Infomart Newsletters

From:	Infomart Newsletters
Sent:	December 20, 2017 8:12 AM
To:	Rosemarie Leclair
Subject:	Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, December 20, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 25 Results

Ontario launching year-long review of Ontario Energy Board | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario is launching a sweeping review of the province's energy regulator as it hopes to adapt to a rapidly changing market.

Erie Thames seeking $2.70 per month increase in distribution charges; Ontario Energy Board reviewing request and public input

Ingersoll Times - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: John Tapley

Ad Value: $570
Reach: 1318 **Page:** A3

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 ...

Eye on the Bay: The Hydro Edition - Part 1 - BayToday.ca

www.baytoday.ca - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, December 19, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

In 2016 your monthly North Bay Hydro bill increased, the company added $22 million in debt, lost $2 million on bad investments and unpaid bills, and as a reward the executive compensation and benefits increased by over 11%. Now, do you think ...

Speak up now before the rules change; The Ontario Energy Board reviewing customer service rules

North Bay Nugget - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $445
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

The **Ontario Energy Board** encouraging all **energy** consumers to have their say about **customer service rules** for the **electricity** and **natural** ...

Bill would lead to higher gas prices: Thibeault

The Timmins Daily Press - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $513
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A3

The **Ontario Minister of Energy** defended its decision to shoot down an opposition member's bill to regulate the price of petroleum products in **Ontario**. The bill, which failed to pass its second ...

Regulation not answer: Thibeault

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $336
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

Ontario's **Energy** minister is defending the Liberal government's decision to shoot down an opposition member's bill to regulate the price of petroleum products in **Ontario**. Timmins-James **Bay** MPP Gilles Bisson of the ...

Vanthof and NDP vow to fight pre-paid hydro meters - My West Nipissing Now

www.mywestnipissingnow.com - Wed Dec 20 2017
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Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof says the NDP will continue to fight the idea of introducing pre-paid hydro meters.

North Bay Hydro writes off more than $1.1 million because of overdue bills - My North Bay Now

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The number of write offs involving overdue due bills at North Bay Hydro has risen dramatically. The utility wrote off $1.1 million in 2016 compared to about $25,500 in 2015.

NORTH BAY NUGGET

Hydro write-offs soar; More than 1.12M in past-due bills written off in 2016

North Bay Nugget - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-Mccharles

Ad Value: $274
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

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Liberals Vote Down Bill On Gas Price Gouging | SaultOnline.com

saultonline.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
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Last Thursday, Timmins-James Bay NDP MPP Gilles Bisson's Bill 183, Fairness in Petroleum Pricing Act, 2017, was read for a second time in the legislature and was shut down by Kathleen Wynne's Liberals before reaching a third reading.

Changes ahead for St. Catharines Hydro | NiagaraThisWeek.com

www.niagarathisweek.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

With its only two employees set to leave by the end of January, there are changes ahead for St. Catharines Hydro.

Eastern Ontario hospitals see climbing electricity costs

canadafreepress.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Documents obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) reveal that the electricity bills for hospitals in eastern Ontario have been increasing dramatically over the last five to six years.

NP

Peter Foster: A lump of coal for Catherine McKenna's unethical fake-fact crusade

Financial Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Peter Foster
Reach: 607500

There used to be a tradition that Santa gave naughty children a lump of coal. If the jolly fat man also frowns on bad, pointless or hypocritical policies, he'll want to save a lump this Christmas for Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of ...

Renewable energy growing in Canada but solar installations lagging behind

National Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

OTTAWA - Although the cost to build solar power has plummeted over the last decade, a new report suggests Canadians aren't rushing use the sun to make electricity. The National Energy Board ...

OECD gives Canada failing grade on green levies

The Globe and Mail - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $16,718
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Canada is at the bottom of the pack when it comes to putting a price on pollution through taxes but will move up the ranks as Ottawa and the provinces move to impose carbon levies or increase existing ones, the Organization for Economic ...

Canada's approach to carbon pricing ambitious, challenging, says OECD | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Canada's decentralized approach to putting a price on pollution is overly complex and will be difficult to implement, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says in a new report.

Demand for solar electricity lagging behind in Canada: report | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Although the cost to build solar power has plummeted over the last decade, a new report suggests Canadians aren't rushing use the sun to make electricity.

Information left out

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Stefan Crawford

Ad Value: $99
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Re: 'Solar, wind power expensive options,' Dec. 16. You have not written a truthful article if you don't include hydro costs and also if you don't show nuclear costs for disposal or the expensive ...

