Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: January 12, 2018 7:40 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, January 12, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Friday, January 12, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 15 Results

Vanthof has concerns about energy survey

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value: $241
Reach: 5917 **Page:** A3

Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof says the NDP has some problems with a new survey that is being launched by the **Ontario Energy Board**. The Board is encouraging all **energy** consumers to have their say ...

Wawa will 'walk the walk' with LNG: Wray | Sault Star

www.saultstar.com - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, January 12, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

Wawa will certainly consider taking a lead role in tapping into liquid natural gas to power municipal buildings and services, both to save money and set standards, said Chris Wray, Wawa's CAO and clerk/treasurer.

Hydro One proposes plan to spend additional $6-million to redesign bills; Extra funds are mostly earmarked for commercial, industrial and large distribution account customers

The Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ALLISON JONES

Ad Value: $10,406
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A8

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Hydro One bill redesign will cost $15 million | CTV News

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Tone: Neutral
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Broadcast news

Broadcast news - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Negative

--- (**Hydro**-**One**-Bills) **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** says the redesign of **Hydro** One's bills is necessary, although the **Ontario Energy Board** has yet ...

Fixing wrong part of hydro bill?

Toronto Sun - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: -Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $3,626
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A8

Hydro One is needlessly spending **ratepayers** money on bill redesigns when the real problem is the number owing at the bottom, NDP **Energy** Critic Peter Tabuns says. Tabuns is asking the **Ontario** ...

Hydro One wasteful

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Report says Canadians want to fight climate change – as cheaply as possible - iPolitics

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Most Canadians care about the climate – but not quite enough to welcome massive energy bill hikes or to buy an electric car.

The green fossil-fuel divestment crusade hurts the poor and middle class most

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Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

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Full Articles

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Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof says the NDP has some problems with a new survey that is being launched by the Ontario Energy Board.

The Board is 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.

Vanthof says "It is always a good idea for the Ontario Energy Board to collect public opinion, but the NDP does have concerns with the direction, the timing and the reach of the questionnaire.

The NDP has fought long and hard to stop winter **disconnections** especially in the **North** where heat is a necessity. The legislation finally passed and now it seems that the **OEB** could be questioning whether it is needed or not. Some of the other questions seem to be paving the way for the introduction of pre paid **hydro** meters for which **Hydro** One has applied to the **OEB** for the right to use.

The NDP has introduced legislation to ban their use in **Ontario** but the Wynne Liberals have blocked it's passage. Another concern is that the survey may not reach enough people to give accurate results."

The board implemented a number of **customer service rules** to protect the interests of consumers about five years ago. It is now conducting a **review** of those **rules** 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 long-term **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**. -with files from

POST-MEDIA NETWORK

Back to Top

Wawa will 'walk the walk' with LNG: Wray | Sault Star

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Back to Top

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Ontario's largest and recently privatized **electricity utility** has spent $9-million to redesign bills and is proposing to spend an additional $6-million on the project.

Hydro One has come under fire for its spending since the Liberal government sold more than half of the company, notably for its chief executive's $4.5million pay.

Now, the NDP is raising concerns with the $15-million bill-redesign expense contained in a rate application from the formerly public utility.

"I don't think the problem we face is a bill that people can't understand, I think the problem is rates that are too high," energy critic Peter Tabuns says. "Fifteen million dollars seems awfully expensive to me."

But Hydro One says a 2016 survey of its customers indicated about 40 per cent had trouble understanding their bills.

Ferio Pugliese, the company's executive vice-president of customer care and corporate affairs, said the redesign was aimed at giving customers a simpler bill.

About $9-million has already gone into redesigning bills, mostly for residential customers, Mr. Pugliese said. Cosmetic changes to bills account for about 25 per cent of the cost, with the rest of the money going toward updating information systems and improving digitalbilling platforms, he said. The additional $6-million Hydro One is looking to spend would go toward bill changes mostly for its commercial, industrial and large distribution account customers.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault noted in a statement that the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has yet to decide on the expense, but he suggested he sees the bill redesign as necessary.

"With Ontarians wanting clearer bills that are easier to understand, Hydro One's bill redesign project is a necessary improvement that will help customers," he wrote.

