

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: January 19, 2018 9:04 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Fri. Jan. 19, 2017

d\plain Good morning,

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d\plain A few OEB mentions this morning. There is a short write-up on a Barrie radio stations' website about the OEB asking utilities to do consumer outreach about electrical safety. The site links to an old OEB letter from 2015 which asks utilities to report the performance results of a customer survey for Public Awareness of Electrical Safety Measure back to the OEB. PA will reach out to the station to tell them the handout is old.

d\plain

[d\plain SooToday.com: PUC apologizes for exposing almost 3,000 customer email addresses](#)

δ.:λ1771.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• PUC's customer care department accidentally failed to click the 'bcc' (blind carbon copy) field on an outgoing email inviting participation in a customer engagement survey about a proposed electricity rate hike.

d\li1491\fi-360\plaino Email went to approx. 2,984 recipients.

δ.:λ1771.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• The mass PUC mailing is linked to an online SurveyMonkey questionnaire about PUC's application to the Ontario Energy Board for permission to increase its delivery rate approximately \$2.17 a month on a typical 750 kWh residential electrical bill.

δ.:λ1771.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Feedback from the online survey will be shared with the Ontario Energy Board, the independent regulator that decides how much PUC can charge its customers.

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[d\plain 107.5KoolFM: Energy Survey Phone Calls Are Not a Scam](#)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• **Ontario Energy Board Requiring All Distributors To Check Public Awareness:** The Ontario Energy Board is requiring all of the province's local distribution companies to perform public awareness of electrical safety.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• The site says that people may be calling in the coming months through to March to take a survey on electricity safety.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• The site links to this [handout](#) from the OEB, however the handout is from Nov. 25, 2015. (PA to call the radio station to let them know that the handout is old)

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[d\plainNorth Bay Nugget: Hydro mum on Espanola purchase; Process lengthy and does not require council approval – mayor](#)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• North Bay Hydro's proposed purchase of a regional electrical utility in Espanola does not require council's approval.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Mayor Al McDonald said North Bay Hydro Distribution Ltd. and its board have the ability to purchase assets such as Espanola Regional Hydro.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• McDonald said the process is lengthy and that it will require that the local utility's distribution company complete a share purchase agreement and a merger acquisitions, amalgamations and divestitures **application with the Ontario Energy Board before going to the holding company board for approval.**

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[d\plainDurhamRegion.com: Whitby Hydro, Veridian merger enters shareholder approval phase](#)

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Veridian Corporation and Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation are closer to joining forces as the companies enter the next phase of the merger agreement process.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλαιν• Veridian and Whitby Hydro will seek approvals from their municipal shareholders in the coming months. In Durham, that includes the municipalities of Ajax, Clarington, Pickering and Whitby. Subject to those approvals, **a merger agreement will be finalized and submitted to the Ontario Energy Board for regulatory approval** — a process that could take several months.

δ.:λ1720.:φ1-360.:πλ1ν• The combined utility company would service more than 162,000 residential and business customers and would become the fourth largest municipally owned electric utility in Ontario.

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d\intbl\qc\plain [View in Browser](#)

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainMorning News Clippings

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainpowered by:


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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainDate: Friday, January 19, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) [Contact Editor](#)

d\intbl\cbpat7\plainClippings Summary

d\intbl\cbpat7\plainNews - 16 Results



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) PUC apologizes for exposing almost 3,000 customer email addresses - SooToday.com

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.sootoday.com](#) - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat13\plainPaul Crawford noted on Friday, January 19, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Energy Survey Phone Calls Are Not a Scam | 107.5 Kool FM

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain1075koolfm.com - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Gord Young

Ad Value: \$491

Reach: 11505 Page: A3

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNorth Bay Hydro's proposed purchase of a **regional electrical utility** in **Espanola** does not require council's approval. But city politicians will play a role in a final decision on the ...



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Minister responds to East Ferris mayor's harsh words on natural gas snub

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainAlmaguin News - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$198

Reach: 3101 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainEditor's Note: This letter was received in response to

the story Fire and fury but no **gas** in East Ferris. According to Alex Benac, the press secretary to Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli, "The minister saw this article in the ...

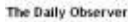


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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Can she make the best of a 'No-Wynne' situation?

