

Rosemarie Leclair

From: Rosemarie Leclair
Sent: October 21, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Neil Brodie
Subject: Re: Morning News Clippings - Friday, October 21, 2016

It can wait

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 21, 2016, at 11:00 AM, Neil Brodie <Neil.Brodie@ontarioenergyboard.ca> wrote:

IT will look at the servers here to see if there was a glitch. They may have to call you to run through a couple of things on your phone. Are you ok with that or can you wait til Monday? If they call you, it would be better on a land line so you can look at your cell phone

From: Rosemarie Leclair
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 10:56 AM
To: Neil Brodie
Subject: Re: Morning News Clippings - Friday, October 21, 2016

Thanks....I didn't get it...no emails from late yesterday to 9 or so this morning...Can you have Sarah get IT to look into this...

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 21, 2016, at 10:54 AM, Neil Brodie <Neil.Brodie@ontarioenergyboard.ca> wrote:

Came out at 8.01

From: Infomart Newsletters [<mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 8:01 AM
To: Neil Brodie
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, October 21, 2016

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, October 21, 2016
 Edited by: Lyan Khazanchi (Lyan.Khazanchi@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 29 Results



Costs of living here | Kenora Daily Miner and News

www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Friday, October 21, 2016
OEB mentioned

I could go on with more complaints about the costs of electricity in Ontario and that I had suspected the trumpeted elimination of the provincial portion of HST to be countered by our semi-annual November increase in rates.



Brian Jones: 'Making Muskrat right' requires cancelling project - Columnists - The Telegram

www.thetelegram.com - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Friday, October 21, 2016
OEB mentioned

Muskrat defenders will predictably point out the Ontario Energy Board's 8.7 cents per kWh rate is for off-peak hours, and mid-peak and on-peak rates — during certain days and hours — are 13.2 cents per kWh and 18 cents per kWh, respectively.



Daily Commercial News - SNC-Lavalin fined for operating electrical plant without a licence

dailycommercialnews.com - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

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The Ontario Energy Board says it inspected SNC-Lavalin's operations and maintenance facilities at the Toronto airport "after it became known" the company was generating electricity without a licence.



Power companies told to bill customers monthly, a \$10-million cost that will likely end up on bills

www.ottawacitizen.com - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Friday, October 21, 2016
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A government board has told power companies across the province that by year-end they must send customers a hydro bill every month — a change that could cost up to \$10-million, and will likely show up on the bills of consumers.



Hydro rates to remain unchanged: OEB - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
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THUNDER BAY -- Unless you significantly change your consumption habits, you likely won't find any surprises on your hydro bills this fall. The Ontario Energy Board has announced it won't be increasing hydro prices when time of use changes take ...



Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro scores high among Ontario power companies

www.newhamburgindependent.ca - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Friday, October 21, 2016
OEB mentioned

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro has earned high performance marks on a scorecard released this fall by the Ontario Energy Board.



Wynne's hydro prices shocking

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: \$1,673
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A16

Perhaps it's a co-incidence that the **Ontario Energy Board** announced a temporary freeze of **electricity** time-of-use (TOU) pricing **rates** on Wednesday, the same day Premier Kathleen Wynne ...



Hydro is 'No. 1 priority'; Give \$2.6-billion hydro cash to the people: NDP leader

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Anthony Furey

Ad Value: \$2,119
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A10

"I've been dumpster diving," a 59-year-old woman from Uxbridge called in to tell me. "My credit cards are all maxed out - I have three - trying to pay my **hydro** bills. "I work really hard," she says. Yet she's had to throw away her ...



People rearrange their lives just to bring hydro usage down yet the bills still go up

Times - Journal (St.Thomas) - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Anthony Furey

Ad Value: \$405
Reach: 8859 **Page:** A7

"I'm a single mother of two and we literally live in the dark," writes Ontario resident Grace Dadone. "I do my laundry between 10 and midnight. I try to save on **energy** costs by going to my mom's once a week - and still my bill is sky ...