Ontarians will pay hundreds of millions of dollars for pointless new fuel standards

Financial Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

Ontario has announced plans(https://www.theglobeandmail.com/ ») to double the ...

Patrick Brown discusses People's Guarantee, Simcoe North at Barrie coffee shop

Barrie Advance - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $50
Reach: 51249 **Page:** 1

Patrick Brown may have one of the most recognizable faces in Barrie. The PC Party Leader, who was first elected to city council in his early 20s in 2000, can rarely appear in public without getting stopped for a few ...

Kathleen Wynne pitches Liberals as 'change' after 14 years in power - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Premier Kathleen Wynne has a message for voters who think it's time for a change in Ontario: she is all about change.

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

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $30
Reach: 29544 **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 ...

Nuclear not best option

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Philippe Dupuis

Ad Value: $396
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Having just read another letter from Tom Price and his opinion on energy costs ('Solar, wind power expensive options,' Dec. 16), he has once again spewed figures gleaned from the internet to prove his ...

Hydro One worker in Timmins steals power | Sudbury Star

www.thesudburystar.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A Hydro One worker who “used his expertise” to steal electricity for his cottage has paid a high price for his offence, a Timmins court was told Monday.

Canadian Cities Becoming New Battleground for Kinder Morgan | Bloomberg BNA

www.bna.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, December 19, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

Shifting voter expectations are putting pressure on the mayors of Canadian cities to stand up against big energy projects such as pipelines, even as federal authorities continue to weaken the mayors’ role in decision-making.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario launching year-long review of Ontario Energy Board | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral

Ontario is launching a sweeping review of the province’s energy regulator as it hopes to adapt to a rapidly changing market.

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Erie Thames seeking $2.70 per month increase in distribution charges; Ontario Energy Board reviewing request and public input

Ingersoll Times - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: John Tapley

Ad Value: $570
Reach: 1318 **Page:** A3

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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Eye on the Bay: The Hydro Edition - Part 1 - BayToday.ca

www.baytoday.ca - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

In 2016 your monthly North Bay Hydro bill increased, the company added $22 million in debt, lost $2 million on bad investments and unpaid bills, and as a reward the executive compensation and benefits increased by over 11%. Now, do you think that's a good value as a customer? I don't.

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Speak up now before the rules change; The Ontario Energy Board reviewing customer service rules

North Bay Nugget - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $445
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

The Ontario Energy Board encouraging all energy consumers to have their say about customer service rules for the electricity and natural gas sectors.

The board has launched a survey at www.oeb.ca/customerservicesurvey, where residential and small business consumers can give their opinion on a number of customer service rules, including: Are there times when customers should not be disconnected? Should low-income customers have to pay security deposits? What is a reasonable amount of time for customers to pay their energy bills? "Whether you're an electricity or natural gas customer, this is your opportunity to have your say," says Rosemarie Leclair, OEB chair and CEO.

"Your feedback is vital in ensuring OEB's rules strike the right balance between consumer protection and the operational needs of energy utilities."

The survey is part of a sweeping review of customer service rules the board launched in May. It's also consulting with energy utilities as part of its review.

The board implemented number of customer service rules to protect the interests of consumers about five years ago. It is now conducting a review of those rules a and says the feedback it receives will help shape those rules in the future.

The board has had customer service rules in place for electricity utilities since 2011. Natural gas utilities regulated by the board were required to implement and publish residential customer service policies a year later. Their policies cover the major areas addressed by the board's electricity sector rules.

Most of the board's customer service rules for electricity utilities also apply to unit sub-meter providers, which are companies that provide metering and billing services for some condominiums or apartments that have their own individual meters. The province's recently released longterm energy plan has signalled it will give the board greater authority over unit sub-meter providers, making feedback more important as the board proceeds with the review.

To find out more about **customer** **service** **rules** for **electricity** **utilities** and unit sub-meter providers, go to www.**oeb**.ca/consumerprotection/ **rules**-**electricity**-**utilities**, and for **natural gas** **utilities**, go to www.**oeb**.ca/**consumer**-protection/**service**-policies -naturalgas -**utilities**.

Consumers who have a complaint about their **energy** **utilities** can submit it online at www.**oeb**. ca/**consumer**-protection/makecomplaint. They can also phone the board (toll-free) at 1-877-632-2727.

