

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: January 12, 2018 9:32 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Friday, January 12, 2018

d\plainGood morning,

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d\plainToday's coverage is dominated by the Ontario NDP criticizing Hydro One's bill redesign, with some mentions of the OEB. Those mentions refer to the OEB's past decision on Hydro One's transmission rate application and the fact that the bill redesign costs are part of Hydro One's distribution application, which remains before the OEB. There is another story about the NDP questioning the OEB's Customer Service Rules Review survey, with most of the story including material from a news release we issued when the survey launched. The last story includes a reference to an OEB decision on a rate application by Algoma Power.

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[d\plainGlobe and Mail \(via CP\): Hydro One wants to spend an additional \\$6-million to redesign bills](#) (several OEB mentions)

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• News story based on NDP news conference yesterday saying that Hydro One has spent \$9 million to redesign its bills and is proposing to spend \$6 million more on the project

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• NDP says the problem is not that people can't understand their bills, it's that rates are too high

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• Hydro One counters that a 2016 survey of its customers indicates about 40 per cent had trouble understanding their bills

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• Re: the bill design expenditure -- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault noted in a statement that the Ontario Energy Board has yet to decide on the expense, but he suggested he sees the bill redesign as necessary.

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• 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.

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• 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.

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[d\plainToronto Sun: New hydro bill won't make bottom line easier to understand](#) (Similar story as above, with two OEB mentions)

δ.λ1720.φ1-360.πλαιν• 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."

8:1720:360:plain• Thibeault said the OEB reviews rate applications with an eye to keeping costs down for consumers, and pointed out the regulator has rarely given utilities all they've requested.

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d\plainWawa -News: NDP demands Wynne stop \$15M hydro bill redesign (Similar story above, one OEB mention)

8:1720:360:plain• Hydro One's bills were redesigned in 2017 and buried deep in Hydro One's March 2017 distribution rate increase application to the Ontario Energy Board is a plan to further redesign the bills – with a total cost of \$15 million.

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d\plainQP Briefing: NDP calls out Hydro One for \$15-million request to improve billing practices (Similar story, behind Paywall – OEB mentioned cited below)

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Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** told *QP Briefing* in a statement that he backs Hydro One's initiative to improve its billing, although it's ultimately up to the independent OEB.

"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.

But he cautioned it's premature to evaluate everything that the company has asked for. "Utilities rarely get all they ask for – in the last eight years, the Board has reviewed over 100 major rate applications, including proposals from Hydro One, and reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent."

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d\plainSimilar story on [CTV News Toronto](#) (2:13 video clip – No OEB mentions)

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d\plainNorthern Daily News: Vanthof has concerns about energy survey (OEB mentions throughout – Link not available, story below)

8:1720:360:plain• Story quoting NDP MPP John Vanthof (Timiskaming-Cochrane) saying his party has some problems with the OEB's Customer Service Rules Review survey

8:1720:360:plain• Vanthof says while it's always a good idea for the OEB to gather public opinion, he suggests the OEB could be now questioning whether the winter disconnections ban is needed, while other questions could be "paving the way for the introduction of pre-paid meters"

8:1720:360:plain• He says another concern could be that the survey may not reach enough people to get accurate results

δ.λ720.φτ-360.πλαιν• Most of the article includes material from our news release issued in September when the survey launched, including quotes from Chair and CEO as well as link to the survey

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[d\plainSault Star: Town will consider hooking up buildings, services to save money, set example](#) (one OEB mention near end of story)

δ.λ720.φτ-360.πλαιν• News story about Town of Wawa considering tapping into LNG to power municipal buildings and services

δ.λ720.φτ-360.πλαιν• Quotes town's chief administrative officer as saying natural gas would be a boon to many Wawa residents, many of whom are seniors on fixed incomes. "Last winter, we got away lucky because it was so mild ... But this winter, not so much," said (Chris) Wray, adding Algoma Power was recently "successful " at the Ontario Energy Board in getting a rate increase.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMorning News Clippings

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainDate: Friday, January 12, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain](#) [Contact Editor](#)

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainClippings Summary

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainNews - 15 Results

NORTHERN DAILY NEWS

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Vanthof has concerns about energy survey](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorthern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value: \$241

Reach: 5917 Page: A3

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTimiskaming -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 ...

**[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Wawa will 'walk the walk' with LNG: Wray | Sault Star](#)**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.saultstar.com - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral****[Permalink](#)**d\intbl\itap
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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainPaul Crawford noted on Friday, January 12, 2018 OEB is mentioned.

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWawa 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.