Ontario will buy power from Quebec hydro dams; Pact should save province \$70 million per year and trim greenhouse gas emissions

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$11,716
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A4

In a bid to defuse anger over skyrocketing bills, Ontario will announce a new deal Friday to buy more hydroelectric **power** from Quebec. The seven-year pact - saving the province \$70 million - will have only a "small" impact on household ...



Users must be smart about electricity

Kingston Whig-Standard - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Steven Manders

Ad Value: \$747
Reach: 21850 **Page:** B5

A lot has been said about high **hydro rates** and the tens of thousands of people who are in arrears trying to pay for their **hydro**. **Hydro rates** have gone up a lot, but it is still a lot of ...



Provincial spending misplaced Instead of helping low-income Ontarians

The Barrie Examiner - Fri Oct 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Bruce MacGregor

Ad Value: \$152
Reach: 51965 **Page:** C2

with their **hydro** bills, the provincial government spent almost \$12 million on high-priced consultants and self-congratulatory promotional ads. The people of

Ontario can't count on Premier Kathleen Wynne to take real action to make their ...



Ontario to buy hydroelectricity from Quebec

The Globe and Mail - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: ADRIAN MORROW, BERTRAND MAROTTE

Ad Value: \$14,125

Reach: 309154 Page: A5

Ontario has reached a deal to buy hydroelectric **power** from Quebec in a bid to cut greenhouse **gas** emissions by replacing some of the province's natural **gas-generated electricity**. Under the seven-year ...



'Green dream' expensive

Kingston Whig-Standard - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$265

Reach: 21850 Page: A4

Re: "Premier defends **energy** plan," Oct. 13. I am not sure which is worse: seeing Premier Kathleen Wynne's ideologically driven green dream result in companies fleeing the province, taking thousands of good paying jobs with them as our ...



Councillor's hydro petition gets a cool reception; But Darouze optimistic after delivering request for lower Hydro One rates

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$6,781

Reach: 114846 Page: A7

Osgoode Coun. George Darouze physically hauled his 8,500-name petition to Toronto on Wednesday, asking the legislature to order **Hydro One** to charge **Hydro** Ottawa prices to its 45,000 Ottawa customers. ...



Hydro Rebate Plan; Tories say Liberals spent \$11.7 million on consultants, media

Daily Miner & News (Kenora) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value: \$498

Reach: 3206 Page: A5

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault is defending the fact that nearly \$12 million was spent on consultants and advertising for a plan that offers discounts to low-income **electricity** customers. About 145,000 of an ...

Ontario signs deal for electricity from Quebec in bid to defuse anger over hydro bills

thestar.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Rob Ferguson(<https://author.thestar.com/> »)

Reach: 999000

In a bid to defuse anger over skyrocketing bills, Ontario will announce a new deal Friday to buy more hydroelectric **power** from Quebec. The seven-year pact - saving the province \$70 million - will have only a "small" impact on household ...



Hydro sell-off fallout; Unstable job environment is too high a price to pay

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Warren'Smokey'Thomas ,

Ad Value: \$3,831

Reach: 171076 Page: A19

I finally had the chance this week to ask Premier Kathleen Wynne's business adviser, Ed Clark, if he loses sleep at night knowing his advice to sell off **Hydro One** is one of the most unpopular decisions in Ontario's recent ...



Ontario Energy Board holds the line on electricity rates until May 2017

Daily Miner & News (Kenora) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value:\$120

Reach: 3206 Page: A5

For the first time in eight years, **electricity rates** in Ontario will not rise on Nov. 1. The **Ontario Energy Board** sets **rates** for customers on ...



Trudeau urged to 'step up' over hydro project; Aboriginal anger

National Post - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Sue Bailey

Ad Value:\$10,249

Reach: 159480 Page: A12

Supporters of a growing movement to blockade the Muskrat Falls **hydro** project in Labrador over methylmercury concerns say it's a test of Justin Trudeau's bid to reconcile with aboriginal people. "Step up," Jim Learning, an Inuit resident ...



Energy East pipeline 'will happen,' but taking too long: Arthur Irving | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Arthur Irving says Alberta's struggling economy badly needs the pipeline to sell its fossil fuels, while his firm remains eager to form a partnership with TransCanada to build a deepwater terminal in the Bay of Fundy where tankers can ship the ...