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THE DAILY PRESS

Bill would lead to higher gas prices: Thibeault

The Timmins Daily Press - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $513
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A3

The **Ontario** **Minister of Energy** defended its decision to shoot down an opposition member's bill to regulate the price of petroleum products in **Ontario**. The bill, which failed to pass its second reading in Queen's Park last week, was put forward by Timmins-James **Bay** MPP Gilles Bisson (NDP - Timmins-James **Bay**). **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said the **Ontario Energy Board** had studied the idea of regulating **gas** prices, and concluded it would result in higher prices for consumers. "As **Sudbury**'s MPP and **Ontario**'s **Minister of Energy**, I'm committed to ensuring a **fair**, reliable and affordable supply of **energy** for people across the province," Thibeault said in a statement regarding Bisson's private member's bill. "In the **North**, and in my community of **Sudbury**, **gasoline** and diesel are especially vital for transporting families and goods where they need to go - to work, to schools, to the grocery store and the doctor's office. Unfortunately, as we Northerners know, the price we pay often seems higher than in other parts of the province. "I want to make sure that our government does everything it can to ensure that **gas** prices are as transparent as possible across the province, which is why last November I asked the **independent** **Ontario Energy Board** to study the **gasoline** market in the province. I wanted to better understand the price at the pump, and price variations between different parts of the province. The report is the product of broad consultations with industry, stakeholders and consumers. "Most importantly, the report finds that consumers in other **Canadian** provinces with regulated **gas** prices pay more for **gas** than they likely would without regulation. The report confirms that regulating **gas** prices, as opposition has called for, would hurt consumers right across the province."

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The Sudbury Star

Regulation not answer: Thibeault

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $336
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

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Northerners know, the price we pay often seems higher than in other parts of the province." Thibeault said that's why he asked the independent Ontario Energy Board to study the gasoline market in the province, which found regulation would not lead to lower prices. "Most importantly, the report finds that consumers in other Canadian provinces with regulated gas prices pay more for gas than they likely would without regulation. The report confirms that regulating gas prices, as opposition has called for, would hurt consumers right across the province."

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Vanthof and NDP vow to fight pre-paid hydro meters - My West Nipissing Now

www.mywestnipissingnow.com - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral

Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof says the NDP will continue to fight the idea of introducing pre-paid hydro meters.

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North Bay Hydro writes off more than $1.1 million because of overdue bills - My North Bay Now

www.mynorthbaynow.com - Wed Dec 20 2017
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Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-Mccharles

Ad Value: $274
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

North Bay Hydro wrote off more than $1.12 million in past-due bills in 2016.

The figure comes from data reported to the Ontario Energy Board.

The 2016 write-off involved 2,930 customer accounts and was more than 40 times greater than the $25,573 written off the previous year, involving 145 customer accounts.

About $17,500 was written off in 2014 and $10,633 in 2013.

The $1.12 million is the sixth largest write-off by a hydro distributor, surpassing Waterloo North Hydro, Ottawa River Power Corporation, Oshawa PUC Networks Inc., Niagara Peninsula Energy Inc., Hydro One Remote Communities Inc., Hydro One Brampton Networks, Guelph Hydro Electric Systems Inc., and Burlington and Brantford Hydro.

Greater Sudbury wrote off $471 in 2016.

Hydro One Networks Inc. wrote off the most debt, at $32.15 million, of any electricity distributor in 2016.

North Bay Hydro disconnected 587 customers at some point in 2016 due to bill non-payment, an increase of 91 people from 2015.

Low-income customers also struggled to pay their hydro bills in 2016.

North Bay Hydro disconnected 30 in 2016 for non-payment compared to 16 in 2015.

There were 1,178 eligible lowincome customers in the city in 2016, a jump of 1,040 from 2015.

Last year North Bay Hydro wrote off 131 eligible low-income accounts worth $53,989 compared to two in 2015 worth $138 and none in 2014.

Matt Payne, president and COO at North Bay Hydro, said he recently took over the position and would require time to answer questions posed by The Nugget.

Payne took over Dec. 1. following the retirement of Todd Wilcox.

