, an OPP helicopter, the OPP canine unit, officers from the Napanee OPP and Ornge Air Ambulance were also assisting at the scene.

"I was in disbelief," Clayton said, adding that at the time she hoped it wasn't as bad as it sounded. "I was just praying that everyone was OK and that it was just a minor ding off a tree. You watch movies and you think with a helicopter there's going to be an explosion or something, but there was nothing. So I didn't think it was going to be as bad as it was."

Clayton recalled watching the **Hydro** One team working on the other towers in the area and being impressed.

"I thought they were all really brave," Clayton said. "You have to be trained really well to be able to hover like that, and do manoeuvres. I was showing my boys pictures."

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Chopper Crash Kills 4

Toronto Sun - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier and Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$4,514

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A22

Four people have been killed in a **Hydro** One helicopter crash in the municipality of Tweed, the **Ontario** Provincial Police have confirmed.

Emergency services first responded to a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed and south of Flinton, near Upper Flinton Road, at approximately noon on Thursday, acting Sgt. Tina Hunt of the OPP said.

Hydro One said in a news release that it was "deeply saddened" to confirm that the crash of one of its helicopters resulted in four deaths.

Names of the victims will not be released until next of kin are notified.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time," a statement from **Hydro** One reads. "During this grieving process, we will do everything we can to assist our employees and their families who have been affected in any way, by providing counselling and support."

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Hydro One helicopter crash leaves 4 people dead | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

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Four Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash in eastern Ontario

Toronto Star - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$3,788

Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Four **Hydro** One employees were killed Thursday when the helicopter they were travelling in crashed in a field outside Tweed, northwest of **Kingston**, just before noon.

Kim Clayton, who lives near the crash site, said **hydro** crews had been working for weeks on the **power** lines strung on the towers that cross the property and she was used to hearing them flying nearby in helicopters.

The helicopter was apparently heading for a landing, she said.

Clayton said she choked up when the orange tape started going up and she realized just how bad it was.

"They have families, it's almost Christmas time," Clayton said. "I still can't believe four guys died on this property today and it's sad."

The Tweed fire department and several OPP cruisers responded to the crash but there was little they could do. **Ontario's** air ambulance **service** was called to the scene but left without loading any casualties.

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4 Hydro workers killed In Ontario helicopter crash | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

4 employees with Hydro One were killed in a helicopter crash near Kingston. The crash occurred around lunchtime. Local residents raced to the scene. Abigail Bimman reports.

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Helicopter crash kills 4 people in Ontario | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

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Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash near Tweed

The Globe and Mail - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$9,062

Reach: 309154 Page: A11

Four **Hydro** One employees were killed Thursday when the helicopter they were travelling in crashed in a field in Eastern **Ontario**, police and the **utility** reported.

No one survived the crash that occurred just before noon outside Tweed, **north** of **Kingston**, provincial police said.

Kim Clayton, who lives near the crash site, said **hydro** crews had been working for weeks on the **power** lines strung on the towers that cross the property, and she was used to hearing them fly back and forth.

Ms. Clayton said there was no indication of any trouble until a loud crash shook the house. She scrambled to a window, where she said she saw part of the chopper in the trees that surround an open field. Other **hydro** crew members were running around, yelling that a helicopter had crashed and to call 911, she said.

"My heart started pounding in my chest," said Ms. Clayton, 45, who moved onto the property just six weeks ago. "I was in panic mode."

The helicopter was apparently heading for a landing, Ms. Clayton said, adding she was relieved it didn't hit anyone on the ground or her horses, which were on the other side of the field.

Ms. Clayton, whose husband was away and children in school, said she choked up when the orange tape started going up and she realized just how bad it was.

"They have families, it's almost Christmas time," Ms. Clayton said. "I still can't believe four guys died on this property today and it's sad."

The Tweed fire department and several provincial police cruisers responded to the crash but there was little they could do. **Ontario's** air ambulance **service** was also called to the scene but left without loading any casualties.

In a statement, **Hydro** One expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

"We are deeply saddened to confirm that an incident involving one of our helicopter aircraft occurred in the Tweed area and has resulted in four fatalities," **Hydro** One said in a statement.

"Names will not be released as next of kin are being notified."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also expressed his sympathies.

"Tragic news from eastern **Ontario** today," Mr. Trudeau tweeted. "My deepest condolences to the loved ones of those killed in the helicopter crash near Tweed."