Ottawa names four for Energy East talks; 'Indigenous engagement' after NEB fallout

National Post - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jesse Snyder

Ad Value:\$3,555

Reach: 159480 Page: FP8

The federal government has appointed four people to consult with communities along the **Energy East** pipeline after concerns over the integrity of National **Energy** Board's hearing process forced three members to step ...



Ontario has no plans to end offshore wind ban

yorkregioncom - Thu Oct 20 2016

Tone: **Negative** Reach: 12253

TORONTO - Five years after issuing a moratorium on offshore **wind** projects, the Ontario government says it still doesn't have enough information to decide if the ban should be lifted. A NAFTA tribunal last week awarded \$28 million in ...



Sale of Hydro One a crying shame

Sudbury Star - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Art Peach

Ad Value:\$485

Reach: 14934 Page: A10

Unfortunately, nothing appears to have changed in the provincial government's road to selling out the peoples' valuable assets that make good financial returns for the people. Is there no chance of changing course on this, or is the great ship of ...

Ontario, Quebec to sign electricity deal

Brampton Guardian - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$601

Reach: 120000

TORONTO - Ontario and Quebec will sign a new seven-year **electricity** agreement today when the two governments hold a joint cabinet meeting in Toronto. The Canadian Press has learned Premiers Kathleen Wynne and Philippe Couillard will sign ...

Hydro motion supported

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Rick Owen

Ad Value: \$97

Reach: 5917 **Page:** A1 / Front

Town council has put its support behind a Grey County resolution asking the provincial government to **restructure** the way it charges rural customers more for the delivery of **hydro**. The Grey County resolution notes that there is ...



Shut down government

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Negative

Byline: Mike Alain

Ad Value: \$335

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A20

Re: \$12M on advisers, ads, for **hydro rebate** plan. Oct. 19: So the Wynne government thinks \$12 million wasted to start the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program was money well spent. It never ceases to amaze how they ...

'Unreasonable increases'

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$98

Reach: 5917 **Page:** A2

Michael Mantha, NDP MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to step in to help Northern families whose property tax assessments have been disproportionately increased by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. "People ...

Hydro meeting set locally

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$292

Reach: 11983 **Page:** A3

Residents and business owners will soon have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the public watchdog in charge of overseeing **Hydro One**. Ombudsman Fiona Crean is planning a pair of public meetings in the area next month ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Costs of living here | Kenora Daily Miner and News

www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

I could go on with more complaints about the costs of electricity in Ontario and that I had suspected the trumpeted elimination of the provincial portion of HST to be countered by our semi-annual November increase in rates.

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Brian Jones: 'Making Muskrat right' requires cancelling project - Columnists - The Telegram

www.thetelegram.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Muskrat defenders will predictably point out the Ontario Energy Board's 8.7 cents per kWh rate is for off-peak hours, and mid-peak and on-peak rates — during certain days and hours — are 13.2 cents per kWh and 18 cents per kWh, respectively.

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Daily Commercial News - SNC-Lavalin fined for operating electrical plant without a licence

dailycommercialnews.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

The Ontario Energy Board says it inspected SNC-Lavalin's operations and maintenance facilities at the Toronto airport "after it became known" the company was generating electricity without a licence.

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Power companies told to bill customers monthly, a \$10-million cost that will likely end up on bills

www.ottawacitizen.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

A government board has told power companies across the province that by year-end they must send customers a hydro bill every month — a change that could cost up to \$10-million, and will likely show up on the bills of consumers.

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Hydro rates to remain unchanged: OEB - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

THUNDER BAY -- Unless you significantly change your consumption habits, you likely won't find any surprises on your hydro bills this fall.

The Ontario Energy Board has announced it won't be increasing hydro prices when time of use changes take effect on Nov. 1. The decision keep hydro rates unchanged for at least six months.

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Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro scores high among Ontario power companies

www.newhamburgindependent.ca - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro has earned high performance marks on a scorecard released this fall by the Ontario Energy Board.