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Liberals Vote Down Bill On Gas Price Gouging | SaultOnline.com

saultonline.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

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canadafreepress.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
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Peter Foster: A lump of coal for Catherine McKenna's unethical fake-fact crusade

Financial Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Peter Foster
Reach: 607500

There used to be a tradition that Santa gave naughty children a lump of coal. If the jolly fat man also frowns on bad, pointless or hypocritical policies, he'll want to save a lump this Christmas for Catherine McKenna, Canada's Minister of Environment and **Climate** Change.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance, led by Great Britain and Canada, and in particular trumpeted by McKenna, is as vacuous a piece of environmental virtue signaling as can be imagined. Announced earlier this month, it supports a phase out of coal in developed countries by 2030 and developing countries by 2050, but its members account for a tiny proportion of global production. Its irrelevance is suggested by the International **Energy** Agency's (IEA) medium-term coal report, which was released on Monday. The report also further undermined numerous dodgy claims made by McKenna in an anti-coal article she authored last week in The Globe and Mail.

The IEA, as a creature of its member governments, is inevitably a shill for radical and expensive **climate** policies. Its problem is that it keeps producing reports that reveal that the great transition to the **wind**- and **solar**-powered low-carbon future - allegedly required to save the world from **climate** catastrophe - is simply not happening. Still, the IEA always tries to put a positive face on inconvenient facts. Its report predicted that global coal demand would remain "stagnant" until 2022. Put another way, coal is refusing to die.

Since coal is the mother of all **fuels** for carbon-dioxide emissions, its reluctance to go away presents more than a marginal problem for "official" **climate** science, which likely exaggerates the problem a great deal, anyway. The IEA has a simple solution: it says that carbon capture, utilization and storage - that is, taking CO2 emissions from coal-fired plants and injecting them deep underground, or using them for some industrial purpose - must be made more economic, or at least be more heavily subsidized. We can because we must.

Coal demand may be down 4.2 per cent over the past two years but that has a great deal more to do with the flood of cheap **natural gas** than the alleged "surge" in renewables. Germany's renewables surge has actually led it to use more coal, for back up. Moreover, coal will still account for 36 per cent of the global "**power** mix" by 2022, and its declining use in developed countries will be matched by its increased use in developing countries, where the IEA admits that coal offers cheap and reliable **electricity** to people who need it most. Indian coal-fired **power** generation is expected to grow almost four per cent a year through 2022.

McKenna appears to believe that poor people should not be permitted such development, but claims it is for their own good. She asserts that coal pollution leads to 800,000 premature deaths annually. Such precision invites skepticism, especially since the statistic comes from an organization called "Endcoal." Nevertheless, 670,000 of those claimed deaths would occur in China, which is very conspicuously not a member of Ms. McKenna's alliance. (It also doesn't seem to want any economic, environmental or gender-sensitivity lectures from **Canadian** Liberals, as Justin Trudeau's recent trip embarrassingly demonstrated.)

Meanwhile how many lives have been lengthened or saved because of coal-driven development? Seeing coal only as a killer is all-too-typical of the kind of single-entry bookkeeping that marks **climate** radicalism.

According to the World Health Organization, vastly more than 800,000 people a year die from cooking over open indoor fires. **Coal-fired electricity** - or efficient coke stoves - could certainly save many lives.

Minister McKenna peddles the tedious claim that corporations see killing fossil **fuels** as an investment opportunity in "clean growth." She cites the California-based tech firm Salesforce, claiming that it had plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, but "through rigorous innovation has already reached its goal." In fact, the company reached its goal simply by purchasing carbon credits, which hardly amounts to "rigorous innovation."

Salesforce describes itself as a "**customer** relationship management company." It doesn't manufacture anything tangible, but it does use a lot of **energy** to provide computing **power**. Although it boasts of facilities decked with virtuous LED lighting and low-flow water fixtures, its data centres have trebled their **energy** use, and emissions, in the past two years. Their single largest **power** source is... coal.

Then there are Salesforce's customers. They include giants of the internal-combustion engine: Toyota, snowmobile-maker Bombardier Recreational Products, aircraft maker Embraer, and motorcycle manufacturer Ducati. Even more intriguing, one of the **Canadian** companies that Salesforce trumpets as a client is Sun Life Financial. In her Globe article, McKenna cites a recent Friends of the Earth Canada report that seeks to name and shame **Canadian** companies investing in coal facilities overseas. One of the companies is Sun Life.

McKenna's biggest fake statistic was that shutting down coal plants in **Ontario** had been responsible for the elimination of smog days in **Toronto**. In fact, the province itself cited the closures as only one factor, and a study for the Fraser Institute by Professor Ross McKitrick and Elmira Aliakbari found that they were a very minor one.