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainMississauga News - Fri Jan 12 2018
Tone: **Positive**
Ad Value: \$2,398
Reach: 123300 **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainIn the much-ridiculed ad that defined the 2014 provincial election, Kathleen Wynne donned her jogging gear and laboured up and down the Caledon **Hills** telling us that she was someone we didn't really know and suggesting she might ...



d\intbl\cbpa
t7\qr\plain

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) It's time for Wynne to lose

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainDaily Observer (Pembroke) - Fri Jan 19 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Paul Kelly
Ad Value: \$760
Reach: 6045 **Page:** A4

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainIn 140 days, maybe sooner, Ontarians are going to be given an exciting opportunity to purge themselves of the incompetence of Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne. The list of why I want her defeated is too long for my 700 word limit but I want her gone ...



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Whitby Hydro, Veridian merger enters shareholder approval phase

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainWhitby This Week - Wed Jan 17 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$30
Reach: 79700 **Page:** 1

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain**WHITBY - Veridian Corporation** and **Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation** are closer to joining forces as the companies enter the next phase of the merger agreement process. ...



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) It's regular Canadians who'll be paying for the green agenda

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Fri Jan 19 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Matthew Lau
Ad Value: \$2,786
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A17

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain In a 1999 interview, the late Nobel-prize winning economist **Milton** Friedman remarked that there were good arguments for having government take action to reduce pollution, like smoke from **power** plants. That's because the smoke ...



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[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Energy use: DVI to help Canadian province achieve energy goals

[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.metering.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Dominion Voltage Inc (DVI), a subsidiary of US utility Dominion Energy, will be entering the Canadian energy market to help utilities in Ontario to meet goals set under the province's Long-Term energy use reduction goals.



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[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Fracking fluids key to induced quakes near gas wells, study finds

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain The Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: IVAN SEMENIUK

Ad Value: \$17,062

Reach: 309154 Page: A6

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Three years after hydraulic fracturing for **natural gas** - also known as fracking - began around the central Alberta community of Fox Creek, the number of earthquakes in the region suddenly began to rise, including a ...



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[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) FERC approves Avista-Hydro One deal | Utility Dive

[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.utilitydive.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this week approved the merger of Hydro One and Avista, possibly clearing the way for the deal to close in the second half of this year.



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[d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Keystone XL captures key commercial support; TransCanada Corp. says it has secured 500,000 barrels a day worth of commitments

d:\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Toronto Star - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ian Bickis The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$16,993
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B8

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday that it has confirmed enough commercial support for its controversial Keystone XL pipeline thanks in part to a commitment from the Alberta government. The company said it has secured 500,000 barrels a day of 20-year ...



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) KXL secures backing from shippers; Still no final decision on pipeline project

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainPeterborough Examiner - Fri Jan 19 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: \$1,132
Reach: 19693 **Page:** C6

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday it had signed enough 20-year contracts to make its proposed Keystone XL pipeline commercially viable, but stopped short of announcing a final decision of the controversial project. Calgary-based TransCanada said ...



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) TransCanada concludes open season for Keystone XL project, confirms support | Business | Cape Breton Post

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.capebretonpost.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat13\plainPaul Crawford noted on Thursday, January 18, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday that it has confirmed enough commercial support for its controversial Keystone XL pipeline thanks in part to a commitment from the Alberta government.



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Alberta government guarantees 20 years of oil for Keystone XL pipeline | Calgary Herald

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plaincalgaryherald.com - Thu Jan 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat13\plainPaul Crawford noted on Thursday, January 18, 2018
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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainAlberta 's NDP government is backing the Keystone XL pipeline with guaranteed oil.



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Kinder Morgan falls further behind as Keystone XL locks in commercial support | National Observer

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.nationalobserver.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat13\plainPaul Crawford noted on Thursday, January 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainJust three months after cancelling its Energy East pipeline proposal, TransCanada Corp. has announced that it plans to proceed, full steam ahead, with the cross-border Keystone XL project

d\intbl\cbpat7\plainClippings Summary

Full Articles



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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) PUC apologizes for exposing almost 3,000 customer email addresses - SooToday.com

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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain1075koolfm.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNorth Bay Nugget - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Gord Young

Ad Value: \$491

Reach: 11505 Page: A3

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainNorth Bay Hydro's proposed purchase of a **regional electrical utility** in **Espanola** does not require council's approval.