"Reductions from the Fair Hydro Plan (the government's 25 per cent cut to bills last year) are important information for both households and businesses, and it's our job to provide clear, helpful answers whenever possible."

The OEB recently ordered Hydro One to lower a rate increase it had been seeking for this year to 0.2 per cent down from 4.8 per cent.

The regulator also rejected a Hydro One proposal to give shareholders all of the tax savings generated by the IPO in 2015 when the Liberal government first began partially privatizing the utility. The OEB instead mandated shareholders receive 62 per cent of the savings while ratepayers receive the remaining 38 per cent.

Back to Top

Hydro One bill redesign will cost $15 million | CTV News

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Back to Top

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Hydro One is needlessly spending ratepayers money on bill redesigns when the real problem is the number owing at the bottom, NDP Energy Critic Peter Tabuns says.

Tabuns is asking the Ontario government, the dominant shareholder, to put a halt to the proposal or at least absorb the cost without passing it onto customers.

"If people have to choose between lower hydro bills and a different looking bill, I don't there'd be any contest," Tabuns said Thursday.

Hydro One has spent almost $5 million so far on a redesigned customer bill with plans to lay out another $10 million-plus for future enhancements to the bill, he said.

Customers aren't really concerned about what the bill looks like, he said.

"They couldn't understand why they were so high," Tabuns said.

An application to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) by the massive utility says a 2016 survey found only 62% of its customers find their bill easy to understand, and "Hydro One is committed to improving its relationship with its customers."

Back to Top

Hydro One wasteful

London Free Press - Fri Jan 12 2018
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Let me start by saying that I really like the new format Hydro One is using for its invoices. I hear it is being criticized for spending $14 million for this redesign.

Why would this cost $14 million? Even if it had to contract the design to an outside firm, who would it pay that much for the design of an invoice? That is a ludicrous amount for what was involved.

Maybe Hydro One does reside in a different universe than other businesses and cost savings are only talked about and never really a priority. For example, I have been paying a lot of my bills online for about 10 years. After paying online for one month, my credit card company stopped sending a return envelope with my invoice.

But all these years later, I still receive one every month from Hydro One. Multiply that by 12 bills per year and then by all the customers who throw them in the blue box and I'm sure the savings would be significant. B. Burrell Dorchester

Back to Top

NDP demands Wynne stop $15M hydro bill redesign – Wawa-news.com

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Back to Top

Ontario auto jobs head south

Ottawa Sun - Fri Jan 12 2018
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It's difficult to put a figure on exactly how many auto jobs **Ontario** has lost due to competition from Mexico in the form of incentives, lower wages and cheaper **electricity** prices.

Despite Premier Kathleen Wynne's suggestion in a tweet Thursday that she's "taken every opportunity to defend **Ontario** workers during NAFTA negotiations," auto jobs under the Liberals have increasingly headed south of the border.

A year ago, GM announced plans to cut 625 jobs from its Ingersoll assembly plant and moved production to Mexico.

NDP **Transportation** critic Wayne Gates slammed the government following the announcement for failing to do more to stop the Ingersoll and other **automotive** jobs leaving the province.

"It's obvious this province has no auto strategy, which means companies across **Ontario** can close and move production to Mexico, simply to maximize their profits," Gates said. "This hurts workers and the communities they live in."

Toyota moved production of the Corolla from Cambridge to Guanajuato, Mexico in 2015.

There are complex factors related to those decisions, including punishing **electricity rates** fueled by Liberal mismanagement of **Ontario**'s **power** sector.

NAFTA issues and wage differentials also hit the auto sector hard.

It's all had a cumulative effect.

An August 2017 report by former CIBC chief economist Jeff Rubin Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) suggested auto jobs in Mexico quadrupled during the past decade while Canada lost 26% of its auto industry work.

Overall, there are 300,000 fewer people working today in **Ontario**'s manufacturing sector today than there were 10 years ago when the Liberals were still in their first term.

Back to Top

Divestment hurts people

National Post - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Mark Milke

Ad Value: $12,136
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

If you ever wonder how academics and activists combine to end up utopian, anti-poor and antimiddle class all at once, look no further than calls for savings and pension divestment from **Canadian** oil and **gas** companies.