There has been controversy lately over "name calling" against McKenna. Why sink to that when a far more powerful **weapon** is fact checking? On that basis alone she richly deserves that lump of coal.

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Renewable energy growing in Canada but solar installations lagging behind

National Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

OTTAWA - Although the cost to build **solar** **power** has plummeted over the last decade, a new report suggests Canadians aren't rushing use the sun to make **electricity**.

The National **Energy** Board today released its annual look at the state of **renewable energy** in Canada and it says **solar** **energy** accounts for just 0.5 per cent of all Canada's generated **electricity**.

And almost all of that exists entirely in **Ontario**, the report notes.

NEB chief economist Shelley Milutinovic said the trend in Canada is that **renewable energy** sources like **wind** and **solar** are replacing coal as Canada moves to eliminate that as a source of **electricity** by 2030.

Between 2005 and 2016, non-hydroelectric renewables - **wind**, **solar** and biomass - grew from 1.5 per cent of total **electricity** generation in Canada to 7.2 per cent.

During that same period coal fell from 16 per cent to 9.3 per cent as a source of power. Canada intends to eliminate coal as a source of power by 2030 and only four provinces still get any power from the fossil fuel.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development released a review of Canada's environmental policies this week which gave the country a rough ride for its energy-intensive, high-emitting, resource-based economy, but did point to Canada's electrical supply as a positive.

Only about 20 per cent of Canada's electricity comes from fossil fuels now - divided almost equally between coal and natural gas. Nuclear energy accounts for 15 per cent of Canada's electricity supply.

The rest comes from renewables. Hydro is the big beast in that, responsible for almost 60 per cent of Canada's power in 2016. While actual hydro power generation has grown about seven per cent in the last decade, other renewables are exploding.

The amount of electricity generated by the wind is 20 times what it was in 2005, and wind as a percentage of total power grew from just 0.2 per cent in 2005 to 4.7 per cent in 2016.

Solar didn't exist as a source of power for utility companies in Canada a decade ago. By 2016, solar capacity was 2,310 megawatts, almost all of it in Ontario.

Outside of Ontario, solar installations are mostly quite small. The largest solar farm in western Canada is a two-megawatt one on the Green Acres Hutterite Colony east of Calgary.

Milutinovic said the costs of solar and wind are now very comparable to other sources of power which are making them more and more attractive.

The cost to install a solar panel is about one-tenth of what it was in 2000, at about 95 cents per watt, according to the International Energy Agency.

Despite that, Canada is outmatched in solar on the international scene.

While Canada's biggest solar farm is about 100 megawatts, India this year unleashed one 10 times as big. The Kunrool Ultra Mega Solar Park is the biggest in the world with 1000 megawatts of installed capacity.

India had just 17 megawatts of installed solar capacity in 2010. It now has 12,000 megawatts.

China is the world's solar leader, both in the manufacturing of solar panels and their installation. In 2005, China had 70 megawatts of installed solar power. In 2016, it had 78,000.

Canada is 13th in the world in the amount of installed solar capacity. Where Canada gets just 0.5 per cent of its power from solar, Italy gets 7.5 per cent, Germany gets 6.7 per cent, Japan 4.9 per cent, the United States 1.4 per cent and China 1.07 per cent.

Milutinovic says the one thing not measured in this report however is the capacity for solar installations on private homes and businesses. She said some of the Ontario solar generation numbers include those, but elsewhere that is simply not being tracked.

So there is no good data on how many individuals now have solar panels on their roofs or how many farms have them in their fields.

She said it is one area governments should be looking at to get a better picture of what is actually happening on this front.

- follow @mrabson on Twitter.

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OECD gives Canada failing grade on green levies

The Globe and Mail - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $16,718
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Canada is at the bottom of the pack when it comes to putting a price on pollution through taxes but will move up the ranks as **Ottawa** and the provinces move to impose carbon levies or increase existing ones, the Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD) said Tuesday.

In a sweeping report on the country's environmental performance, the Paris-based organization said rising carbon levies and other regulations are needed to reverse the growth in greenhouse **gas** emissions from the oil industry and **transportation** sector over the past 15 years. To meet its international **climate** commitments, Canada must "reduce drastically the carbon intensity of its **energy** production, particularly in the oil-sands industry," the OECD said.

Among its 35 member countries, only the United States and Mexico had lower environmental taxes than did Canada in 2014.

Such levies include **gasoline** taxes, water charges, tipping fees at landfills and carbon pricing. Some provinces have increased their carbon levies since then, but not enough to affect Canada's ranking.