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Wynne's hydro prices shocking

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$1,673

Reach: 171076 Page: A16

Perhaps it's a co-incidence that the **Ontario Energy Board** announced a temporary freeze of **electricity** time-of-use (**TOU**) pricing **rates** on Wednesday, the same day Premier Kathleen Wynne called two byelections.

The **OEB** announced there will be no **rate** increase on Nov. 1, and that the May, 2016 **rate** of 8.7 cents per kWh for off-peak times, 13.2 cents per kWh for mid-peak times and 18 cents per kWh for on-peak times will remain in place until May, 2017.

But lest you think of jumping for joy, when then premier Dalton McGuinty introduced **TOU** pricing for Ontario households and small businesses on May 1, 2006, the off-peak **rate** was 3.5 cents per kWh, mid-peak 7.5 cents per kWh and on-peak 10.5 cents per kWh.

That means that over the past decade, the off-peak **rate** has increased by 148.5%, the mid-peak **rate** 76% and the on-peak **rate** 71.4%.

That compares to an increase in inflation over the same period of 17.21% and wage increases of about 27%.

Small wonder the **TOU rates**, normally adjusted twice a year on May 1 and Nov. 1, are driving an increasing number of Ontarians into fuel poverty, where they pay more than 10% of their income to **power** their homes.

Back when they introduced smart meters in 2004, the Liberals assured us that those, combined with **TOU** pricing, would give Ontarians control over their **energy** bills.

Some control.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk reported in 2014 that the Liberals' business plan for introducing smart meters was so bad they underestimated the \$1.9 billion cost of the smart meters by \$900 million and overestimated savings by at least \$512 million.

No doubt the Liberals will point out on the byelection trail that as of Jan. 1, 2017, they'll be rebating the 8% provincial sales tax from **hydro** bills.

Except it was the Liberals who first slapped the 8% Ontario sales tax on **electricity** when they introduced the **Harmonized Sales Tax** on July 1, 2010.

It's more evidence that the Liberals, have no idea of how to fix the complete mess they have made of **electricity** pricing in Ontario.

Other than trying to trick the public with shell games.

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Hydro is 'No. 1 priority': Give \$2.6-billion hydro cash to the people: NDP leader

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Anthony Furey

Ad Value: \$2,119

Reach: 45442 Page: A10

"I've been dumpster diving," a 59-year-old woman from Uxbridge called in to tell me. "My credit cards are all maxed out - I have three - trying to pay my **hydro** bills.

"I work really hard," she says.

Yet she's had to throw away her washer and dryer, doesn't have a dishwasher or television, and certainly doesn't use air conditioning.

"I feel like we've been thrown to the wolves - we've just been abandoned in this country," she says.

This is just one of the very real stories about the hardships in Ontario caused by skyrocketing **energy** prices. Is anyone listening? Is anyone going to do anything

about it?

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath promises she's listening. She's heard the same sorts of stories I've been hearing from readers and wants action.

"This has to be the No. 1 priority," she told me Thursday.

And the Hamilton Centre MPP certainly doesn't think the news that the Liberals have altered the **HST** on home heating, which was passed in the legislature on Wednesday, is the end to our **energy** woes.

"It's not a permanent removal of the **HST**," she points out. "What they've

done is given a **rebate**. It's not the same as taking it off. We shouldn't be paying provincial sales tax on a necessity."

Horwath also points out that there's \$2.6 billion worth of a tax **rebate** sitting on the books in **Hydro** One's latest annual report. She doesn't want that money going to the shareholders of the company. She wants the **Ontario Energy Board** to instruct it to give it back to the people - to the **ratepayers**.

"Send a clear message that that \$2.6 billion needs to go for relief to **ratepayers**," she says.

Horwath also wants the government to take another look at all the **energy** contracts the province has signed, both the regular and green ones.

"Let's have someone go through those private **power** deals and try to squeeze some value out of them," she said.

On Wednesday, the **OEB** actually announced it wouldn't be permitting any **rate** increases this November. It's the first time there's been no increases since 2008. I fully agree with the NDP leader that the timing was no coincidence.

"They like to call the **OEB** an independent decision maker," Horwath says. "That's absolutely not true."

