

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: December 18, 2017 7:55 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, December 18, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Monday, December 18, 2017
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 29 Results



Erie Thames seeks charge increase; ontario energy board reviewing \$2.70 month hike request for distribution charges

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Tapley

Ad Value: \$714

Reach: 7920 Page: A2

At least one ingersoll resident is urging the **ontario energy board** to pull the plug on a request from **erie thames Powerlines** to increase its average residential bill for ...



Alectra Utilities to merge with Guelph Hydro

Mississauga News - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,426

Reach: 123300 Page: 1

Alectra **Utilities** is forging ahead with plans to acquire **Guelph Hydro**. Mississauga councillors unanimously voted in favour of the proposed merger on Wednesday. If approved by the **Ontario** ...



Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company

Stoney Creek News - Fri Dec 15 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. ...



CBC Listen | The Morning Edition - K-W | Energy expert Jatin Nathwani weighs in on planned merger of Guelph Hydro and Alectra

www.cbc.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

atin Nathwani, executive director of the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy, comments on the planned merger of Guelph Hydro and publicly-owned utility company Alectra.



Private Hydro One means end of public oversight

Windsor Star - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Vito Pilieci

Ad Value: \$7,939

Reach: 54680 Page: A5

The privatization of Ontario's largest **power utility** has left the province with a major blind spot: The **public** is no longer able to scrutinize millions of dollars consumers are paying for green **energy**. ...



Grits'sad mismanagement; Another \$1B down the drain?

Ottawa Sun - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,610

Reach: 45442 Page: A5

Another billion-dollar Liberal government boondoggle might be in the works. Think e-health and **gas** plants. The problem is, we might never find out about this one. Fears are starting to emerge regarding business and residence green ...



Grit numbers don't add up; Independent financial officers say Wynne government's books can't be trusted

Ottawa Sun - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: \$2,572

Reach: 38456 Page: A16

It's unprecedented in Ontario's political history. With less than six months to go before the June 7 election, two **independent**, non-partisan financial watchdogs of the **Ontario** Legislature say the books of Premier Kathleen ...



Wynne on trial

London Free Press - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Paul Leinweber

Ad Value: \$699

Reach: 77670 Page: A15

Regarding the article Wynne sues Brown over trial remark (dec. 12). Progressive conservative Leader Patrick Brown has no reason to apologize because Premier Kathleen Wynne is on trial every day that she is premier of this province. Her actions ...



Wynne wades into hostile town-hall territory

Toronto Star - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn OPINION

Ad Value: \$25,355

Reach: 500678 Page: A14

Coming soon to a town near you: a town hall with your premier. Kathleen Wynne has taken her campaign trail road show on tour - six months early. By next May the campaign will be underway for Ontario's June 7 election, but Wynne isn't waiting. ...



Carbon price plans not due till end of 2018; NDP Slams Delay

London Free Press - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: \$4,160

Reach: 77670 Page: N4

Environment Minister Catherine Mc-Kenna says a national price on carbon won't be imposed on any province for at least another year. Carbon pricing legislation will be introduced sometime in 2018, and McKenna said Friday that provinces will have ...



Provinces get a year on carbon pricing

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: \$10,635

Reach: 185480 Page: A9

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna says a national price on carbon won't be imposed on any province for at least another year. Carbon pricing legislation will be introduced sometime in 2018, and McKenna said Friday that provinces will have ...



Men killed in helicopter crash identified

Peterborough Examiner - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Tim Miller

Ad Value: \$855

Reach: 19693 Page: A1 / Front

The names of four **Hydro One** employees who were killed in a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed earlier this week have been released. "It is with heavy hearts that we share the names of the **Hydro One** ...



Friends and family mourn Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash

Toronto Star - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Salmaan Farooqui The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$8,118

Reach: 315452 Page: A6

Best friends, soulmates, fiancées and boyfriends: that's how friends and family are remembering some of the four **Ontario utility** workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** on Thursday. The men, ...



Helicopter crash that killed four Hydro One workers under investigation in Ontario

THE NATIONAL - Sat Dec 16 2017, 6:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

AARTI **POLE** (HOST): Investigators in **Ontario** are working to determine what caused the helicopter crash that killed four **Hydro One** workers. It went down Thursday as it was trying to land near the community ...



UPDATE: Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in helicopter crash

www.iheartradio.ca - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Friends and families are mourning the loss of four Ontario utility workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Ontario on Thursday.



Hydro One IDs 4 employees killed in helicopter crash | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Hydro One has released the names of the four crew members who were killed Thursday when their helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario.



Hydro One pilots crashed on landing approach: TSB; Transportation Safety Board investigators will continue to collect evidence to determine the cause of the fatal accident

The Globe and Mail - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: DANIELA GERMANO

Ad Value: \$11,101

Reach: 372649 Page: A10

Investigators say a helicopter crash that killed four **Hydro One** workers in Eastern **Ontario** this week happened as the chopper was approaching to land. The **Transportation** Safety Board says it has obtained ...



Hydro One helicopter was attempting to land at time of fatal crash

THE NATIONAL - Fri Dec 15 2017, 10:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: GREG KIRALY

ANDREW CHANG (HOST): But we're also learning more tonight about two other big ones from this week. ROSEMARY BARTON (HOST): That's right, Andrew. Let's begin with that deadly helicopter crash. Today employees of the **Ontario** ...



Hydro One grounds helicopter fleet after fatal crash

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$1,995

Reach: 185480 Page: A7

Ontario's **Hydro One**, the province's **electrical power** company, has grounded all its helicopter crews in the aftermath of a chopper crash that killed four employees. CEO Mayo Schmidt said the fleet would not ...



Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

TORONTO - Investigators are expected to spend the weekend at the scene of a deadly helicopter crash near Tweed, in eastern **Ontario**. Thursday's crash killed four **Hydro One** workers. It happened as the ...



Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in eastern Ontario helicopter crash

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

Friends and families are mourning the loss of four **Ontario utility** workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** on Thursday. The men, identified by **Hydro One** on Saturday as ...



Hydro in mourning

Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier

Ad Value: \$422

Reach: 10892 Page: A1 / Front

Hydro One has halted all work and is mourning following a fatal helicopter crash that took the lives of four of their employees on Thursday, says the president and CEO. "Our hearts and love are with those young men and their ...



Officials investigating pilot training, maintenance after fatal Hydro One chopper crash | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Investigators are expected to spend the weekend at the scene of a deadly

helicopter crash near Tweed, in eastern Ontario.



Victims of Hydro One helicopter crash identified | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The Power Workers' Union in Ontario has identified the four workers who lost their lives after a Hydro One helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario on Thursday.



Hydro One IDs 4 employees killed in helicopter crash | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Hydro One has released the names of the four crew members who were killed Thursday when their helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario.



Hydro One grounds helicopter crews after crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

One of Canada's largest electricity companies has grounded its helicopter fleet as investigators work to determine what caused a chopper crash that killed four of the utility's workers in eastern Ontario.



CTV News Channel: Trying to determine cause | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)



Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in eastern Ontario helicopter crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario's largest electricity provider has released the names its four employees who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Ontario on Thursday.



Enbridge confident about oilsands growth: This week's best quotes | Pipelines & Transportation | JWN Energy

www.jwnenergy.com - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, December 16, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Here are some of the best news quotes from coverage in the Daily Oil Bulletin for the week ending December 15, 2017:

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Erie Thames seeks charge increase; ontario energy board reviewing \$2.70 month hike request for distribution charges

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Tapley

Ad Value: \$714

Reach: 7920 Page: A2

At least one ingersoll resident is urging the **ontario energy board** to pull the plug on a request from **erie thames Powerlines** to increase its average residential bill for **electricity distribution** by \$2.70 per month starting May 1, 2018.

Making a presentation at a community meeting hosted by the **oeb** at the Unifor Hall in ingersoll on tuesday, dec. 12, tim lobzun said **erie thames** is already sending out some of the most expensive bills in the region and that there are no options available to consumers.

"We can't, as residential customers, as commercial customers, we can't shop around," he said. "we have zero choice on that. if you live in ingersoll you buy your **hydro** from **erie thames**."

He said \$2.70 per month may not seem like much, but it adds up over the course of a year, and impacts people's finances.

"The **oeb** should just leave it," said lobzun. "Say no to the increase and let **erie thames** go back and say 'How can we do this? do everything we need to do without that increase.'" ingersoll resident rick eus asked what the impact would be if the increase is denied. **erie thames** president and ceo chris white responded that reliability of its **distribution** system could be weakened over the long term and how the company manages and maintains the services it provides.

White said **greater** frequency and duration of **power** outages could be among the results. in making his presentation at the meeting, white said \$2.70 is the number referred to in the **application** to the **oeb**, but with investments in infrastructure that have resulted in line loss reduction - **electricity** lost in **transmission** and **distribution** - the actual impact to the average residential bill will be about 50 cents per month or less than half a percent.

"It's not quite what it seems on the overall bill impact," he said. white said the increase is needed to cover the cost of inflation and that there are end-of-life assets that have to be replaced, including poles, **wires** and transformers. **erie thames** has not requested a significant increase in its **distribution** charges in several years. white noted that on a \$100 **electricity** bill, **erie thames** keeps a little over \$18 of it, the rest are "passthrough charges" like regulatory charges and **HSt**. **erie thames Powerlines** services 20,000 **electricity** customers, 17,000 of them residential. besides residential, small commercial customers would see about another \$2 added to their bill each month. ingersoll residents Joe walters and his wife, linda walters, were among a handful of **erie thames** customers who turned out to last tuesday's meeting. they said they would like to see **erie thames**' request denied.

"I would like to see our **rates** cheaper," Joe walters said. "it's not the **hydro** itself,

it's all these **service** charges." the **public** meeting is part of the **oeb review** process.

"For every major **electricity rate application** it receives, the **oeb** holds one or more meetings within the community affected so that customers can learn why their **utility** is asking for new **rates**, how that money will be spent and how they can have a say in the **review** process," wrote the **independent** agency in a press release.

Any increases have to be approved by the **oeb**.

"We control costs by reviewing and testing the requested **rate** change through an open and robust **review** process," said **oeb** registrar Kristi Sebalj. "we hold the **utilities** to account, keeping **rates** as low as possible, while making sure **utilities** have what they need to keep the lights on." the **oeb** notes that it frequently doesn't approve the full **rate** increases requested by **utilities**, often limiting increases to an average of 40 percent of the requested amount. the community meeting is only the start of the **review** process. the **oeb** typically takes nine months to reach a decision on a **rate** change request. customers can get involved throughout the process. More information is available on the internet at **oeb.ca/participate**

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Alectra Utilities to merge with Guelph Hydro

Mississauga News - Thu Dec 14 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,426

Reach: 123300 Page: 1

Alectra **Utilities** is forging ahead with plans to acquire **Guelph Hydro**.

Mississauga councillors unanimously voted in favour of the proposed merger on Wednesday. If approved by the **Ontario Energy Board**, the merger is expected to generate \$18 million to \$26 million in additional synergies over an eight to ten-year period.

"This will manifest into lower **rates** for consumers in the Alectra **service** area," said Brian Bentz, president and CEO of Alectra.

The company predicts a decrease of seven to \$10 per year for Alectra **ratepayers**. This is in addition to the \$40 residential customers are already saving as a result of the initial Alectra merger, which took place in February.