The Liberal government is planning to pass legislation next year that would impose a carbon tax on provinces that either do not adopt their own pricing **plan** or do not meet the federal standards under which the tax **rate** would climb to $50 a tonne by 2022.

British Columbia, Alberta, **Ontario** and Quebec have carbon-pricing plans - either direct levies or **cap-and-trade** systems - that would meet **Ottawa**'s criteria, while provinces such as Manitoba and New Brunswick pledge to introduce plans that would not meet the federal minimum.

Despite vocal opposition from the United Conservative Party, Alberta's carbon tax is set to climb from $20 a tonne to $30 on Jan. 1, with each $10 increment representing roughly 2.7 cents a litre of **gasoline**.

In its **review** of **Canadian** policies, the OECD said Canada lagged in **climate** regulations between 2006 and 2015, when the Conservative government of Stephen Harper failed to enact broadly based measures. The country will struggle to meet its pledge to reduce emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, it added.

"We applaud Canada's renewed determination under the current government to tackle **climate** change, and its leadership in international **climate** diplomacy at a crucial time," OECD environment director Anthony Cox said as he released the report in **Ottawa**.

"That said, Canada must act swiftly to implement its new policies if it is to achieve its emissions-cutting objectives for 2030."

The Liberal government has forged a federal-provincial-territorial **plan** to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions, which includes carbon pricing, a series of regulations and major spending on green infrastructure and development of clean technology.

"This **plan** will have to be implemented rigorously; a better use of environmental taxation would help," the OECD said in its report. It suggested the federal government will have to lead an effort to simplify and even harmonize the system across the various provincial and territorial jurisdictions in order to improve its performance and reduce its impact on businesses.

Canada is the fourth-largest emitter of greenhouse **gases** in the OECD and second most carbon-intensive for the size of its economy.

However, rising emissions from the oil industry remain a challenge for Canada as it works to meet its international commitment.

The oil sector accounts for a quarter of the country's greenhouse **gas** emissions, and GHGs from the industry rose rapidly as oil-sands production boomed over the past 15 years.

The industry insists it is investing heavily to reduce the emissions a barrel of the oil it produces, while the Alberta government recently allocated $440-million from its anticipated carbon-tax levies to help the industry innovate and cut its GHG intensity.

The OECD analysts visited Alberta recently and commended the governing New Democratic Party for its **climate** **plan**, which will put a cap on future emissions from the oil sands and imposes a levy that provides price breaks to industry leaders in emissions intensity.

"It gives emitters an incentive to reduce emissions irrespective of their current intensity levels," analyst Britta Labuhn told the **Ottawa** briefing.

The OECD urged **Canadian** federal and provincial governments to move forward on their plans to reduce methane emissions from the oil and **gas** sector. Methane is a powerful greenhouse **gas** and emissions during the production and **transmission** of oil and **gas** is a major source of GHGs.

Ottawa has published draft regulations that would kick in after 2020 - with the delay aimed at giving industry time to implement voluntary measures - while Alberta is consulting with industry and environmental groups on its approach.

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Canada's approach to carbon pricing ambitious, challenging, says OECD | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca · Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral

Canada's decentralized approach to putting a price on pollution is overly complex and will be difficult to implement, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development says in a new report.

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Demand for solar electricity lagging behind in Canada: report | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca · Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral

Although the cost to build solar power has plummeted over the last decade, a new report suggests Canadians aren't rushing use the sun to make electricity.

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Information left out

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Stefan Crawford

Ad Value: $99
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Re: 'Solar, wind power expensive options,' Dec. 16.

You have not written a truthful article if you don't include hydro costs and also if you don't show nuclear costs for disposal or the expensive breakdown of nuclear waste. You sadly ignore the potential economic impact of a nuclear meltdown. How many reactors are close to where you call home?

Stefan Crawford

Ontario

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Ontarians will pay hundreds of millions of dollars for pointless new fuel standards

Financial Post - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

Ontario has announced plans (www.theglobeandmail.com) to double the required content of ethanol in our gasoline, from five per cent to 10 per cent. This regrettable decision will have harmful effects on everyone. It will worsen the mileage of gasoline, raise food and fuel costs and yield minuscule environmental gains at best.