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THE SUN TIMES

Hydro One helicopter crash kills four

Owen Sound Sun Times - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$244

Reach: 13178 Page: A2

Four **Hydro** One employees were killed Thursday in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario**, police and the **utility** reported.

The crash occurred about noon in Tweed, **north** of **Kingston**, provincial police said.

Homeowner Kim Clayton said **hydro** crews had been working on her property for weeks and she was used to hearing them fly back and forth. The loud crash shook the house, sending her to a window, where Clayton said she saw part of the chopper in the trees in the distance by an open field.

"My heart started pounding in my chest," said Clatyon, 45. "I was in panic mode."

She said she feared for the worst when she saw ambulances turn away without transporting any of the crew.

"I then said to myself, 'they're not coming out of this.'" The Tweed fire department confirmed it was on the scene of the crash. **Ontario's** air ambulance **service** responded to the scene but said it did not transport any patients.

In a statement, **Hydro** One expressed its condolences.

"We are deeply saddened to confirm that an incident involving one of our helicopter aircraft occurred in the Tweed area and has resulted in four fatalities," **Hydro** One said in a statement. "Names will not be released as next of kin are being notified."

A spokesman for the **Transportation** Safety Board said a team of investigators was en route to the crash site and was expected to arrive by late afternoon. Board spokesman Alex Fournier said the chopper was a 1999 AS350 B2 - a single -engine helicopters often used for corporate purposes.

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The Intelligencer

Four killed in helicopter crash; Hydro One helicopter creashes in Tweed, victims won't be named until next of kin notified

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier And Meghan Balogh

Ad Value: \$2,263

Reach: 9723 Page: A1 / Front

Four people have been killed in a **Hydro** One helicopter crash in the municipality of Tweed, the **Ontario** Provincial Police have confirmed.

Emergency services first responded to a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed and south of Flinton, near Upper Flinton Road, at approximately noon on Thursday, acting Sgt. Tina Hunt of the OPP said.

Hydro One said in a news release that it was "deeply saddened" to confirm that the crash of one of its helicopters resulted in four deaths. Names of the victims will not be released until next of kin are notified.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time," a statement from **Hydro** One reads. "During this grieving process, we will do

everything we can to assist our employees and their families who have been affected in any way, by providing counselling and support."

The coroner, along with numerous OPP and **Hydro** One vehicles, were on the scene. The crash occurred near Kim Clayton's home, slightly over a hill, out of sight of the road in a heavily wooded area.

"**Hydro** crews have been working on the **power** lines near our property for the past week and a half, and the helicopter has been working in the area for the past week, so I heard it all week," Clayton said. "But just before noon it was making a bunch of different sounds that I had become accustomed to, and then there was a loud bang and the house shook. I looked out the window and saw all the men scrambling around, so I went outside and heard them yelling to call 911, the helicopter had crashed. It's a terrible tragedy." Capt. Julie Brunet, **public** affairs officer with 8 Wing Trenton, said that 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron had been dispatched to the scene just after noon Thursday. Brunet said a Hercules aircraft that had been training in the **Peterborough** area was redirected to the site and a CH-146 Griffon helicopter was en route after leaving **Canadian** Forces Base Trenton.

"**Transportation** Safety Board of Canada has been notified and will be conducting an investigation into the cause of the crash. More information will be released as it becomes available," Const. Shannon Cork of the OPP said, her voice catching during a media scrum at the scene.

Alex Fournier, spokesperson for the **Transportation** Safety Board, which has sent a team of investigators to the scene, said the chopper was a 1999 AS350 B2. The single-engine helicopters are often used for corporate purposes.

Members of the OPP Emergency Response Team, OPP Forensic Identification Services, an OPP helicopter, the OPP Canine Unit, officers from the Napanee OPP and Ornge Air Ambulance are assisting at the scene.

"I was in disbelief," Clayton said, adding that at the time she hoped it wasn't as bad as it sounded. "I was just praying that everyone was OK and that it was just a minor ding of a tree. You watch movies and you think with a helicopter there's going to be an explosion or something, but there was nothing. So I didn't think it was going to be as bad as it was."

Clayton recalled watching the **Hydro** One team working on the other towers in the area and being impressed.

"I thought they were all really brave," Clayton said. "You have to be trained really well to be able to hover like that, and do manoeuvres. I was showing my boys pictures."