One academic from **Toronto**'s Ryerson University wrote of how "we are facing an impending disaster" from fossil **fuels**. The professor had several demands: That companies "reduce their **carbon footprint** to net zero" or be forcibly wound down. If they do not voluntarily commit economic hara-kiri, towns and cities must even more massively subsidize green industries to put hydrocarbon industries out of business. Finally, a demand that the Canada Pension **Plan** drop its oil and **natural gas** holdings. That last idea isn't as unthinkable as it should be: New York City's mayor, Bill de Blasio, announced this week that he would direct the city's five pension funds to dump US$5-billion worth of fossil fuel investments, which he boasted will be the biggest municipal divestment in the U.S. so far.

Calls to kill off carbonbased **energy** investments are also pushed by the more extreme voices in some environmental groups. One duo claimed (incorrectly) "The end of the fossil-fuel era is on the horizon."

Such woolly thinking, a perennial problem in human societies, is evident in the notion that Canadians can just cut off one of the country's comparative economic advantages, oil and **gas**. And then replace it, and the many products for end-use consumers, with **solar**, **wind** and other costly alternatives.

Reality check: Most alternative green **energy**, like **wind** and **solar**, is inconsistent in terms of **power** production, requiring conventional backups fuelled by fossil **fuels** or **nuclear energy**. Nor are other alternatives such as biofuels and batteries yet capable of replacing, for example, the jet fuel necessary to fly airplanes or the diesel that trucks use to transport food, medicine and **consumer** goods. Anyone who believes the end of fossil **fuels** is near is not operating in the realm of reason.

It is why the International **Energy** Agency, which even though it wants more renewable and other **alternative energy**, is also realistic that oil and **natural gas** consumption will rise for decades. The IEA forecasts a 30-percent rise in **energy** demand between now and 2040, the equivalent of adding another China and India to the global demand curve. The IEA predicts the world will consume 105 million barrels of oil daily in 2040, up from an average of 96 million barrels daily in 2016.

It also predicts **natural gas** consumption will rise dramatically. For instance, **natural gas** demand in China is forecast to triple between now and 2040.

Even California governor Jerry Brown, a champion of green **energy**, has continued to encourage oil and **natural gas** development. That is why California remains the thirdlargest oil-producing U.S. state. As 60 Minutes noted in a recent profile of Brown, "he refuses to curb oil production until there's a viable alternative."

Sure, one could demand that governments just enlist consumers and taxpayers in ever-more subsidy efforts for **alternative energy** efforts. Yet most **renewable energy**, from **wind** to **solar**, is already heavily subsidized but remains unreliable and expensive to end consumers.

For example, Ontarians between 2006 and 2014 spent $37-billion on above-marketprice subsidies to **wind**, **solar** and other alternatives. To produce even more will be additionally costly. Also, as I detail in my recent report Corporate Welfare Cash (for the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation), **alternative energy** is already much more subsidized in Canada than is oil and **gas**. (That noted, oil, **gas** and **renewable energy** companies alike should all be cut off from taxpayer-funded subsidies; that would help even the playing field among all potential **energy** suppliers.)

Lastly, the notion that building subsidized **wind** turbines and **solar** panels in Canada can replace the jobs, incomes, exports and tax revenues of a long-profitable sector is folly. From Newfoundland to **northern** British Columbia, there are 300,000 people directly employed in the oil and **gas** business with 650,000 spin-off jobs. Oil and **gas** products represent $136-billion in exports to the United States and $22-billion in annual tax revenues to governments.

Which brings us back to advocacy against investment in the **energy** sector, the socalled divestment movement. In a rebuke to the divestment demands, Quebec credit union Desjardins Group recently ended its moratorium on pipeline project financing. Depending on where Desjardins goes on a more general social and environmental framework, that decision could be positive or merely a prelude to anti-**energy** investment decisions.

Meanwhile, calls are growing for the Canada Pension **Plan** to divest of **energy** investment. If that ever happened, a useful investment criteria - returns - would be sacrificed to junk science.

Plus, **Canadian** employment and income would be reduced by such a decision. It would harm the middle class and the poor. That's the problem with anti-**consumer** and anti-empirical advocacy dreamed up in academia and furthered by reality-blind activism. Ideas have consequences. Bad ideas, especially.

Mark Milke is an author, **energy** analyst and contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**.