But city politicians will play a role in a final decision on the purchase as directors of the holding company which owns the local **utility**.

Mayor Al McDonald said **North Bay Hydro Distribution** Ltd. and its board have the ability to purchase assets such as **Espanola Regional Hydro**.

And, he said, a final purchase agreement will go before **North Bay Hydro Holdings Limited** for approval.

But McDonald said city politicians, who are directors on the holding company board, are not involved in the negotiations.

In a release, the Town of **Espanola** and the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers announced the acceptance of a letter of intent from **North Bay Hydro Distribution** Ltd.

The release indicated the parties are proceeding with the next phase of the process which includes the completion of due diligence and the preparation of a definitive agreement of purchase and sale.

McDonald said the process is lengthy and that it will require that the local **utility's distribution** company complete a share purchase agreement and a merger acquisitions, amalgamations and divestitures **application** with the **Ontario Energy Board** before going to the holding company board for approval.

The mayor describes the proposed purchase of the **utility** as positive, but deferred additional questions to Matt Payne, president and chief operating officer of **North Bay Hydro Distribution** Limited.

Payne has indicated the company is excited to move forward in the process and sees great value in partnerships with the communities of **Espanola** and Sables-Spanish Rivers.

However, the local **utility** said Thursday it will not provide further comment on the proposed acquisition at this time.

The mayors **Espanola** and Sables-Spanish Rivers have both spoken positively about the proposed sale.

"It is in the best interest of our residents and **hydro ratepayers** that these services are delivered through the knowledge and experience of **North Bay Hydro**" said Sables-Spanish Rivers Mayor Les Gamble, in the release.

Espanola Mayor Ron Piche said the proposal sale ensures that infrastructure upgrades which are required to ensure the long-term dependability and reliability of the **service** in his community will continue while minimizing the impact on our **distribution rates**.

"We are confident that **North Bay Hydro** will bring value to the community in terms of **distribution rates** and **customer service**," he said.

Espanola currently owns 81 per cent of **Espanola Hydro** and Sables-Spanish Rivers the remaining 19 per cent; servicing 3,289 customers.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Minister responds to East Ferris mayor's harsh words on natural gas snub

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainAlmaguin News - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$198

Reach: 3101 Page: 1

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainEditor's Note: This letter was received in response to the story Fire and fury but no **gas** in East Ferris. According to Alex Benac, the press secretary to Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli, "The minister saw this article in the Almaguin News yesterday and is hoping you'd be willing to publish a response."

I can understand Mayor Bill Vrebosch's disappointment with East Ferris' result in the province's **Natural Gas** Grant Program. He has always been a fighter for his community.

As a former mayor, I am familiar with the frustration that often comes with an unsuccessful **application**. Mayor Vrebosch recently shared those feelings in a conversation with the Almaguin News. By way of response, I would like to share some of the facts about the program's background with your readers.

I want to be very clear: applications to the **Natural Gas** Grant Program underwent a comprehensive, multi-ministerial **review** and were assessed according to standard criteria that were universally applied. Any suggestion that partisanship or politics played a role in determining the successful proponents is simply not true. I would have preferred a call from the mayor himself to discuss the details of East Ferris' submission, and welcomed an opportunity to set the record straight one-on-one.

Once a full **public** announcement has been made, his worship will see that the vast majority of projects that received conditional approval are located in constituencies represented by opposition MPPs. It is easy for a well-known Progressive Conservative loyalist such as Mayor Vrebosch to imply that partisanship had a role to play here, but the fact is there isn't a shred of evidence to support this claim.

We received applications for roughly \$500 million worth of projects for a \$100 million program. That meant we had difficult decisions to make. I assure the residents of East Ferris - and all other municipalities disappointed with the results - that those decisions were made based on facts and the quality of the applications presented to the government.

I remain more than willing to substantively discuss the details of East Ferris' **application** with Mayor Vrebosch and look forward to hearing from him soon.

Bob Chiarelli

Minister of Infrastructure of **Ontario**

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Can she make the best of a 'No-Wynne' situation?