"This is a good news story," said Coun. Pat Saito, adding she looks forward to seeing the city's portion of the dividend grow year over year.

Mississauga is projected to receive over \$600 million in dividends over the next 25 years, according to Mayor Bonnie Crombie's office.

Alectra was formed as a result of the merger of **Enersource**, Horizon **Utilities** and **PowerStream** and serves 15 communities across the **Greater Toronto** and Hamilton Area. It is the second largest municipally-owned **electric utility** by **customer** base in **North** America, providing **power** to over one million customers.

With the acquisition of **Guelph Hydro**, Mississauga's ownership stake in Alectra will decrease slightly, from 27.9 per cent to 26.6 per cent.

"We think that's good value in terms of the relative value that's been negotiated with the City of **Guelph**," said Bentz.

Guelph council approved the merger in a special council meeting on Dec. 13.

The city will see a one-time bonus of \$18 million as well as \$10 million in dividends over a 20-year period.

The City of **Guelph** and Alectra will make a formal **application** to the **Ontario Energy Board**, a process which could take up to 12 months.

Bentz anticipates the merger will close by Dec. 2018.

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Alectra Inc. adds Guelph Hydro to its growing utility company

Stoney Creek News - Fri Dec 15 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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CBC Listen | The Morning Edition - K-W | Energy expert Jatin Nathwani weighs in on planned merger of Guelph Hydro and Alectra

www.cbc.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

atin Nathwani, executive director of the Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy, comments on the planned merger of Guelph Hydro and publicly-owned utility company Alectra.

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Private Hydro One means end of public oversight

Windsor Star - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Vito Pilieci

Ad Value: \$7,939

Reach: 54680 Page: A5

The privatization of **Ontario's** largest **power utility** has left the province with a major blind spot: The **public** is no longer able to scrutinize millions of dollars consumers are paying for green **energy**.

It's a situation that shows "nobody is minding the store" when it comes to keeping track of much of **Ontario's solar energy** production, one expert says.

At the heart of the issue is a simple question: Are **energy** producers who are paid to feed the **Ontario** grid with **solar power** being given an opportunity to milk the system? The province says that's not the case, but critics are questioning what they see as a lack of oversight.

Here's how it works. Businesses and residences that generate their own **solar electricity** and feed it into **Ontario's power** grid are under **contract** to generate

a specific amount of **energy**.

New technology is capable of allowing some to more easily ramp up their production and to increase their output by as much as 40 per cent. Currently, producers are being paid between 20 and just over 80 cents per kilowatt hour, depending on when they signed their contracts with the province.

Oversight is needed to make sure these FIT (**Feed-In Tariff**) and **MicroFit** producers, as they are called, are not feeding the grid excess **power**. Costs for such excess **power** are invariably passed on, in some form, to consumers.

Ontario's **power** system is governed by a web of bodies, including the Crown corporation **Independent Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**), the provincially appointed **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) and local **distribution** companies.

The largest of the **distribution** companies is **Hydro** One, which manages 39 per cent of the FIT and **MicroFIT** contracts on behalf of the province. So who makes sure the green **energy** producers aren't oversupplying - and therefore overbilling? Tara Brautigam, a spokesman with the **Ontario Energy Board**, says the **OEB** is not responsible for regular monitoring of those contracts.

"The **IESO** administers or operates the wholesale **electricity** market, not the **OEB**. Similarly, the **IESO** enters into and administers FIT contracts," said Brautigam.

The **IESO**, meanwhile, said that while it is responsible for the province's **electricity** market, it does not track the amount of money paid to individual green **power** generators on a regular basis to ensure those businesses are not overproducing.

According to its website, the **IESO** says it monitors all **energy** input in the province every five minutes.

However, when asked about FIT contracts specifically, it backed away from that statement.

"Each project is individually metered and settled by the (local **distribution** company)," said John Cannella, a spokesman for the **IESO**.

"**Hydro** One is responsible for metering and settling FIT contracts in their **service** territory, as other (local **distribution** companies) are responsible for the ones in their respective **service** territories."

However, when the Liberal government initiated the sale of 51 per cent of **Hydro** One in 2015, the **utility** changed from being a transparent Crown **corporation** to a publicly traded, for-profit business.

And that appears to have been a game-changer.

As part of that transformation, **Hydro** One says it is no longer required to comply with freedom of information laws.

As a result, how **Hydro** One is managing those green **energy** contracts is subjected to very little **public** scrutiny.

The **utility** is also no longer responsible for providing information to the province's auditor general. A spokeswoman for the auditor general's office pointed to the office's 2015 report in which the auditor general, Bonnie Lysyk, highlighted that the sale of **Hydro** One to private interests would remove any oversight into the **utility**'s operations.

Already the **utility**'s executives have disappeared from the province's **public** sector salary disclosure data, more commonly known as the Sunshine List, which details provincial employees who earn more than \$100,000 annually.

Hydro One confirmed that while it does monitor the **energy** production and pay thousands of FIT and **MicroFit** producers across the province, it is no longer able to share any information about those contracts publicly.

"We aren't able to provide the **customer** information," said Tiziana Baccega Rosa, a spokeswoman for **Hydro** One.

"All local **distribution** companies ... meter the generators' hourly output and pay them monthly for the exact kWh (kilowatt hours) they produce. The local **distribution** company then bills the **IESO** monthly for all of the embedded generation that was paid out that month. This is the process set by the **IESO** and the local **distribution** company can be audited at any time."

Baccega Rosa said it is in **Hydro** One's best interest to monitor the contracts to ensure that producers aren't overgenerating **energy**, as overproduction could damage components of the **electrical** grid.