Ratcheting up the ethanol mandate also defeats the purpose of Ontario's new cap-and-trade system. The logic of carbon pricing through permit trading is that it leads the market to identify and implement the lowest-cost ways of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. If ethanol blending was cost-effective then, under cap and trade, fuel producers would do it automatically. The fact that they have to be coerced means it fails a cost-benefit test, making it precisely the kind of inefficient option the trading system is supposed to guard against. Forcing firms to do it anyway means Ontario has jettisoned any pretense of economic logic in its climate policy mix.

In earlier research we found that ethanol-subsidy programs during the 2008-12 interval cost Canadians over three dollars for every one dollar (www.macdonaldlaurier.ca) in social and environmental benefits achieved. The overt subsidy programs have largely been scaled back, but the blending mandates amount to a hidden subsidy, where the costs are transferred away from taxpayers onto industry and consumers.

It is highly misleading for the province to promote its policy as being equivalent to "taking up to 130,000 cars off the road (www.theglobeandmail.com) ." Such statements only remind us how clean our cars have become. The policy itself yields tiny overall emission reductions, but since modern cars are so clean and efficient that translates into a lot of vehicles as an equivalent. By way of illustration, it would translate into taking an infinite number of bicycles off the road, since they emit nothing at all, but that is an equally uninformative comparison.

The fact that modern cars are so clean actually signals how little an **ethanol** mandate will accomplish. It was shown over a decade ago that **ethanol** blending did nothing to reduce tailpipe emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from cars built after 1988 (www.sciencedirect.com) .

The only environmental benefit that proponents can point to is a potential reduction in greenhouse **gas** (GHG) emissions. We say "potential" because corn-growing and **ethanol** manufacturing both take **energy**, and on a life-cycle basis, **ethanol** GHGs can be higher than those from regular **fuels** (pubs.acs.org) , particularly in the U.S. where **electricity** production is still coal-intensive. Even assuming we get a net reduction in GHG emissions per litre from domestic production, the need for the mandate in the presence of carbon pricing shows that it is not enough to justify the additional manufacturing costs.

On the consumption side, **ethanol** producers claim that their product cuts GHG emissions by 62 per cent (www.theglobeandmail.com) compared to **gasoline**. This is an almost impossible optimistic upper bound based on, among other things, using 100-per-cent **ethanol**. By contrast, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) says (www.nrcan.gc.ca) a 10-per-cent corn-**ethanol** blend only cuts GHG emissions by three to four per cent.

Also according to NRCan, burning a litre of **gasoline** releases about 2.3 kilograms (www.nrcan.gc.ca) of carbon dioxide. A four-per-cent reduction is 0.09 kilogram per litre (0.00009 tonnes). At a value of $20 per tonne of carbon ($5.45 per tonne of carbon dioxide), the current social benefit of the emission reduction works out to five one-hundredths of a cent per litre.

In 2016, Ontarians used 16 billion litres of **gasoline**, so the GHG emission reductions from blending **ethanol** are worth, optimistically, about $8 million annually.

This is the number that needs to be compared against the social costs of increased fuel and food prices. As a point of comparison, one of the two **Ontario** **ethanol** plants has already spent $200 million (www.theglobeandmail.com) to expand its production capabilities in anticipation of the new blending rule, indicating that it expects to take at least that much out of **consumer** pockets in the coming years. The other plant is also spending money to expand, and once we add in the increased food costs and the costs for refineries to accommodate the new **rules** we will likely find, as we did previously, (www.macdonaldlaurier.ca) that the costs are several times larger than the benefits.

The federal government is apparently also considering a higher national **ethanol** blending mandate. We hope that it will assess the costs and benefits more carefully than Queen's Park did. If it does, it will find that such a move would be unjustified in the absence of its carbon-pricing policy, and completely irrational under it.

Ross McKitrick is a professor of economics at the University of **Guelph** and a senior fellow of the Fraser Institute. Douglas Auld is an adjunct professor of economics at the University of **Guelph**.

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Patrick Brown discusses People's Guarantee, Simcoe North at Barrie coffee shop

Barrie Advance - Fri Dec 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $50
Reach: 51249 **Page:** 1

Patrick Brown may have one of the most recognizable faces in Barrie.

The PC Party Leader, who was first elected to city council in his early 20s in **2000**, can rarely appear in **public** without getting stopped for a few conversations these days. It happened at a Starbucks in the city's south-end Dec. 15, when Brown met Simcoe.com for an exclusive one-on-one. The newspaper picked the city, the Simcoe **North** MPP selected the coffee shop.