Back to Top

THE DAILY PRESS

Bisson to run in new Timmins riding

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $894
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A1 / Front

Guy Bourgouin, president of the United Steelworkers Local 1-2010, announced his intention to seek the nomination as the provincial New Democratic Party candidate for the new riding of Mushkegowuk-James **Bay** in the provincial election this spring.

Bourgouin said he added his name to the nomination because he wants to fight for change in the province.

"I've been fighting for workers for many years and when I want to see changes, I do something about it - I go back to the table to fight for what's right. That's why I'm putting name forward to run as a New Democrat. The NDP has a **plan** that offers hope to **northern Ontario** families. Hope that their **hydro** bills will finally come down and their loved ones will finally get access to health care that they can count on."

Bourgouin, who was born in Dubreuilville and is of Métis decent, has lived in Kapuskasing for 22 years with his wife, Manon, and two kids Anabel and Jérémy.

According to a release issued by the NDP Thursday morning, Bourgouin "has been fighting for workers with the United Steelworkers for 22 years and has been the president of the local for 15 years. Bourgouin has spent most of his career advocating changes to help for working families at all levels of government."

Through his local, Bourgouin represents workers from different sectors across **Northern Ontario**, from **Sudbury** to the Manitoba border, such as woodlands, sawmills, plywood plants, health care services, hardware stores, janitorial services and social services.

NDP MPP Gilles Bisson said he is sad to no longer represent the people along the Highway 11 corridor and the James **Bay coast** but he is confident Bourgouin will be a great addition to Queen's Park.

"Guy has been representing workers in Northern Ontario for many years and will be an excellent MPP," Bisson said. "He knows the area; he works closely with the community and surrounding First Nations. Guy is fully bilingual, and brings with him an enthusiastic and committed team of volunteers ready for the upcoming election. I look forward to working with him next fall."

Bisson, who has represented the area since 1999 when the riding of Timmins-James Bay was created, will be running for re-election in the new riding of Timmins.

"This was a very difficult decision for me. I have served the people of Highway 11 and the James Bay coast for nearly 20 years so having the riding split up is like losing a part of the family," Bisson said.

"I have built many lifelong friendships with people in the Northern and Western part of my riding and I thank them for giving me the honour of serving and working with them."

In October, the Representation Statute Law Amendment Act passed unanimously, dividing the ridings of Timmins-James Bay and Kenora Rainy-River into four ridings that will be contested in 2018 - Kiiwetinoong, Mushkegowuk-James Bay, Timmins, and Kenora-Rainy River.

Bisson said that one of the main factors affecting his decision to run in Timmins riding was that he lives in Timmins.

"I was born and raised in Timmins. My wife and I raised our daughters in Timmins, so Timmins is our home."

Bisson said his work is not done at Queen's Park, noting that winter highway road conditions, hydro rates, long-term care, and health care are among his top priorities.

New Democrats have announced plans for Canada's first universal pharmacare plan, a hydro plan to bring Hydro One back into public hands and rates down by up to thirty per cent for residents and businesses, a "find-and-fix" public inquiry into long-term care and hospital funding that matches or exceeds inflation, population growth and the unique needs of each community in order to end chronic overcrowding "I am very happy that Northern Ontario will be gaining two new voices at Queen's Park and I'm ready to represent the people of Timmins once again" Bisson said.

Bisson was first elected to the Legislature in 1990 as the Member of Provincial Parliament for the former riding of Cochrane South and has held the seat for the Timmins -James Bay riding since its creation in 1999. He has also served as House Leader for the Ontario NDP at Queen's Park since 2011.

Back to Top

Resident won't forget water rate hikes come election time

Whitby This Week - Thu Jan 11 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $18
Reach: 79700 **Page:** 1

To the editor:

Re: Water rates

I'd like to know what the Region of Durham's commissioner of finance, Jim Clapp, is getting at when he noted, "Typical rates for water and what taxpayers pay for other utilities such as $1,042 for natural gas, $1,289 for hydro, $2,711 for cellphone cable and internet and $6,060 for car maintenance."

What does any of that have to do with water **rates**? Sounds like a Premier Kathleen Wynne-style comment to justify another **rate**/tax attack on us all. Pure fudge!