However, increased **energy transportation** across the province's **electrical** grid would also allow the privately held **Hydro** One to charge **ratepayers** more in **transmission** costs. The **IESO**, meanwhile, said it has conducted 400 audits of green **energy** producers, representing about 10 per cent of all FIT **contract** holders.

None of those was found to be overproducing.

But there is evidence that overproduction of **energy** is a real issue for **Ontario**.

A study the **Ontario** Society of Professional Engineers released last month estimated that in 2016 alone, **Ontario** lost between \$384 million and \$675 million on clean **energy** exports due to an oversupply.

In other words, after paying millions of dollars to generate the **power**, Ontarians paid millions more to get rid of the **electricity** because the province didn't need it.

The auditor general has also complained about the issue.

Between 2009 and 2014, **Ontario** exported 95.1 million megawatt hours (MWh) of **power** to other jurisdictions, including New York and Michigan. The province lost as much as \$3.1 billion by exporting that **power**.

"We have confidence in both the **Independent** System Operator (**IESO**) and the **Ontario Energy Board** to ensure that our renewables contracts are being managed appropriately," said Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault**.

Critics slammed the response. "That's what happens when you break up this system. Now, nobody is minding the store," said Steve Aplin, an **energy** environment data specialist with website Emmissiontrak.

"It's outrageous that the **IESO**, they send the cheques. You don't just blindly send a cheque off to somebody. There must be some fiduciary responsibility."

Todd Smith, MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings and PC **energy** critic, said the inability to pull back the curtain on **Hydro** One and request specific records of the payments it's been making on behalf of **Ontario ratepayers** is "alarming."

Smith's comments were supported by Michael Mantha, NDP MPP for **Algoma-Manitoulin**, who called the decision to sell off a majority of **Hydro** One "wrong-headed."

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Grits'sad mismanagement; Another \$1B down the drain?

Ottawa Sun - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$2,610

Reach: 45442 Page: A5

Another billion-dollar Liberal government boondoggle might be in the works. Think e-health and **gas** plants. The problem is, we might never find out about this one.

Fears are starting to emerge regarding business and residence green **energy** producers who feed **Ontario's hydro** grid. It's just another sad chapter in the incompetence of the provincial government in managing the **energy** portfolio.

Producers are being paid between 20 and just over 80 cents per kilowatt hour. With new technology emerging, they can increase their output by an extra 40% whether the grid needs it or not. How do we know they are not abusing the system? Well, we don't.

If these producers feed excess **power**, they are overbilling the system, the system being you and me. To make matters worse, when we have an oversupply, we have to shed it, which means giving it away or selling it under cost to **energy**-starved jurisdictions.

In 2016 alone, this cost us a whopping amount, between \$384 million and \$675 million, according to the **Ontario** Society of Professional Engineers. **Hydro** One says it monitors the production and payouts to the producers, but will provide scant details, because legally it's not obliged to. Trust us, they say. Sure.

With **Hydro** One's track record of **public service**, we should be very weary.

How can this lack of accountability be possible? It's a direct result of privatizing **Hydro** One in 2015 by Premier Kathleen Wynne and then energy minister Bob Chiarelli and their decision to remove the oversight jurisdiction of **independent** officers of parliament and neuter statutes such as the freedom of information laws. This, despite the fact the government still owns almost half of **Hydro** One's shares.

The overly simplistic rationale for removing outside oversight is that it's not the way the private sector works. Plus, **Hydro** One has its own internal ombudsman (We all know how well that works).

Public ombudsmen oversee private-sector **consumer** organizations all over the world - there is ample precedence.

Even at the federal level, Canada Post, structured much like a private company with a president, chair and board of directors, is subject to the federal Access to Information Act.

But **Hydro** One, with a reputation of overpaying its employees, offering shoddy treatment to its customers and under-delivering on its promises, managed nonetheless to carve out its own zone of oversight and statutory immunity, thanks to Wynne and Chiarelli.

The **Independent Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**), one of the governing players in the **energy** sector, rarely tracks the amount of money paid to producers to check whether they are over producing. The **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) has no role in the monitoring.

A poorly informed spokesman for **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** offered this misleading reassurance: "We have confidence in both the **IESO** and the **OEB** to ensure that our renewables contracts are being managed appropriately."

The resulting lack of proper checks and balance was an entirely predictable

result. In my last report as **Ontario's** ombudsman in May 2015, entitled "In the Dark," I warned the government not to remove ombudsman oversight over **Hydro**. One given its historical record of not living up "to principles of good **public** administration." It was the only one of 66 recommendations rejected by Wynne and Chiarelli (Mind you, even if the government had preserved jurisdiction, **Hydro** One would have little to fear from invisible **Ontario** Ombudsman-light Paul Dubé).

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Grit numbers don't add up; Independent financial officers say Wynne government's books can't be trusted

Ottawa Sun - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: \$2,572

Reach: 38456 Page: A16

It's unprecedented in **Ontario's** political history.

With less than six months to go before the June 7 election, two **independent**, non-partisan financial watchdogs of the **Ontario** Legislature say the books of Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government cannot be trusted.

Both the Auditor General and the Financial Accountability Office (FAO) say that despite claims by Wynne and Finance Minister Charles Sousa that the government's books are now balanced and will be for at least the next two years, the reality is the Liberals are running multi-billion-dollar deficits that will only get bigger over time.

While the government predicted a balanced budget for the current 2017-18 fiscal year in its April 28 budget speech, FAO Chief Economist David **West** and Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk predict the actual deficit this year will be in the range of \$4 billion to \$4.5 billion.

The Liberals' budget speech also predicted balanced budgets for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 fiscal years.

But the FAO last week, supporting earlier findings by Lysyk, projected a \$7.1 billion deficit in 2018-19, \$7.8 billion in 2019-20, \$9 billion in 2020-21 and \$9.8 billion in 2021-22.