This is a clear sign that the **OEB** responds to political pressure. So let's apply more pressure. All we know now after this announcement is that sky-high **rates** are going to stay the same - for at least the next six months. They could still go up after that. Oh, and we also know we've got a handful of rebates available that don't come close to offsetting the cost of past **rate** hikes. It's not enough. Demand better.

"There is a need for voices to be heard," **ratepayer** Hamza Sandhu writes in. "Food prices increase, **hydro** and water bills increase ...

What are people to do!"

Once again, I apologize for not returning all of your calls and e-mails. But I am definitely hearing you all out. You're not being ignored. Your story matters. And I'm also keeping a record of everything. Kathleen Wynne needs to understand this isn't politics as usual. Something very wrong is happening in Ontario right now. The very basics of public service are failing.

afurey@postmedia.com @AnthonyFurey

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People rearrange their lives just to bring hydro usage down yet the bills still go up

Times - Journal (St.Thomas) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Anthony Furey

Ad Value: \$405

Reach: 8859 **Page:** A7

"I'm a single mother of two and we literally live in the dark," writes Ontario resident Grace Dadone. "I do my laundry between 10 and midnight. I try to save on **energy** costs by going to my mom's once a week - and still my bill is sky high."

"I don't use my dryer anymore and hang my clothes to dry," writes John Lopes, frustrated with high **energy** prices. He sets his dishwasher to run in the middle of the night, rarely has lights on, and now hardly uses heating in the winter.

Yet despite all of these efforts, Lopes found his August bill had gone up by 39% compared to last August.

This is a very, very common theme in many of the calls and emails I've been receiving from people sharing their **hydro** headaches. Ontario residents are jumping through hoops to live within the restrictions the government has boxed them. Yet still their **rates** go up.

"I live in a highrise apartment building and not once in 10 years have I turned on my heating or air-conditioning," writes Linda Skarott, who previously worked as an accountant for Ontario **Hydro**.

"Yes, I'm cold in winter, but nothing that extra sweaters and blankets won't fix. And yes, I'm hot in summer, so I frequent malls and libraries on the hottest days."

One caller from Kemptville - who himself had **energy** woes - told me a truly sad story about a woman who was always going to the mall daily to keep cool. When he offered to buy her an A/C unit and even install it himself, she declined, afraid of what it would do to her bills.

"In six short years, our monthly bill has gone from \$160 per month to this last bill being \$470," says Warren from Cambridge. "This, even as our family does everything right. Laundry on the weekend, dishwasher at night, extra lights turned off. It is affecting our overall family health with the constant frustration of rising bills."

"Every bill I pay three times the usage in other charges such as delivery and so on," writes Raj Maharajh. "I no longer use my house A/C."

I've heard these same issues from hundreds of people. They've stopped using the stove. They no longer turn the heat on. Their family schedules have become slaves to the off-peak times. It's almost like the government thinks it's not their job to serve the people, but that it's the people's job to serve them and their agenda.

"Most have no idea what it feels like to skip meals so that your kids can eat," writes in Caroline Campbell, who's stressed out by **hydro** bills. She's a mother of five who's had to stop working as a nurse due to degenerative pain.

"They have no idea what it is like to do all this and still not be able to get by."

Real people. Real hardships. And it's all directly caused by lousy government decisions.

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Ontario will buy power from Quebec hydro dams; Pact should save province \$70 million per year and trim greenhouse gas emissions

Toronto Star - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$11,716

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A4

In a bid to defuse anger over skyrocketing bills, Ontario will announce a new deal Friday to buy more hydroelectric **power** from Quebec.

The seven-year pact - saving the province \$70 million - will have only a "small" impact on household **electricity** prices but will trim 1 million tonnes of greenhouse **gas** emissions annually, a senior Ontario official said Thursday.

That's because Ontario won't need to rely as much on **natural gas**-fired **power** plants while the Darlington nuclear **power** station is being refurbished.

The agreement comes as Premier Kathleen Wynne's government holds a joint cabinet meeting with her Quebec counterpart, Philippe Couillard, following months of behind-the-scenes negotiations.

"These are great ways of making use of our two **electricity** systems," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said of the talks in which Quebec also agreed to "store" hydroelectric **power** until Ontario needs it.