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainMississauga News - Fri Jan 12 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$2,398

Reach: 123300 Page: 1

In the much-ridiculed ad that defined the 2014 provincial election, Kathleen Wynne donned her jogging gear and laboured up and down the Caledon **Hills** telling us that she was someone we didn't really know and suggesting she might surprise us if we gave her the chance.

She was metaphorically and physically distancing herself from predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, in what you might call a party off-**gassing** protocol.

"I set goals - really hard-to-accomplish goals," she said in an earnest voice-over. (The premier is nothing if not earnest.) "I never stop until I'm done."

After four lacklustre years, many political pundits have already declared her done. But Wynne shows no intention of stopping.

Heading into the June 7 polling, her current hard-to-accomplish goal is winning a second mandate in the face of all-time dismal personal popularity polling numbers and widespread discontent in her party's listless performance.

After 14 years of Liberal rule, voter fatigue doesn't talk, it swears.

Yet somehow, improbably, Kathleen Wynne appears to have a chance.

With a nerve that belies her schoolmarmish exterior, she's recast herself as change agent.

Her new-found progressivism has raised the minimum wage, provided free post-secondary tuition for low income families and approved pharmacare for those under 25.

A lot of handicappers didn't even see her getting into the saddle again, yet new polls suggest she's in the midst of the fray as the stretch heaves into view.

While politics may be a handicap race, it's also a marathon.

There are only three horses on this first past-the-post card. They all carry hefty burdens.

Wynne's appears to be the heaviest. After pretending **hydro rates** weren't a problem, she provided subsidies our children and grandchildren will finance.

The other contenders have their own bugbears.

Patrick Brown of the Progressive Conservatives must expunge the ghosts of campaigns past when Tim Hudak and John Tory blew big leads that, like this one, appeared overwhelming.

The good news is that the Tories have a platform that's not just "throw the rascals out."

After winning leadership via his social conservative base, his surprisingly centrist platform is designed to lure back red Tories and attract disaffected blue Liberals. Much will depend on his untested campaigning prowess.

The long shot in the mix is inscrutable NDP leader Andrea Horwath. Her party triggered the last election, then appeared to sit it out in astonishment as the Liberals campaigned with much of their traditional platform.

The Grits have already helped themselves to the NDP minimum wage plank.

In what will be her last campaign if she doesn't win, Horwath needs to again become the Clamour from the Hammer who drives the social activism agenda.

After the last polling I suggested, "Wynne and her party would do well to remember that they didn't exactly win this election. It was more or less ceded to them by the opposition. Lots of people whose vote she attracted have major reservations."

Those haven't been dispelled.

However, her political obituary could be premature. Wynne has a dogged, indefatigable, persistent - yes, earnest - quality that's easily underestimated.

John Stewart is a retired longtime journalist with the Mississauga News. His column, My Back Pages, appears each week.

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The Daily Observer

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain It's time for Wynne to lose

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainDaily Observer (Pembroke) - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline:Paul Kelly

Ad Value:\$760

Reach: 6045 **Page:** A4

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainIn 140 days, maybe sooner, Ontarians are going to be given an exciting opportunity to purge themselves of the incompetence of Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne.

The list of why I want her defeated is too long for my 700 word limit but I want her gone so badly that I would welcome an NDP government.

Anyone that knows me or recalls the Bob Rae governmental experiment between 1990-95 would know how badly that must be.

But if I can offer my major problem with Wynne in a few words it would be that I am just sick and tired of her messing with our lives and trying to buy our votes.

These government advertisements -paid for with our money -telling me how this is "free" or that is better or how we should live our lives is getting to be even more annoying than the premier herself.

For example, OHIP Plus, the program to give everyone "free" prescription medications. Madame Premier, those drugs are not "free." They are paid for with tax dollars. Nothing from the Liberal government is "free."

These advertisements about how labour laws have changed -a new higher minimum wage, expanded sick leave -are pure propaganda.

Wynne has compelled small businesses to pay employees more. It's not her money. It is their money. The money to buy those ads -and the votes of workers -are paid for with our money.

The new daycare spaces -again making our lives so much better -are paid for with our money.

The "new" reductions in **hydro** bills? Yet another attempt to buy votes and peace for two years simply to hang on to her own **power**. A deal which is **restructuring** debt and capping **hydro rates** passed the next election when **hydro rates** will rise and the bill will come due on the debt is a political ponzi scheme.