She said that as she pieced the tragedy all together - watching the workers' bodies be placed in ambulances and the yellow police tape go up - she stood there and cried.

"I'm just thinking about the families," Clayton said. "Those guys came to work this morning and aren't going home tonight. How do you wrap your head around that?" scrosier@postmedia.com - With files from Tim Meeks,

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Copter crash kills four; Hydro One workers killed while working near Tweed

Peterborough Examiner - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Terry Pedwell

Ad Value: \$1,746
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A1 / Front

With little daylight at their disposal and a deep freeze setting in late Thursday, investigators quickly scoured the wreckage of a deadly helicopter crash about 95 kilometres east of **Peterborough**.

None of the four **Hydro** One employees on board the Aerospatiale AS350-B2 chopper survived the crash, which happened shortly before noon, police said.

Parts of the aircraft were scattered over a snow-covered field outside Tweed.

While provincial police confirmed the four deaths, and said that next of kin had been notified, the names of the victims were not released.

Darkness and a cold front that saw **wind** chill temperatures drop to near -30 C eventually forced investigators to wait until first light on Friday to continue their probe into why the helicopter went down.

"We will document the scene, photograph the scene, gather as much information at the scene as we can," **Transportation** Safety Board investigator Peter Rowntree said as **Ontario** Provincial Police cordoned off the crash site for the night.

"At some point the wreckage will be removed to another facility so we can examine it in a warmer **climate**."

Crews had been ferried by helicopter in and out of the area for weeks as they worked on **hydro** lines strung on the towers that cross the property, said Kim Clayton, who lives near the crash site and grew used to hearing choppers fly back and forth.

Clayton said there was no indication of any trouble until a loud crash shook the house. She scrambled to a window, where she said she saw part of the chopper in the trees that surround an open field. Other **hydro** crew members were running around, yelling that a helicopter had crashed and to call 911, she said.

"My heart started pounding in my chest," said Clayton, 45, who moved onto the property just six weeks ago. "I was in panic mode."

Initially Clayton didn't think the situation was that bad but then she said she feared for the worst when she saw ambulances turn away without transporting any of the chopper's crew.

"I then said to myself, 'They're not coming out of this'."

The helicopter was apparently heading for a landing, Clayton said, adding she was relieved it didn't hit anyone on the ground or her horses, which were on the other side of the field.

Clayton, whose husband was away and children in school, said she choked up when the orange tape started going up and she realized just how bad it was.

"They have families, it's almost Christmas time," Clayton said. "I still can't believe four guys died on this property today and it's sad."

The Tweed fire department and several provincial police cruisers responded to the crash but there was little they could do. **Ontario's** air ambulance **service** was also called to the scene but left without loading any casualties.

In a statement, **Hydro** One expressed its condolences to the victims' families.

"We are deeply saddened to confirm that an incident involving one of our

helicopter aircraft occurred in the Tweed area and has resulted in four fatalities," **Hydro** One said in a statement.

The **utility** also said it would do what it could to help employees and their families affected by the tragedy.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also expressed his sympathies.

"Tragic news from eastern **Ontario** today," Trudeau tweeted. "My deepest condolences to the loved ones of those killed in the helicopter crash near Tweed."

Rowntree said investigators would be looking at a wide range of factors to determine a possible cause of the crash, including photographic evidence of the wreckage.

"We'll also be looking at pilot records, training records for the pilot, aircraft maintenance records, aircraft history," he said.

"All that stuff we'll be looking at including weather at the time, and just looking at all the environmental factors to see if anything played a factor in what we're seeing here."

The single-engine AS350 is a **utility** helicopter often used for corporate purposes and by police.

In July 2007, the same model clipped a guy wire in **northern Ontario** and crashed, seriously injuring a **Hydro** One worker and the pilot. And in January 2015, an AS350 crashed in Saskatchewan during **hydro** cable stringing, seriously injuring the pilot. In both cases, pilot error was to blame.

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'Twas the night before holiday break; Ontario legislature takes a festive tone as politicians speak in Christmas rhyme

Toronto Star - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$22,568

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A4

It was a slam poetry throwdown, Christmas-style.