To do that, **Hydro** Quebec will pump enough water behind its dams to produce 500 gigawatt hours of hydroelectricity on demand - enough to **power** North Bay for a year.

"We can call it back when we need it most," said the official, who declined to reveal what prices Ontario will pay for the **power**.

"That allows us to achieve savings and get better use of our renewable fleet," he added, noting this province has 40 per cent of the **wind** turbines operating in Canada.

In effect until 2023, the agreement allows Ontario to import up to two terawatt hours of clean hydroelectric **power** a year - enough to serve a city the size of Kitchener.

Those imports will not require new transmission lines, officials said.

Wynne's government, which is trailing the Progressive Conservatives in recent polls with a provincial election looming in June 2018, has been under daily attack from critics over **hydro** prices and has been taking steps to give consumers a break.

On Wednesday, the legislature unanimously passed legislation waiving the 8 per cent provincial tax on **electricity** starting in January.

As well, about 330,000 households in remote parts of rural Ontario will get up to 20 per cent off their bills.

Under an expanded conservation measure, another 1,000 companies will be given cheaper **electricity rates** in exchange for reducing their use during periods of peak demand.

The government has also cancelled plans for another \$3.8 billion in **renewable energy** like **wind** and **solar**.

"We have an adequate supply of **power**," **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault said Thursday.

Ontario and Quebec have also agreed to join forces on improvements for **electric** vehicles in hopes more motorists will buy them, further reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions as a **cap-and-trade** program comes into effect.

Ontario has pledged to cut emissions to 37 per cent below 1990 levels within the next 14 years.

There will be an expansion of **electric**-vehicle charging stations and better signs making drivers aware of them as they travel major routes between the two provinces, another senior Ontario government official said.

"We want to create a more seamless experience for people."

There will be no new incentives for the purchasing of **electric** vehicles, however.

Ontario announced an increase in subsidies earlier this year, with a maximum of \$14,000 per vehicle if it has an extra-large battery, but most **electric** cars qualify for an incentive of between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Vehicles over \$75,000 qualify for only a \$3,000 subsidy.

Transportation emissions account for about 35 per cent of all greenhouse **gases** released into the atmosphere, contributing to **climate** change.

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Users must be smart about electricity

Kingston Whig-Standard - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steven Manders

Ad Value: \$747

Reach: 21850 **Page:** B5

A lot has been said about high **hydro rates** and the tens of thousands of people who are in arrears trying to pay for their **hydro**. **Hydro rates** have gone up a lot, but it is still a lot of **energy** for the money. The problem is, you cannot see how much you have used, only how much it cost. If you had to heat and light with wood as your fuel, you could see how much you used and where you used it.

Your arms would get tired from the load.

I used to own rental apartments and I always tried to inform applicants how much they should expect to pay for **hydro**, based on what previous tenants were paying. Every now and then, a family would move in and immediately use double that amount. They blamed me for bad information, bad wiring, bad **electric** meters, but never themselves.

Where you have a large number of identical units, it is not too hard to sort out. They all used about the same amount of lighting, a bit for cooking, the fridges were the same, the units could all be heated for the same amount, so there were only a few areas left to check out. Once in a while, I would meet a tenant at their door in the winter and be hit with a blast of hot air from the unit and the tenant wearing very light clothing and complaining about our miserable winters. Their **hydro** problems were obvious to me but could not be explained to them. A warm sweater would save them a fortune.

This was not the most common problem. Hot water is a killer. The hot water tank has a 4,000-watt heater, equal to about 400 modern lights. Turning offlights is almost irrelevant. Some people drain the hot water tank for a shower, leaving that heater running for an hour or two after, often after they have gone to work. The **electric** meter is then running at peak **rates**, even though the shower was at low-**rate** time. I had one lady who took three showers a day and pots were always at a rolling, steaming boil. Another used half a tank of hot water pouring out of the tap to rinse the dishes before putting them in the dish washer. Usually, the people with the highest **hydro** bills also had water condensing and running down the windows, wet walls and mould problems. It was obvious to me what the problem was, but my suggestions were never welcome, everyone else was at fault.