The region's collected surpluses since chair Roger Anderson took office. They aren't a private business, and proper conduct should reflect that by returning those surpluses to us. Our infrastructure is not the same age as **Toronto**'s!

It reminds me of the boss ordering all departments to spend all their budgeted funds before the pending budget arrives or you'll get less next time around.

As for Ajax Coun. Colleen Jordon, who made the lamest excuse possible, "It compares favourably to others and other **utilities**."

I'm noting this stuff and names for the coming election.

Rupert Cameron

Whitby

Back to Top

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

The jig is up for Canada's carbon-tax laggards; If Ottawa hopes to meet the exceedingly ambitious climate targets it has set for this country, they have to get serious with holdout provinces

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Jason Kenney has spent months now gleefully ripping Alberta's NDP government for the carbon tax it brought in and just raised to $30 a tonne.

The United Conservative Party Leader has made a low-budget video of himself filling up his trusty blue pick-up, while complaining about how much more it costs now as a result of Rachel Notley's dreaded tax. He vows it will be among the first things to go if he and his party take **power** in two years' time.

It's been a popular pitch in a province still feeling the effects of a dramatic drop in the price of oil. It's also a fundamentally dishonest one.

What Mr. Kenney doesn't mention is the fact there is a pan-national **climate** agreement in this country, one that was signed off on in 2016 and that is due to take effect later this year. The provinces all have been put on notice that **Ottawa** expects to receive details soon from them of how each intends to fulfill its commitment under the deal. The federal carbon tax is set to start at $10 a tonne this year and rise annually to $50 a tonne by 2022.

The four biggest provinces in the country - **Ontario**, Quebec, B.C. and Alberta - all have carbon taxes or the equivalent (**cap-and-trade** programs) already in place. Manitoba has agreed to set a $25-a-tonne tax and freeze it there. That won't do in the long term but satisfies the terms of the accord for a couple of years anyway. The Maritimes are still getting themselves sorted out. The biggest holdout has been Saskatchewan.

Premier Brad Wall has been adamant about not allowing such a tax to be imposed on the good people of his province. He has threatened to take the feds to court if they try to force the tax on the province this year. But Mr. Wall is also leaving provincial politics later this month, and so this will be someone else's concern with which to deal. All the contenders for his job have vowed to carry on the good fight in his name.

This is a situation that Environment Minister Catherine McKenna will soon have to deal with. As I understand it, her ministry may be providing more details around exactly how this is all going to play out. There needs to be some certainty around this process.

If Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Environment Minister ever hope to meet the exceedingly ambitious **climate** targets they have set for this country, they have to get serious now. And it starts with getting tough with those holdout jurisdictions that feel they can let this matter drag out for a few years. That can't happen.

And it can't happen because other provinces, and the taxpayers that inhabit them, are already paying that tax. How long do you think **Ontario** or Quebec or Alberta are going to tolerate being the only ones asking their citizens to pay extra every time they go to the **gas** pump? Meantime, provinces like Saskatchewan aren't paying anything. That is not a situation that would be allowed to persist.

That is why the new leader of the Saskatchewan Party, the one who has the unenviable job of following in the footsteps of arguably the most popular premier in the province's history, is going to have trouble backing up Mr. Wall's tough talk. **Ottawa** insists it has the legal authority to impose a carbon tax on the provinces and territories that don't create their own and I can't see why that would not be the case.

Which brings us back to Mr. Kenney.

At some point, he is going to have to come clean about exactly how he intends to get rid of a tax that the federal government is making the rest of the country pay. What is the legal foundation of the argument he plans to mount in court, assuming it ends up there? And refusing to spell it out on the grounds he doesn't want to tip his hand doesn't count as an answer.

Mr. Kenney could well be the next premier of Alberta. The job comes with awesome responsibilities, not the least of which is being straight-up with the people.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: The jig is up for Canada's carbon-tax laggards (www.theglobeandmail.com)

Back to Top

Report says Canadians want to fight climate change – as cheaply as possible - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca · Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Most Canadians care about the climate – but not quite enough to welcome massive energy bill hikes or to buy an electric car.

Back to Top

The green fossil-fuel divestment crusade hurts the poor and middle class most

Financial Post · Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

If you ever wonder how academics and activists combine to end up utopian, anti-poor and anti-middle class all at once, look no further than calls for savings and pension divestment from Canadian oil and gas companies.