Counting all government fiscal obligations, the FAO projected that, "**Ontario's** net debt will increase by more than \$75 billion over the next four years to approximately \$400 billion, on the Auditor General's accounting basis."

(When the Liberals took office in 2003, **Ontario's** net debt was \$138.8 billion) The FAO warned "rising debt will increase the Province's net debt-to-GDP ratio (a key indicator of financial health) to over 41% by 2021-22, well above the government's interim target of 35% by 2023-24."

Wynne's goal of reducing the net debt-to-GDP ratio to pre-recession levels of 27% by 2029-30 appears even more unlikely.

Lysyk and the FAO warn there are serious financial implications to the fact the province now has, in effect, two sets of books, one by the Wynne government and the other by **independent** financial officers of the Legislature whose job is to report on the province's fiscal situation.

In her Dec. 6 annual report, Lysyk warned "there is a very real risk" the "government's continued use of nonstandard accounting" will "seriously distort the true state of the province's finances... The government uses these

incorrect accounting treatments to claim it has balanced the province's books, but in reality, legislators, the financial community and all Ontarians will be misled as to the true condition of the province's finances."

In its fall economic and fiscal outlook released last week, the FAO warned, "since the government has not adopted the Auditor General's recommended accounting for both the **Fair Hydro Plan** and net pension assets, it is becoming more difficult for legislators and the **public** to assess the government's fiscal projections. This has reduced the transparency and reliability of **Ontario's** fiscal **plan**."

Lysyk argues the government is improperly claiming the \$11.5 billion surplus in the **Ontario** Teachers' Pension **Plan** as an asset, because it cannot access these funds without the permission of **Ontario's** teacher unions.

She also contends the financial borrowing required to finance Wynne's reduction of **electricity rates** by 25% is improperly designed to keep the costs from impacting **Ontario's** annual deficits and debt, and will require the **public** to pay \$4 billion more than necessary in interest payments over three decades.

As a result, Lysyk has refused to give the Wynne government's Consolidated Financial Statements a clean bill of health, issuing a "qualified opinion" regarding their accuracy last year, the first time an **Ontario** auditor general has done so in more than two decades.

The Wynne government disagrees with Lysyk's conclusions, portraying it as an accounting dispute.

In November 2016 it hired what it described as an expert, fourperson pension advisory panel, with a budget of up to \$435,000 for salaries, excluding expenses, which in February 2017 backed the government's accounting on the teachers' pension **plan**.

The government also issued a 1057-word rebuttal of Lysyk's findings on its **Fair Hydro Plan**, stating, "the government of **Ontario** does not agree with the assertions and conclusions expressed in the report by the Office of the Auditor General", adding it had consulted "legal, accounting, financial and **energy** sector third-party experts" to ensure it was in compliance with "**Public** Sector Accounting Standards."lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Wynne on trial

London Free Press - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Paul Leinweber

Ad Value: \$699

Reach: 77670 **Page:** A15

Regarding the article Wynne sues Brown over trial remark (dec. 12).

Progressive conservative Leader Patrick Brown has no reason to apologize because Premier Kathleen Wynne is on trial every day that she is premier of this province.

Her actions around **Hydro** One money giveaways, **wind** turbines, closing **gas** plants, wasted money on government-run hospitals, overpaying CEOs working on ridiculous contracts, Elgin-Middlesex detention **centre** problems, starting a useless **Ontario** Pension **Plan**, rising **energy** costs, million-dollar handouts to cities to garner votes come election times, poor handling of the **community college** strike, raising the minimum wage too quickly, and poor results from elementary school testing are all examples of how she is on trial every day of the

year.

Paul Leinweber

St. Marys

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Wynne wades into hostile town-hall territory

Toronto Star - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn **OPINION**

Ad Value: \$25,355

Reach: 500678 **Page:** A14

Coming soon to a town near you: a town hall with your premier.

Kathleen Wynne has taken her campaign trail road show on tour - six months early. By next May the campaign will be underway for **Ontario's** June 7 election, but Wynne isn't waiting.

Peppered with tough questions when she walked into a Brampton community **centre** this week and a **Toronto** concert hall last month, she never got a lob ball.

Why submit herself to a **public** grilling when the feedback is so relentlessly negative? Risk-averse strategists normally shield unpopular politicians from such uncontrolled encounters.

Applause was polite at best. People didn't show her much love, but they didn't manifest much hate, either.

Wynne cut through the negativity with some deft responses, and got grudging acknowledgement of her willingness to meet people face-to-face without ducking.

"I really want to congratulate you for being so brave to be here," one questioner said from a floor microphone.

The **Toronto** and Brampton events are an early preview of the province-wide tour coming in the new year. A seemingly laudable exercise in democratic accountability, it comes with a catch, because it's bankrolled by taxpayers on the eve of an election.

Normally, the nominal costs of renting a hall and speaker system would be a quibble - a small price to pay for the payoff of putting a premier on the hot seat. But it's awfully late in the election season to be sending Wynne on tour at **public** expense (it's not as if the government is offering the opposition leaders equal time).

But these all-expenses-paid town halls also come at a political cost to the Liberals. By convening them under government auspices, Wynne's handlers have relinquished whatever influence they'd otherwise wield over who gets in, who gets to ask questions and who gets to clap - or sit on their hands.

Town halls traditionally are underwritten by political parties, the audience is personally invited and their questions screened. In the last federal election, Stephen Harper's Conservatives turned their tightly controlled events into parodies of partisanship, and former Progressive Conservative leader Tim Hudak spoke to mostly loyalists.

By contrast, Wynne's encounters are open to anyone of any political persuasion, and facing the unknown in unscripted settings is never a slam dunk for any

sitting premier. Unlike the predictability of press conferences, a **public** town hall is more like going door to door, where voters talk in more personal terms about how government has let them down (one man described how shoddy medical treatment led to a preventable amputation of "a chunk of my foot").