**[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain 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](#)**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ALLISON JONES

Ad Value: \$10,406

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario'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 ...

**[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Hydro One bill redesign will cost \\$15 million | CTV News](#)**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.ctvnews.ca - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral****[Permalink](#)**d\intbl\itap
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\qr\plain**[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Broadcast news](#)**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainBroadcast news - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain--- (Hydro-One-Bills) Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says the redesign of Hydro One's bills is necessary, although the Ontario Energy Board has yet ...



[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Fixing wrong part of hydro bill?](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

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Ad Value: \$3,626

Reach: 171076 Page: A8

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro 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 ...



[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Hydro One wasteful](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLondon Free Press - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: B. Burrell

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Ad Value: \$800

Reach: 70995 Page: A7

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainLet 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 ...



[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain NDP demands Wynne stop \\$15M hydro bill redesign – Wawa-news.com](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwawa -news.com - Thu Jan 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario NDP Energy Critic MPP Peter Tabuns is demanding that Kathleen Wynne stop a plan to force families to pay \$15 million for redesigned hydro bills.



[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Ontario auto jobs head south](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOttawa Sun - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

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Ad Value: \$499

Reach: 45442 Page: A10

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIt'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 ...



[d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Divestment hurts people](#)

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNational Post - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mark Milke

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Ad Value: \$12,136

Reach: 159480 Page: FP7

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIf 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 ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Bisson to run in new Timmins riding](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Timmins Daily Press - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$894

Reach: 19038 Page: A1 / Front

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainGuy 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 ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Resident won't forget water rate hikes come election time](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWhitby This Week - Thu Jan 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$18

Reach: 79700 Page: 1

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo 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** ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain 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](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaintheglobeandmail.com - Fri Jan 12 2018, 5:00am ET

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Gary Mason

Reach: 1188000

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainJason 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 ...



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Report says Canadians want to fight climate change – as cheaply as possible - iPolitics](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainipolitics.ca - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMost Canadians care about the climate – but not quite enough to welcome massive energy bill hikes or to buy an electric car.



[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain The green fossil-fuel divestment crusade hurts the poor and middle class most](#)

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFinancial Post - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

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Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIf 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 ...

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat8\plainClippings Summary

Full Articles

NORTHERN DAILY NEWS

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainVanthof has concerns about energy survey

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainNorthern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value:\$241

Reach: 5917 Page: A3

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTimiskaming -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

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWawa will 'walk the walk' with LNG: Wray | Sault Star

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.saultstar.com](#) - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWawa 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.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One proposes plan to spend additional \$6-million to redesign bills; Extra funds are mostly earmarked for commercial, industrial and large distribution account customers

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Globe and Mail](#) - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ALLISON JONES

Ad Value: \$10,406

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainOntario'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 digital billing 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.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro One bill redesign will cost \$15 million | CTV News

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainwww.ctvnews.ca](#) - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFixing wrong part of hydro bill?

[d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainToronto Sun](#) - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Antonella Artuso

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

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainHydro 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."

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d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainHydro One wasteful

d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainLondon Free Press - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: B. Burrell

Ad Value: \$800

Reach: 70995 **Page:** A7

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

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d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainNDP demands Wynne stop \$15M hydro bill redesign – Wawa-news.com

d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainwawa -news.com - Thu Jan 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario NDP Energy Critic MPP Peter Tabuns is demanding that Kathleen Wynne stop a plan to force families to pay \$15 million for redesigned hydro bills.

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d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainOntario auto jobs head south

d\\intbl\\itap3\\cbpat8\\plainOttawa Sun - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$499

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A10

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.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain Divestment hurts people

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain National Post - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mark Milke

Ad Value: \$12,136

Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain 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.

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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.

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

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainBisson to run in new Timmins riding

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe Timmins Daily Press - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$894

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainGuy 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.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plain**Resident won't forget water rate hikes come election time**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainWhitby This Week - Thu Jan 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainTo 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

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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe 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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d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plaintheglobeandmail.com - Fri Jan 12 2018, 5:00am ET
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Gary Mason
Reach: 1188000

d:\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainJason 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)

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainReport says Canadians want to fight climate change – as cheaply as possible - iPolitics

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainipolitics.ca - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainMost Canadians care about the climate – but not quite enough to welcome massive energy bill hikes or to buy an electric car.

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d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainThe green fossil-fuel divestment crusade hurts the poor and middle class most

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainFinancial Post - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

d\intbl\itap3\cbpat8\plainIf 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.

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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.

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