He says his heart is always in the Barrie area, even if his schedule as leader of a major provincial political party often draws him to other sections of **Ontario**.

"For 15 years, I was all about Barrie and Simcoe County," Brown said, a tall chai latte in hand. "If you look at the definition of constituency MP, I was that example. One of the greatest sources of support on this journey has been the people of Barrie and (the) county. A bunch of my staff at Queen's Park are folks that come from Barrie. I don't think Barrie's ever had this much presence at Queen's Park."

Partway through Brown's interview with this reporter, a man with grey hair approached him. The older fellow told Brown to turf the Liberal government. On Brown's way out, two men asked for his insight on provincial policy.

Brown is promoting his party's recently released, 78-page campaign platform, dubbed the People's Guarantee. In it, he promises to reduce **hydro rates** by 12 per cent, introduce a "trust, integrity and accountability act", and cut income taxes and child-care costs by the end of his first term in office as premier. If it can't be done, he'll step down.

Under the **plan**, parents will be able to write off up to 75 per cent of daycare, nanny and babysitter costs, with a maximum refund of $6,750 per child.

He promises to match the federal Liberal government's 10-year, $1.9-billion commitment to mental health care, invest $5 billion in new TTC subways that would be owned by Queen's Park, add 15 minutes to physical education classes in the school curriculum, create a children's physical fitness tax credit and invest $124 million in recreation infrastructure across **Ontario**. There are 147 promises in the document.

Barrie Liberal MPP Ann Hoggarth calls the Guarantee a "Say Anything" platform.

"Any time a conservative says they can lower taxes without making cuts they end up cutting services," she said. "Brown is fundamentally cut from the same cloth as (former Prime Minister Stephen) Harper and (ex-Premier Mike) Harris and core services like education and health care are in for a rough ride under this scheme."

The PCs would replace Liberal **climate** change policy that puts strict targets on business with a tax that tacks increased burden onto households, she said.

And Hoggarth disputes whether Brown has served Simcoe **North** well during his time as an MPP.

"My own office is always busy assisting constituents, including some that have come to us from neighbouring ridings."

The provincial election is June 7.

- With files from The **Toronto** Star

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Kathleen Wynne pitches Liberals as 'change' after 14 years in power - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

Premier Kathleen Wynne has a message for voters who think it's time for a change in Ontario: she is all about change.

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

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $30
Reach: 29544 **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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Nuclear not best option

Sudbury Star - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Philippe Dupuis

Ad Value: $396
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Having just read another letter from Tom Price and his opinion on **energy** costs ('**Solar**, **wind** **power** expensive options,' Dec. 16), he has once again spewed figures gleaned from the internet to prove his opinion. Mr. Price cites land use for **wind** **power** as 380,000 acres, which would be excessive and a waste. However, if Mr. Price were to take a small trip to the **Essex** county area where **wind** **power** is in operation, he would come to understand that the land use is in reality very minimal. Around the base of every **wind** generator, the fields are still being used for agriculture, producing wheat, soybeans, corn and even grapes in the same way as before the generators were constructed.

Although it may take a land mass of 380,000 acres to spread the **wind** turbines out, the actual loss of land for other uses is probably no more than the 2,300 acres used by nuclear **power**; moreover, once decommissioned, the land mass is still useable while a decommissioned nuclear **power** plant leaves a radioactive, contaminated land mass for hundreds of years after.

Both **wind** and **solar** are relatively new **energy** sources and their costs for construction and operation are decreasing as the technology is more widely used. Nuclear **power**, once the darling of the **energy** world, is definitely not the best choice in this day and age. If anything, the accidents of Chernobyl and more recently Fukushima in Japan would give one pause to rethink the benefits to nuclear **power**.

Numbers and statistics can be used to push forward any cause, but a careful analysis of all the evidence, including the social and environmental impacts, takes much more time and research before making an educated decision. Philippe Dupuis **Sudbury**

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Hydro One worker in Timmins steals power | Sudbury Star

www.thesudburystar.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

A Hydro One worker who “used his expertise” to steal electricity for his cottage has paid a high price for his offence, a Timmins court was told Monday.

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Canadian Cities Becoming New Battleground for Kinder Morgan | Bloomberg BNA

www.bna.com - Tue Dec 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

Shifting voter expectations are putting pressure on the mayors of Canadian cities to stand up against big energy projects such as pipelines, even as federal authorities continue to weaken the mayors’ role in decision-making.

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