There were recurring questions about rising auto insurance **rates**, hospital overcrowding, child-care shortages, growing government debt, a painful colleges strike, **Hydro** One privatization and cannabis sales (the Beer Store being ancient history). Wynne showed empathy, never losing her cool even when it got heated.

The premier's recurring pitch is that much of what ails the province can be remedied with a suite of new Liberal policies - Pharmacare for children and young adults, a \$15 minimum wage and improved transit. She seems at ease amid the give and take, noting the irony of role reversal - she used to ask the tough questions as an education activist before entering politics.

For all the audience ambivalence, there was no palpable hostility or antipathy. Interestingly, Wynne won rare applause after explaining to a questioner why she's suing PC Leader Patrick Brown (he refuses to retract an erroneous statement claiming she was "a sitting premier sitting in trial" in a **Sudbury** byelection case that was thrown out of court).

Despite the downside, the upside is that these town halls are akin to training camp for a premier about to hit the campaign trail.

Yet no matter how agile her responses - and many were nimble in the circumstances - some questions are difficult to answer (and some misdeeds hard to answer for) when your party is coming up on 15 years in **power**. Which raises the question of who can credibly and persuasively provide the answers that voters seek.

For all the doubts about Wynne's re-election prospects, there won't be any final verdict until her rivals show they, too, can hold their own in similarly unscripted settings during the coming campaign - notably in televised election debates. Coming soon, after the town halls, to a TV near you.

Martin Regg Cohn's political column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. mcohn@thestar.ca, Twitter: @reggcohn

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Carbon price plans not due till end of 2018; NDP Slams Delay

London Free Press - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: \$4,160

Reach: 77670 **Page:** N4

Environment Minister Catherine Mc-Kenna says a national price on carbon won't be imposed on any province for at least another year.

Carbon pricing legislation will be introduced sometime in 2018, and McKenna said Friday that provinces will have until the end of that year to submit their own carbon pricing plans before a national price is imposed on those that don't meet the federal standard.

"We were very clear last year as part of our **climate plan** that there needs to be a price on pollution and we need to see it across the country," McKenna said. "We will be evaluating all of the systems in 2018, so for provinces that have come up with systems we will be having a look at it." A year ago, McKenna said provinces would have to impose at least a \$10-per-tonne carbon price by 2018, rising to

\$50 a tonne by 2022. Any province that doesn't would have a federal price imposed on it.

Ottawa needs to pass legislation to impose the federal carbon tax that will include outlining how it will return the revenues to the provinces where the money was raised.

NDP environment critic Linda Duncan said a carbon price "by 2018" to her meant by Jan. 1, 2018. She was dismayed to learn it will be an entire year later.

"It is ridiculous," said Duncan. "What is taking so long?" Patrick DeRochie, **climate** and **energy** program manager at Environmental Defence, said this delay, on top of pushing back the start date for new methane regulations and delaying regulations for a clean **fuels** standard, is concerning.

"There's been a lot of positive talk from this government on **climate** action but it's time for them to get their hands dirty," said DeRochie.

A forced carbon price has been a thorny issue with many provincial governments since it was first dropped on them in October 2016. Several environment ministers walked out of the meeting with McKenna when it was first discussed.

Eight provinces and all three territories eventually backed the idea when they signed on to the Pan **Canadian** Framework for Clean Growth and **Climate** Change on Dec. 9, 2016.

However, no province has a **plan** to meet the federal requirement all the way to 2022, and only five right now are likely to be in compliance in 2018.

Nova Scotia has a new **cap and trade** system coming in next year but it's not clear if it meets the federal requirements yet.

Saskatchewan and New Brunswick both have **climate** plans that McKenna has said do not seem to meet the federal threshold.

Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador haven't yet said what they **plan** to do.

The Saskatchewan government has threatened to sue **Ottawa** if it tries to impose a carbon price on it.

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Provinces get a year on carbon pricing

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mia Rabson

Ad Value: \$10,635

Reach: 185480 Page: A9

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna says a national price on carbon won't be imposed on any province for at least another year.

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The Saskatchewan government has threatened to sue **Ottawa** if it tries to impose a carbon price on it.

On Friday, McKenna unveiled details of a \$1-billion low carbon leadership fund that will be divided among six provinces over the next five years to help them initiate programs to cut emissions.

Most provinces intend to use the money for **energy** efficiency programs, though some **plan** to direct it to reforestation projects or to help farmers use more efficient methods in their operations. P.E.I. and Newfoundland and Labrador have yet to come to an agreement with **Ottawa** on how they'll spend their share of the funds. Manitoba and Saskatchewan will not qualify for a share of the fund unless they sign onto the **climate** framework by the end of this year.

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Men killed in helicopter crash identified

Peterborough Examiner - Mon Dec 18 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Tim Miller

Ad Value: \$855

Reach: 19693 **Page:** A1 / Front

The names of four **Hydro** One employees who were killed in a helicopter crash northeast of Tweed earlier this week have been released.

"It is with heavy hearts that we share the names of the **Hydro** One employees who lost their lives in Thursday's tragic accident," began a **Hydro** One statement on Saturday.

Hydro One identified the men as 39-year-old James Barager, 27-year-old Kyle Shorrock, and Jeff Howes and Darcy Jansen, both 26.

The men were killed while working on a **transmission** tower in Tweed.

Hydro One says Barager, the pilot, had been with the company since 2009 and was from the **Orillia** area.

Howes, of Bath, Ont., and Jansen, of Long Sault, Ont., were both line technicians and had been with **Hydro** One since August 2013.

Shorrock, of Inverary, Ont., had been with the company since 2014 and was also a line technician.