The auditor general has quite rightly characterized it as a cooked accounting process used to deceive citizens to buy votes.

To this add the Liberal government's seemingly endless problems in the courts.

The case involving the destruction of records is most telling. In a desperate attempt to keep **power**, the Liberals cancel **gas** plants in **Toronto** -to the tune of billions of dollars lost -then government computer hard drives are mysteriously erased resulting in the criminal trial of two top aides of former **Ontario** premier Dalton McGuinty.

Any junior government staff member would know that you can't destroy government records. When you arrive at Queen's Park it's covered off in training called "Keeping Government Records Safe for Dummies."

But the Liberals, in a move straight out of a Seinfeld episode, say no one ever told us we couldn't do this.

The most senior **public** servant at the time told them the only organization that doesn't keep written records are criminal organizations. He hit the nail on the head with that observation.

But, as it may very well be, no convictions will flow from the letter of the law but in the spirit of the law, we are dealing with some pretty suspect characters at best.

There is so much more like the sell off of **Hydro**, the shafting of teachers and doctors, the jamming of Wynne's zealous **climate** change agenda -and the prospect of four more years of her incompetence boggles my mind.

Her desperation to cling to **power** is obvious. She is playing all the right angles -there are more workers than business owners, more tenants than landlords, more folks in **Toronto** than in the rest of **Ontario**.

Every policy she is enacting is not to make **Ontario** "better" but to keep her in **power**.

Dig deeper in debt, buy all the special interest groups off and fear-monger (with the help of well financed special interest groups) about what may happen if voters change course.

How groups -funding unknown, membership unknown -can bankroll a government and sandbag its opponents while misrepresenting the truth so freely is beyond me but the Russians on Facebook have nothing on them. Unfortunately, their tactics work.

Now, I know what you are going to say: What about the alternatives? The

NDP? The Conservatives? To this I can only say, after years of McGuinty and Wynne it cannot be any worse.

Even just opening some windows might help.

We don't need rearranging of the chairs on the deck of the Titanic as Wynne did this week with a cabinet shuffle, but what we need is an entire flushing of this incompetent, corrupt crew.

Let's shed ourselves of these people. The quicker the better. I can wait 140 days ... but not much more.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Whitby Hydro, Veridian merger enters shareholder approval phase

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainWhitby This Week - Wed Jan 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$30

Reach: 79700 Page: 1

WHITBY - Veridian Corporation and **Whitby Hydro Energy Corporation** are closer to joining forces as the companies enter the next phase of the merger agreement process.

The boards of directors of the municipal **electricity utilities** have recommended that shareholders approve the merger to create a new yet-unnamed **energy corporation**. Last July, it was announced they had reached the first milestone in merger evaluations with the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

"The world and the way we **power** it is changing. We can stand still and get left behind or we can grow and innovate for long-term sustainability and deliver **greater** value to customers and municipal shareholders," said Clarington mayor Adrian Foster, who is chair of **Veridian's** board of directors.

"A merger is our best opportunity to deliver cost-effective, reliable **energy** services and mitigate against future **rate** increases as it allows us to achieve **greater** economies of scale, find efficiencies, and develop our competitive strengths."

Veridian and **Whitby Hydro** will seek approvals from their municipal shareholders in the coming months. In Durham, that includes the municipalities of Ajax, Clarington, Pickering and **Whitby**. Subject to those approvals, a merger agreement will be finalized and submitted to the **Ontario Energy Board** for regulatory approval - a process that could take several months.

"The new company will continue to be 100 per cent municipally owned and dividends would continue to flow to the municipalities for reinvestment in their communities," said Patrick McNeil, chair of **Whitby Hydro's** board of directors.

"In addition, we expect the merger to produce about \$90 million in savings over the next 17 years and customers, on average, will experience approximately 3 per cent lower **rates** than they otherwise would have as customers of either **utility** alone."

The combined **utility** company would **service** more than 162,000 residential and business customers and would become the fourth largest municipally

owned **electric utility** in **Ontario**.