Question period at the Legislature - usually a rambunctious, testy hour reminiscent of the Festivus "airing of grievances" on Seinfeld - took on an unusually festive tone Thursday.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown and his MPPs peppered Premier Kathleen Wynne and her ministers in scripted "'Twas The Night Before Christmas" style, with Liberals quickly adjusting to reply in the same spirit.

"The voters are skeptical, that is no lie. But we have to reflect and ask ourselves why. From this side of the aisle it's plain to see. Premier, will you be accountable and sign the People's Guarantee?"

That question from Deputy Conservative Leader Steve Clark about the recently released PC election platform for the looming June 7 election garnered this response from Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid:

" 'Tis the last question period before Christmas. And I must say with much passion. We will bring in a minimum wage of \$15. With or without your attention."

Ok, so it didn't quite rhyme at the end, but still managed a thinly veiled shot at the Tories for promising to slow the implementation of the \$15 minimum wage, set to take effect in January 2019, by four years.

As the momentum built, it wasn't long before MPPs on all sides of the House were bursting into laughter at the rhymes and retorts.

"Santa will know who's been naughty and nice. He has his list and he's checking it twice. The bad ones get coal, but I'm told last year he missed ya. But this year he won't. Will he get his coal from Avista?"

That broadside from Conservative **energy** critic Todd Smith, a former Belleville radio broadcaster, was aimed at the **Hydro** One purchase of a U.S. **energy** company that burns coal at one of its **power** plants - a dirty fuel the Liberals repeatedly boast about banning in **Ontario**.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** started off well, but ran out of steam. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere we go. You look in **Ontario**, you've got clean air, you've got clean **electricity**," he said, pausing. "I can't make it rhyme, Mr. Speaker, I was trying, I'm sorry, that's all I had."

Conservative MPP Jeff Yurek (Elgin-Middlesex-**London**) made no apologies for the novel approach before politicians head home for their Christmas break, to return after the February Family Day holiday.

"We're in here day in and day out asking the serious questions facing Ontarians. I think everyone this time of year takes a little bit of opportunity just to share that we can get together ... we don't always have to be so negative towards one another," he told reporters.

"I think what we did today, the creative spirit of the PC caucus, was bring that forward ... but we can also present that to the government in a congenial way."

Duguid, who like all cabinet ministers gets briefing notes from staff on how to answer opposition questions, said he'll take the credit - or the blame - for his literary licence. "Maybe I should copyright them," he said later, grinning. "I was overcome by the Christmas spirit so I know not where this creativity came from but a heavenly place, I would expect."

"Even in the spirit of the season no one can say we're not competitive," added Duguid, who is not running in the spring election.

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CBC Listen | Superior Morning | East - West Energy Line

www.cbc.ca - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

It's all about power to the people. Chief Johanna Desmoulin talks about the opportunities the east-west transmission project will mean for her community of Pic Mobert.

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NORTH BAY
NUGGET

Trudeau misleads on carbon pricing promise

North Bay Nugget - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$632

Reach: 11505 Page: A4

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau misled Canadians when he promised his national carbon pricing **plan** would be revenue neutral for the federal government.

As a report by the **independent**, non-partisan Parliamentary Budget Officer Jean-Denis Frechette confirmed Tuesday, Trudeau's government is already raking in hundreds of millions of dollars annually from provincial carbon pricing, even before his mandatory national carbon pricing **plan** kicks in next year.

That's because of the 5% federal Goods and Services Tax, a broadbased consumption tax charged to the final amount of goods and services.

Because carbon pricing, regardless of whether done through a carbon tax or **cap and trade**, raises the cost of goods and services, the **application** of the GST to those higher prices provides **Ottawa** with an entirely new revenue stream.

Thus, when Trudeau's national carbon pricing **plan** kicks in next year, his government will, in short order, be raking in billions of dollars from carbon pricing.

As Conservative MP Mark Warawa and several provinces have rightly noted, that flies in the face of Trudeau's promise his national carbon price will be revenue neutral for his government. To make it neutral, Trudeau would have to use these new revenues from carbon pricing to lower other federal taxes on Canadians, so that the net effect on government revenues is zero.

He has given no indication he will do this.

Frechette's report, stemming from a request for the figures from Warawa, estimates **Ottawa** will rake in between \$501 million and \$580 million over the 2017 and 2018 fiscal years, through the GST, from the provincial carbon pricing plans that already exist in **Ontario**, Alberta, B.C. and Quebec.