"Our focus continues to be on supporting the impacted families through this difficult time," continued the statement. "A family assistance **centre** has been established in the Municipality of Tweed."

"The **Hydro** One family extends our deepest condolences, support and care to the grieving families and loved ones of James, Jeff, Darcy and Kyle."

Mel Hyatt, president of the **Power** Workers'Union (PWU) expressed condolences in a similar statement.

"Today, the **Power** Workers'Union family is mourning the loss of our fellow brother, James Baragar, and our colleagues Jeff Howes, Darcy Jansen and Kyle Shorrock," stated Hyatt. "Our deepest sympathies go out to their families and their loved ones."

The crew was travelling in a **Hydro** One helicopter to perform work on a 230kv **transmission** tower at the time of the incident, but for now, all other information surrounding the fatal aviation accident is scarce.

"We ask that everyone co-operate with the **Transportation** Safety Board of Canada investigation team members as they conduct their investigation," continued Hyatt.

Professional counselling services are being made available to union members and a counselling **centre** is being established for the people in the Tweed area.

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Friends and family mourn Hydro One workers killed in helicopter crash

Toronto Star - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: Salmaan Farooqui The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$8,118
Reach: 315452 **Page:** A6

Best friends, soulmates, fiancées and boyfriends: that's how friends and family are remembering some of the four **Ontario utility** workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** on Thursday.

The men, identified by **Hydro** One on Saturday as 39-year-old James Barager, 27-year-old Kyle Shorrock, and Jeff Howes and Darcy Jansen, both 26, were working on a **transmission** tower in Tweed, Ont., and crashed when the chopper was approaching to land.

Jansen's mother, Brenda Jansen, said her son - a line technician from Long Sault, Ont. - was an outdoorsy person and an avid guitar player.

"Anyone that knew him just loved him, he was a really lovable kid," said Brenda, adding that he had just bought a house last year and moved in with his girlfriend.

"We're going to miss him, he's going to be really missed. He touched a lot of hearts."

She said the small community in Long Sault came together to support the family over the weekend.

Friends of Howes, who was from Bath, Ont., and was a line technician with **Hydro** One since August 2013, took to Facebook to remember him as someone "who always had a smile on his face" with a contagious laugh to match. Howes' family released a statement saying he loved "music, fishing, and thrilling adventures."

"His fiancé Brooke, his family, and many friends were always his first priority," the statement said.

Shorrock, of Inverary, Ont., was also a line technician and was engaged to be married according to his Facebook page. "Yesterday I lost my best friend, my everything, my soul mate, the person who made my world go round," wrote Brittany Robertson, who said on Facebook that she was Shorrock's fiancée.

Hydro One said Barager, the pilot, had been with the company since 2009 and was from the **Orillia**, Ont., area.

The company held candlelight vigils at its offices across the province Friday morning and said most ground crews would be standing down from their jobs until Monday.

"It is a time of emotion and shock for all of us at the company," said the company's CEO, Mayo Schmidt.

The agency said investigators would be looking at a wide range of factors to determine a possible cause of the crash, including pilot records, aircraft maintenance records and aircraft history.

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UPDATE: Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in helicopter crash

www.iheartradio.ca · Sun Dec 17 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Friends and families are mourning the loss of four Ontario utility workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Ontario on Thursday.

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Hydro One IDs 4 employees killed in helicopter crash | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Dec 17 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One has released the names of the four crew members who were killed Thursday when their helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario.

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Hydro One pilots crashed on landing approach: TSB; Transportation Safety Board investigators will continue to collect evidence to determine the cause of the fatal accident

The Globe and Mail - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: DANIELA GERMANO

Ad Value: \$11,101

Reach: 372649 Page: A10

Investigators say a helicopter crash that killed four **Hydro** One workers in Eastern **Ontario** this week happened as the chopper was approaching to land.

The **Transportation** Safety Board says it has obtained initial statements from witnesses to Thursday's fatal crash near Tweed, Ont., but still must examine maintenance records, pilot training and several other factors.

The agency says the chopper did not have a cockpit voice recorder or a flight-data recorder, which it was not required to carry. It says its team has, however, recovered a GPS, which will help in the investigation.

Meanwhile, **Hydro** One says its eight helicopters will not operate until a thorough **review** of safety protocols and equipment is complete.

Chief executive Mayo Schmidt says the measure is standard procedure after any serious workplace incident.

None of the four men on board the Aerospatiale AS350-B2 chopper survived after the helicopter went down shortly before noon on Thursday about 90 kilometres northwest of **Kingston**, Ont.

Hydro One said the crew had been completing work on a **transmission** tower.

"It is a time of emotion and shock for all of us at the company," Mr. Schmidt said, adding that there was no timeline for when the **utility's** helicopter fleet would go back to work.

The company held candlelight vigils at its offices across the province on Friday morning and said most ground crews would be standing down from their jobs until Monday. Workers will still respond to any reports of **power** outages, it said.

"We are not going to leave people without **power**," Mr. Schmidt noted. "No one will have to wait any longer than normal if there is a loss of **power** in their community or their area."

The company is supporting employees and families affected by the crash with a wide range of services, including grief counselling, 24-hour hotlines and help making funeral arrangements, Mr. Schmidt said.

"As we always do, our family at **Hydro** One has pulled together," he said, adding

that teams have been dispatched to assist affected family members.

The names of those who died have not been released.

The **Power** Workers Union said one of the workers killed had been one of its members, while the three other employees were members of the **Canadian** Union of Skilled Workers.