Visit learnmore.whitbyhydro.on.ca or learnmore.veridian.on.ca for more information.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain It's regular Canadians who'll be paying for the green agenda

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainToronto Sun - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Matthew Lau

Ad Value: \$2,786

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A17

In a 1999 interview, the late Nobel-prize winning economist **Milton** Friedman remarked that there were good arguments for having government take action to reduce pollution, like smoke from **power** plants.

That's because the smoke imposes costs on third parties - for example, by dirtying property as well as surrounding **public** spaces. A **power** plant produces the smoke but doesn't pay for all the costs. This might justify government taking action to reduce the amount of smoke or make the **power** plant pay for the right to emit the smoke.

"But you have to qualify that by noting that when the government enters in," Friedman warned, "it also is emitting smoke, it's also imposing costs on third parties. There's a smokestack on the back of every government program."

What Friedman meant was, just like a chimney emitting smoke, government programs impose costs on third parties - both on consumers and the taxpayers who are forced to pay for government actions.

Indeed, the entire business of government is to emit smoke and pass along the costs. Politicians make their livings by imposing costs on others - ironically when they do so it is often in the name of curbing pollution.

Take for example **Ontario's electric** car subsidies, which are supposed to reduce the environmental costs imposed by drivers on the **public**. But what about the millions of dollars in financial costs (taxes) the government imposes on the **public** to pay for the subsidies? Another example of government smoke-emitting: The more than \$1-billion cost to taxpayers announced several weeks ago by **Ottawa**, to pay for corporate welfare and other ill-advised green programs across six provinces.

Meanwhile in **Ontario**, residents are paying billions of dollars annually for unnecessarily expensive **power**, and 75,000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared thanks to the province's reckless green policies.

Ontarians paid the steep price to replace coal-fired **power** with costly and unreliable alternatives, making everybody worse off except the **wind** and **solar** companies getting big subsidies.

Notably, green schemes aren't just a form of "pollution" in the sense that they impose costs on third parties (consumers and taxpayers). Sometimes, policies aimed at environmental protection result in environmental damage.

Windmills in **Ontario**, for instance, are a hazard for birds and bats. And things are even worse in Germany, a country often cited by **North** American politicians as a world leader in **renewable energy**.

Science writer Matt Ridley notes in a recent article that "the renewables are causing an environmental disaster as well as an economic one" in Germany. "The **wind** farms kill thousands of rare birds of prey every year, the biogas plants cause run-off and soil erosion, while the **solar** farms industrialize and denature the land."

The cost of subsidizing this destruction so far is about 190-billion euros in total by 2025." That's one big money burning smokestack.

Meanwhile, politicians in Canada seem intent on going down the same path, with the Trudeau government copying **Ontario**'s costly green agenda instead of learning from their mistakes.

That cost, as Friedman observed, will be paid by ordinary people, rather than the politicians imposing the costs. When it comes to costly green renewables it's past time for governments to stop emitting smoke.

Lau is an economics writer in **Toronto** and a contributor to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Energy use: DVI to help Canadian province achieve energy goals

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.metering.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainDominion Voltage Inc (DVI), a subsidiary of US utility Dominion Energy, will be entering the Canadian energy market to help utilities in Ontario to meet goals set under the province's Long-Term energy use reduction goals.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Fracking fluids key to induced quakes near gas wells, study finds

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainThe Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 19 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: IVAN SEMENIUK

Ad Value: \$17,062
Reach: 309154 Page: A6

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainThree years after hydraulic fracturing for **natural gas** - also known as fracking - began around the central Alberta community of Fox Creek, the number of earthquakes in the region suddenly began to rise, including a magnitude-4.8 tremor that rattled the town in January, 2016, and forced the shutdown of a nearby **gas** well.

Now a scientific study of what happened at Fox Creek is shedding light on the connection between fracking and earthquakes with results that could help industry better control the seismic activity that fracking creates.

In the study, published on Thursday in the journal *Science*, a **Canadian** team of researchers compared publicly available data on **gas** wells operating in the vicinity of Fox Creek with the earthquake frequency recorded by seismometers in the area.

Among the factors they examined, only one - the amount of fluid injected into the ground - seemed to make a difference to the number of earthquakes that were recorded around a given well site.

"Wells that have a higher volume [of fluid] tend to have earthquakes associated with them," said Ryan Schultz, a seismologist with the Alberta Geological Survey and lead author of the study.