Next year, all provinces and territories will be required to participate in Trudeau's national carbon pricing **plan**, which sets a mandatory minimum price of \$10 per tonne of industrial carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2018, rising by \$10 annually to \$50 per tonne in 2022.

This will exponentially increase federal revenues over time, even discounting further increases post-2022.

In 2016, when the Library of Parliament reported **Ottawa** would raise up to \$280 million over two years in new revenue through the GST from carbon pricing in Alberta and B.C. alone, a spokesperson for Finance Minister Bill Morneau dismissed the calculation as "fun with numbers" because "as we all know, the GST/**HST** is a broad-based tax on consumption in Canada, and it's calculated on the final amount charged for a good or **service**. That's always been the case." If anyone's having "fun with numbers" it's Trudeau by not being upfront with Canadians about what "revenue neutrality" means. As noted above, it means when a government imposes a new tax, it lowers other taxes so the net effect on government revenues is zero.

Trudeau's mandatory national carbon price is a new tax, regardless of whether the provinces implement it through **cap and trade** or a carbon tax.

Technically, Trudeau could argue any new money **Ottawa** receives from carbon pricing before 2018 is not because of a new federal tax. But in 2018 when his mandatory national carbon price kicks in, even that flimsy excuse disappears.

As Warawa correctly told The **Canadian** Press in 2016, "The federal government will be reaping in billions of dollars by putting a price on carbon. So when the prime minister ... said publicly and in the House that it will be revenue neutral for the federal government, that is not true." lgoldstein@postmedia.com

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Label everything with its carbon footprint

Peterborough Examiner - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Kurt Crist

Ad Value: \$241

Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

Cap and trade, carbon capture and storage, or carbon tax are all euphemisms for business as usual. Politicians will never be serious about **climate** change as long as they are held in thrall by economists. If the powers that be are serious about **climate** change and carbon pollution, I suggest starting with simple solutions.

Label every product and **service** with its real **carbon footprint** and consumers will do the right thing. The same people who recycle will buy the good or **service** with the lowest **carbon footprint**. This should also be the lowest cost option, if we stop subsidies to **energy** giants.

Another solution is to plant trees - lots and lots of trees.

Sadly, even these ideas will have little effect until we change our thinking on growth as the fix for all our problems. Curtailing growth will solve our problems. It takes a 180-degree change in direction.

Kurt Crist

Consecon

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Is the Ontario government's hydro plan amoral or immoral?

Peterborough This Week - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$25

Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

To the editor

Amoral is not knowing the difference between right and wrong.

Immoral is knowing that something is wrong, but you go ahead and do it anyway.

Decide for yourself which term best applies to Premier Kathleen Wynne and the **Ontario** Liberals in their latest attempt to buy votes in the upcoming election.

Under Kathleen Wynne's **Green Energy Act**, the price of **electricity** in **Ontario** has risen from the least expensive to the most expensive in **North** America. Now, just as the election approaches, we are seeing a reduction in our **electricity** bills.

How have the Liberals made this happen?

They have made it happen by borrowing money to subsidize the cost of **electricity**. This debt plus interest must be paid back, so sometime after the election, **electricity rates** will have to increase beyond the high levels we have already seen.

In an attempt to hide this strategy from the **Ontario public**, the Liberal

government have not borrowed the money themselves. If they had done this, it would have added to **Ontario's** deficit and debt, which would be highly visible.

Instead, they have forced **Ontario Power Generation** (which is owned by the Government of **Ontario**) to borrow the money. It is this debt, which will appear on **hydro** bills, sometime after the election. For this short-term relief in **hydro rates**, \$21 billion of interest will be added to the cost of **electricity**.

To add insult to injury, this is \$4 billion higher than if the **Ontario** Liberals had borrowed the money, as **Ontario Power Generation** must borrow at a higher interest **rate** than the government.

You decide.

Mark Waghorne

Bobcaygeon

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As session ends, NDP keeps focus on health care and hydro – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

For NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, the 2017 legislative session was all about families struggling to cope in overcrowded hospitals, and families struggling to pay their hydro bills – and at her final press conference for the session, she made clear that families that can look to her and the NDP for a plan that offers hope in 2018.

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Wynne provides wrongdoings aplenty for AG - ObserverXtra

observerxtra.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Christmas comes early and often to the handful of beneficiaries of Kathleen Wynne's hydro giveaway. Ripped off consumers can expect nothing but a lump of coal, however.