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Hydro One grounds helicopter fleet after fatal crash

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$1,995

Reach: 185480 **Page:** A7

Ontario's **Hydro** One, the province's **electrical power** company, has grounded all its helicopter crews in the aftermath of a chopper crash that killed four employees. CEO Mayo Schmidt said the fleet would not operate until investigators finish reviewing safety protocols, equipment and mechanics. He said the **review** was standard procedure after any serious workplace incident, adding there was no timeline as to when helicopter crews would go back to work. Schmidt said **Hydro** One workers across the province were reeling from the deaths of their colleagues. None of the four workers on board the Aerospatiale AS350-B2 chopper survived after the helicopter went down shortly before noon in Tweed, Ont., on Thursday. **Hydro** One was holding candlelight vigils at offices across **Ontario** Friday to honour the four men.

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Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in eastern Ontario helicopter crash

National Post - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: Negative

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

Friends and families are mourning the loss of four **Ontario utility** workers who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern **Ontario** on Thursday.

The men, identified by **Hydro** One on Saturday as 39-year-old James Barager, 27-year-old Kyle Shorrock, and Jeff Howes and Darcy Jansen, both 26, were working on a **transmission** tower in Tweed, Ont. and crashed when the chopper was approaching to land.

Friends of Howes, who was from Bath, Ont., and was a line technician with **Hydro** One since August 2013, took to Facebook to remember him as someone "who always had a smile on his face" with a contagious laugh to match.

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"It is a time of emotion and shock for all of us at the company," said the company's CEO, Mayo Schmidt.

The **Transportation** Safety Board said Friday that it had obtained initial statements from the crash, but still must examine maintenance records, pilot training and several other factors.

The helicopter did not have a cockpit voice recorder or a flight data recorder, but the TSB said it recovered a GPS, which will help in the investigation.

The agency said investigators would be looking at a wide range of factors to determine a possible cause of the crash, including pilot records, aircraft maintenance records and aircraft history.

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

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Hydro in mourning



Cornwall Standard Freeholder - Sat Dec 16 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steph Crosier

Ad Value: \$422

Reach: 10892 **Page:** A1 / Front

Hydro One has halted all work and is mourning following a fatal helicopter crash that took the lives of four of their employees on Thursday, says the president and CEO.

"Our hearts and love are with those young men and their families," Mayo Schmidt, president and CEO of **Hydro** One, said in a news release sent out Friday morning.

Emergency services were called to a rural property at 1221 Upper Flinton Rd., for the crash just before noon. Members of the OPP, search-and-rescue crews from CFB Trenton, the local fire department and paramedics **service** and two Ornge Air Ambulances responded to the scene. Capt. Julie Brunet, the senior **public** affairs officer for **Canadian** Forces Base Trenton, said a CC-130 Hercules and a CH-146 Griffon helicopter from their 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron responded to the emergency **transmission**. The crew of the four-engine transport plane followed a signal from the downed helicopter and located the crash site, then kept in touch with Trenton's Joint Rescue Co-ordination **Centre**, Brunet said. The Griffin landed at the scene with three search-and-rescue technicians.

"They responded to the call, landed on site, and provided onsite support to the local emergency medical services," Brunet said, adding that the technicians switched off the **Hydro** One helicopter's emergency locator transmitter.

The OPP, **Hydro** One and **Transportation** Safety Board of Canada (TSB) are now investigating. Schmidt said in the release that the crew was completing work on a **transmission** tower.

The crash occurred near Kim Clayton's home, slightly over a hill, out of sight of the road in a heavily wooded area. Clayton said **Hydro** One crews, including the

helicopter, had been working on the **power** lines since early December.

"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," Clayton said on Thursday. "I looked out the window and saw all the men scrambling around, so I went outside and heard them yelling to call 9-1-1, the helicopter had crashed."

Alex Fournier, spokesperson for the TSB, said Thursday the chopper was a 1999 AS350 B2. The singleengine helicopters are often used for corporate purposes. Chris Krepski, also with safety board, said on Friday that their investigators, led by investigator and technical specialist Peter Rowntree, arrived at the scene late Thursday afternoon. They worked until sunset then returned first thing Friday morning.

Schmidt added that the **utility** is grateful for the work done by first responders and the other **Hydro** One colleagues on the ground that ran in to help at the scene.

"Over the coming days we are stopping all we are doing and gathering together to respect, grieve and honour our fallen friends, starting this morning for a vigil outside of our **Hydro** One headquarters... "We all are grateful and very much appreciate the outpouring of support, thoughts and love we have received from the communities in which we work and live in **Ontario**. We remain focused on supporting the families of our young men; please join us in prayer and in extending our deepest sympathies to their families during this difficult time." scrosier@postmedia.com Twitter: @StephattheWhig -

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Officials investigating pilot training, maintenance after fatal Hydro One chopper crash | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Investigators are expected to spend the weekend at the scene of a deadly helicopter crash near Tweed, in eastern Ontario.

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Victims of Hydro One helicopter crash identified | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

The Power Workers' Union in Ontario has identified the four workers who lost their lives after a Hydro One helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario on Thursday.

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Hydro One IDs 4 employees killed in helicopter crash | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One has released the names of the four crew members who were killed Thursday when their helicopter crashed in eastern Ontario.

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Hydro One grounds helicopter crews after crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca · Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

One of Canada's largest electricity companies has grounded its helicopter fleet as investigators work to determine what caused a chopper crash that killed four of the utility's workers in eastern Ontario.

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CTV News Channel: Trying to determine cause | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca · Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

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Hydro One releases names of four employees killed in eastern Ontario helicopter crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca · Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario's largest electricity provider has released the names its four employees who were killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Ontario on Thursday.

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Enbridge confident about oilsands growth: This week's best quotes | Pipelines & Transportation | JWN Energy

www.jwnenergy.com · Sat Dec 16 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

Here are some of the best news quotes from coverage in the Daily Oil Bulletin for the week ending December 15, 2017:

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