While not all **gas** plays are seismically active, the findings suggest that well operators can reduce the risk of triggering quakes by restricting how much fluid they use in places where geological factors make earthquakes more likely.

Those factors include the presence and orientation of fault lines where stress has built up and has the potential to be released by the injection of fluid at high pressure into the surrounding rock.

The new study adds to a growing body of evidence that hints at the cause-and-effect relationship between fracking and earthquakes.

Internationally, the issue has led to rising concerns over the seismic risks associated with fracking, a process of **drilling** horizontally into rock and then injecting a gritty fluid under pressure to force open small fissures and release **gas** reserves that were previously inaccessible to extraction.

If a fracking operation is one that triggers earthquakes, "the **rate** of earthquakes is critical," said Gail Atkinson, a professor of Earth sciences at the University of Western **Ontario** in **London** who also contributed to the study.

In general, most earthquakes induced by fracking operations are too weak to be felt. But when earthquakes are more frequent, there is also a **greater** chance of producing a seismic event that can cause damage on the surface. (In general earthquakes start to be felt around magnitude-4 but the possibility of damage depends on local conditions.)

"Roughly for every 100 magnitude-3 earthquakes, you will get 10 magnitude-4 earthquakes and one magnitude-5 earthquake, and so on," Dr. Atkinson said.

The 4.8 earthquake that occurred near Fox Creek two years ago "got a lot of attention," said William Ellsworth, an expert in so-called induced earthquakes at Stanford University who was not involved in the study.

Dr. Ellsworth said the new study has practical value because it supports "traffic light" measures already in place in most states and provinces where fracking is permitted. Under such measures, a well goes from a green light to a yellow light if an earthquake occurs within a certain magnitude range (between 2.0 and 4.0 in Alberta). If the higher number is exceeded, the well hits a red light and a stop order is issued.

The challenge is that it is still not clear which wells will produce earthquakes ahead of time, Dr. Ellsworth added.

"This has to be calibrated on a case-by-case basis."

Once earthquakes begin occurring around a well, however, the study offers

some ability to predict how many more earthquakes might be reasonably expected if injected fluid volumes are increased.

"What all this means is that industry can control how much seismicity they trigger by controlling how much volume of fluid they inject," Dr. Atkinson said.

Mr. Schultz added that the relationship between volume and earthquake frequency explains the mystery of why it took three years of fracking before earthquakes began spiking around Fox Creek. Apparently the injected fluid had to reach a threshold volume before it was activating fault lines.

Another co-author, Honn Kao, a seismologist with Natural Resources Canada, based in Victoria, said the team's conclusion is in agreement with earlier findings from a **gas** play in **northern** British Columbia, and shows the link holds up with the much more extensive data that were available from the Alberta site.

"The result certainly becomes more convincing," he said.

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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) FERC approves Avista-Hydro One deal | Utility Dive

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.utilitydive.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainThe Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this week approved the merger of Hydro One and Avista, possibly clearing the way for the deal to close in the second half of this year.

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[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain](#) Keystone XL captures key commercial support; TransCanada Corp. says it has secured 500,000 barrels a day worth of commitments

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainToronto Star](#) - Fri Jan 19 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Ian Bickis The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$16,993
Reach: 361323 Page: B8

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday that it has confirmed enough commercial support for its controversial Keystone XL pipeline thanks in part to a commitment from the Alberta government.

The company said it has secured 500,000 barrels a day of 20-year commitments for the project after concluding an open season, locking up about 60 per cent of the 830,000 barrels of planned capacity.

TransCanada chief executive Russ Girling thanked U.S. President Donald Trump for his continued support of the project as well as the efforts of other U.S. backers and the Alberta government.

The Alberta government stepped in to commit 50,000 barrels a day for the project from some of the royalty payments the province accepts as barrels of oil, with Notley spokesperson Cheryl Oates saying it will help the industry.

The province had also committed volumes to TransCanada's now-defunct **Energy** East project, but not to Kinder Morgan Canada's Trans Mountain expansion or Enbridge's Line 3 replacement.

Adam Scott at environmental advocacy group Oil Change International criticized the province's support for a project that would harm the **climate** and continues to have significant opposition.