One academic from Toronto's Ryerson University wrote (nationalpost.com) of how "we are facing an impending disaster" from fossil fuels. The professor had several demands: That companies "reduce their carbon footprint to net zero" or be forcibly wound down. If they do not voluntarily commit economic hara-kiri, towns and cities must even more massively subsidize green industries to put hydrocarbon industries out of business. Finally, a demand that the Canada Pension Plan drop its oil and natural gas holdings. That last idea isn't as unthinkable as it should be: New York City's mayor, Bill de Blasio, announced this week that he would direct the city's five pension funds to dump US$5-billion worth of fossil fuel investments, which he boasted will be the biggest municipal divestment in the U.S. so far.

Calls to kill off carbon-based energy investments are also pushed by the more extreme voices (www.eco-business.com) in some environmental groups. One duo claimed (incorrectly): "The end of the fossil-fuel era is on the horizon."

Such woolly thinking, a perennial problem in human societies, is evident in the notion that Canadians can just cut off one of the country's comparative economic advantages, oil and gas. And then replace it, and the many products for end-use consumers, with solar, wind and other costly alternatives.

Reality check: Most alternative green energy, like wind and solar, is inconsistent in terms of power production, requiring conventional backups fuelled by fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Nor are other alternatives such as biofuels and batteries yet capable of replacing, for example, the jet fuel necessary to fly airplanes or the diesel that trucks use to transport food, medicine and consumer goods. Anyone who believes the end of fossil fuels is near is not operating in the realm of reason.

It is why the International Energy Agency, which even though it wants more renewable and other alternative energy, is also realistic that oil and natural gas consumption will rise for decades. The IEA forecasts a 30-per-cent rise in energy demand between now and 2040, the equivalent of adding another China and India to the global demand curve. The IEA predicts (www.iea.org) the world will consume 105 million barrels of oil daily in 2040, up from an average of 96 million barrels daily in 2016. It also predicts natural gas consumption will rise dramatically. For instance, natural gas demand in China is forecast to triple between now and 2040.

Even California Governor Jerry Brown, a champion of green energy, has continued to encourage oil and natural gas development. That is why California remains the third-largest oil-producing U.S. state. As 60 Minutes noted in a recent profile of Brown, "he refuses to curb oil production until there's a viable alternative."

Sure, one could demand that governments just enlist consumers and taxpayers in ever-more subsidy efforts for alternative energy efforts. Yet most renewable energy, from wind to solar, is already heavily subsidized but remains unreliable and expensive to end consumers.

For example, Ontarians between 2006 and 2014 spent $37 billion on above-market-price subsidies to wind, solar and other alternatives. To produce even more will be additionally costly. Also, as I detail in my recent report Corporate Welfare Cash (www.taxpayer.com) (for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation), alternative energy is already much more subsidized in Canada than is oil and gas. (That noted, oil, gas and renewable energy companies alike should all be cut off from taxpayer-funded subsidies; that would help even the playing field among all potential energy suppliers.)

Lastly, the notion that building subsidized wind turbines and solar panels in

Canada can replace the jobs, incomes, exports and tax revenues of a long-profitable sector is folly. From Newfoundland to **northern** British Columbia, there are 300,000 people directly employed in the oil and **gas** business with 650,000 spinoff jobs. Oil and **gas** products represent $136 billion in exports to the United States and $22 billion in annual tax revenues to governments.

Which brings us back to advocacy against investment in the **energy** sector, the so-called divestment movement. In a rebuke to the divestment demands, Quebec credit union Desjardins Group recently ended its moratorium on pipeline project financing. Depending on where Desjardins goes on a more general social and environmental framework, that decision could be positive or merely a prelude to anti-**energy** investment decisions.

Meanwhile, calls are growing for the Canada Pension **Plan** to divest of **energy** investment. If that ever happened, a useful investment criteria - returns - would be sacrificed to junk science.

Plus, **Canadian** employment and income would be reduced by such a decision. It would harm the middle class and the poor. That's the problem with anti-**consumer** and anti-empirical advocacy dreamed up in academia and furthered by reality-blind activism. Ideas have consequences. Bad ideas, especially.

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Back to Top