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West: NDP's power plan includes making Hydro One publically owned again - Sudbury.com

www.sudbury.com - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Liberal Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault continues to claim the Wynne Liberals have gotten hydro bills under control, but let's face it, that's not what families are seeing on their bills. The reality is that after years of calling for action, Kathleen Wynne and her Liberal Energy minister have only brought us one disappointment after another.

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Canada lags in electric vehicle policy: Report

Toronto Sun - Fri Dec 15 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$2,643

Reach: 171076 Page: A24

A **Canadian energy** think tank says the world is less than a decade away from the tipping point at which **electric** cars will cost the same as conventional **gaspowered** vehicles.

But in a report released Thursday, Clean **Energy** Canada says this country is lagging on the government policies that elsewhere are helping spur consumers to adopt the new technology despite reservations about everything from price to reliability to the distance they can travel on a single charge.

"The only way we will get to a point where an **electric** car is an equivalent or cheaper price than a **gas** car is if we can achieve a certain scale of production and to achieve that production we need to do more to make it easier for consumers to choose **electric** vehicles," said Dan Woynillowicz, policy director at the think tank.

Canada also doesn't produce any mass-market **electric** vehicles, fewer than half of **Canadian** dealerships of car makers that have **electric** vehicle models even sell them and supply is so limited here it can take months for a **Canadian** who wants an **electric** vehicle to actually drive it off the lot.

The waiting list to get a Chevy Bolt, the most popular **electric** vehicle sold in Canada, is about eight months, said Woynillowicz.

If Canada doesn't jump on board more quickly, the rest of the world is going to snap up those opportunities and we'll lose out, says the report.

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City looks to install curbside charging stations

Kitchener Post - Wed Dec 13 2017

Tone: **Positive** Page: 1

Kitchener is looking to make a joint grant **application** to install curbside charging units for **electric** vehicles.

A recent pilot project in Montreal conducted by FLO, a subsidiary of AddEnergie, proved successful. Through a partnership with Natural Resources Canada, they're seeking to demonstrate the solution at the national level by awarding five grants across Canada, each for up to 10 dual-port charging units.

If approved, Justin Readman, **Kitchener**'s executive director of infrastructure services, said each city in **Waterloo** Region would receive up to 50 per cent of the capital cost for three dual units, estimated to cost \$65,000, which would **service** six on-street parking spots in each jurisdiction.

Based on data collected by Sustainable **Waterloo** Region there are close to 300 **electric** vehicle owners in the region.

"Some business provide free charging, so if you look at Starbucks, for example, they put that in their business model," Readman pointed out.

As charging stations provided by a municipality are a **public** amenity, Readman said they would operate under a cost-recovery model, much like the charging stations currently located inside the city's parking garages.

Currently, in the city of **Kitchener**, there are 12 publicly available **electric**-vehicle

charging stations with 18 charging plugs. The **rate** for using a curbside charging station would likely be similar - between \$1 and \$2 per hour, Readman said.

Fifteen per cent of the revenue collected will be retained by FLO. The City of **Kitchener** and Grand **River Energy** Solutions Corp. - a joint venture of local **hydro utilities** hoping to partner with the municipalities - will split the remaining 85 per cent.

"We stand to gain a pilot and be one of the first municipalities in Canada to have curbside charging stations available for our citizens and people who do business in downtown," Readman said, adding that GRE would own and maintain the stations.

Coun. John Gazzola pointed out that the net revenue to be split by the city and GRE - estimated at \$2,792 in year one and going up to \$5,584 by year five - doesn't offset the initial capital cost to the city of \$32,500.

"So what do we get for that other than saying we're first?" he asked.

Without a clear answer, Gazzola later voted against the grant **application**. According to staff, a letter of intent must be provided by end of month, with installation anticipated by the end of March 2019.

Upon confirmation of the grant, the downtown locations will be determined by city staff, GRE and FLO, through consultation with the Downtown **Kitchener** BIA.

"As a proud owner of an **electric** vehicle, I support this proposal," said Coun. Sarah Marsh.

"It's really important that we have these charging stations available at street level, not only for our residents ... but also for visitors from other communities who come into **Kitchener** and need to charge to continue on their way, and we can be a welcoming community," she said.

Coun. Paul Singh noted that the **corporation** also has an obligation to be environmentally responsible.

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