"Any project that needs a government bailout amid a quagmire of ongoing legal and regulatory challenges has little chance of moving forward," Scott said in a statement.

In November, Nebraska regulators approved a route for the pipeline though the state, but not the company's preferred choice, instead shifting the path away from sensitive ecological areas.

TransCanada said it's working with landowners to obtain the necessary agreements for the approved route, but the company also faces lawsuits regarding how the alternative route was approved.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain KXL secures backing from shippers; Still no final decision on pipeline project

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainPeterborough Examiner - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: \$1,132

Reach: 19693 **Page:** C6

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday it had signed enough 20-year contracts to make its proposed Keystone XL pipeline commercially viable, but stopped short of announcing a final decision of the controversial project.

Calgary-based TransCanada said shippers - including the Alberta government - had committed to send 500,000 barrels per day on the pipeline, which would run from Alberta to the U.S. Gulf **Coast**. Critics said the commitment nonetheless falls short of a full-throated backing by Alberta's oil industry.

TransCanada had spent months asking shippers to commit their production to the project under longterm agreements and succeeded in contracting roughly 60 per cent of Keystone XL's total capacity of 830,000 bpd even as other export pipelines are full, operators are rationing space and producers are moving more oil out of the province on railway cars.

By contrast, oil companies had taken up 80 per cent, or 708,000 bpd, of Kinder Morgan Canada's expanded Trans Mountain pipeline system between Alberta and British Columbia, deliberately leaving 20 per cent open for spot shipments.

Commitments from the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission, a

provincial agency, make up 10 per cent of the volumes announced Thursday, with 50,000 bpd committed to the line through a royalty-inkind for 20 years.

"We're pleased to be making this commitment to bring more Alberta oil to the world and we expect it means Keystone XL will be built," Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said in an emailed statement.

The APMC had previously committed barrels to TransCanada's now-cancelled **Energy** East project. It did not commit barrels on either Kinder Morgan Canada's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to the **West Coast** or on Enbridge Inc.'s Line 3 to the U.S. Midwest. Enbridge declined to comment.

Pipeline opponents, meanwhile, said the commitments to the project so far are "shockingly weak" and an indication the pipeline lacks support from the **Canadian** oilpatch.

"TransCanada clearly does not have the support necessary for this project, since the company could secure just 500,000 bpd of commitments from shippers on its 830,000 bpd-capacity pipeline - and that's only with a giant subsidy gift directly from the **Canadian** government," Bold Nebraska founder and pipeline opponent Jane Kleeb said in a statement.

TransCanada itself stopped short of announcing a decision on the \$8 billion project.

"Over the past 12 months, the Keystone XL project has achieved several milestones that move us significantly closer to constructing this critical **energy** infrastructure for **North** America," TransCanada president and CEO Russ Girling said in a release.

TransCanada had intended to make a final decision by the end of 2017 but that date has been pushed back amid legal challenges to the route through Nebraska.

The Nebraska **Public Service** Commission approved a route through the state in November but it was different from TransCanada's preferred route - which has opened up the project to new legal challenges.

Opposed landowners, represented by Omaha lawyer David Domina, filed an appeal of the approvals at the end of December, bringing a potential commissioning and in-**service** date for the line into question.

"We are progressing toward a final investment decision," TransCanada spokesperson Terry Cunha said in an email, adding, "having route approval in Nebraska and the necessary commercial support for Keystone XL brings us close to FID."

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain TransCanada concludes open season for Keystone XL project, confirms support | Business | Cape Breton Post

[d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.capebretonpost.com](#) - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainTransCanada Corp. said Thursday that it has confirmed enough commercial support for its controversial Keystone XL pipeline thanks in part to a commitment from the Alberta government.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Alberta government guarantees 20 years of oil for Keystone XL pipeline | Calgary Herald

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plaincalgaryherald.com - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainAlberta 's NDP government is backing the Keystone XL pipeline with guaranteed oil.

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d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plain Kinder Morgan falls further behind as Keystone XL locks in commercial support | National Observer

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainwww.nationalobserver.com - Thu Jan 18 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

d\intbl\itap2\cbpat7\plainJust three months after cancelling its Energy East pipeline proposal, TransCanada Corp. has announced that it plans to proceed, full steam ahead, with the cross-border Keystone XL project

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