All of the extreme cases eventually had the **hydro** cut offand the tenant was forced to move and find a unit with all-inclusive utilities. That is one reason landlords avoid that.

These **energy** gluttons want the government to subsidize their huge **hydro** bills, but not to show them how to cut consumption to that of their neighbours. That is getting too personal. Changing light bulbs is irrelevant, and it is not all the small appliances'fault, either - they sip **energy**. A person can shower with a couple of gallons of water by quickly wetting down, turning the water offwhile washing, and then rinsing. No one likes to be told to do that.

Premier Kathleen Wynne wants us to subsidize them instead. Some people choose to live in remote rural locations by a lake or something and pay a higher delivery charge than urban people. They want the urbanites to subsidize their delivery cost. You have been selected to subsidize them through your taxes. I am now glad to be out of the business and have no vested interest by making any of the above statements. I am just sharing my experiences.

Steven Manders

Kingston

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THE BARRIE EXAMINER

Provincial spending misplaced Instead of helping low-income Ontarians

The Barrie Examiner - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Bruce MacGregor

Ad Value: \$152

Reach: 51965 **Page:** C2

with their **hydro** bills, the provincial government spent almost \$12 million on high-priced consultants and self-congratulatory promotional ads.

The people of Ontario can't count on Premier Kathleen Wynne to take real action to make their **hydro** bills more affordable.

This is money that would have been better served going toward families that need relief from Ontario's skyrocketing **hydro rates**.

As Ontario families continue to struggle to make ends meet, the Liberal government has been prioritizing spending on lucrative **Hydro** One executive

compensation, exorbitant legal fees and self-congratulatory promotion.

With only 137,000 Ontario families accessing the 500,000 eligible spaces of the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program, it's clear this government has failed to help low-income families that are most in need.

Bruce MacGregor

Barrie

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Ontario to buy hydroelectricity from Quebec

The Globe and Mail - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Positive

Byline: ADRIAN MORROW, BERTRAND MAROTTE

Ad Value: \$14,125

Reach: 309154 **Page:** A5

Ontario has reached a deal to buy hydroelectric **power** from Quebec in a bid to cut greenhouse **gas** emissions by replacing some of the province's natural **gas-generated electricity**.

Under the seven-year agreement, Ontario will buy two terawatt hours a year - about 1.4 per cent of the province's total demand, or enough **electricity** to **power** a city of 240,000 people, sources in both governments said.

The two provinces agreed that Ontario will also store some of its own **electricity** at **Hydro** Quebec facilities, and to extend by five years an arrangement to swap 500 megawatts of **power** annually.

The deal is expected to cut Ontario's greenhouse **gas** emissions by one million tonnes a year, and will replace about 15 per cent of the province's **natural gas-fired power** with clean hydroelectric **power** from Quebec, an Ontario government source said.

It is also meant to save Ontario **ratepayers** \$70-million over the life of the agreement because storing **power** with **Hydro** Quebec is expected to be cheaper than paying U.S. states to accept Ontario's excess **electricity**, which is the current practice.

The pact takes effect on Jan. 1, 2017, and runs to Dec. 31, 2023.

"The Provinces restate their intention to co-operate in the following areas: Clean **electricity** trade; the reduction of greenhouse **gas** emissions; and ensuring system reliability and affordability," reads a draft of the deal obtained by The Globe and Mail.

The final text will be approved at a joint meeting of both provincial cabinets on Friday in Toronto and signed by premiers Kathleen Wynne and Philippe Couillard.

Canada's two largest provinces have been building an increasingly close relationship. Ontario agreed last year to join Quebec's **cap-and-trade** system for carbon emissions.

The year before that, the provinces made the arrangement to trade 500 megawatts of **electricity** annually, with Ontario shipping **electricity** to Quebec during the winter and receiving it in the summer.

Ms. Wynne's government is trying to reduce the province's emissions to 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 while grappling with voters' anger over high **electricity rates**.

The actual amount of greenhouse **gas** reductions at play in this week's deal is relatively small - a million-tonne cut is less than 1 per cent of Ontario's annual total - but environmentalists cheered the deal with Quebec as a step towards integrating **electricity** grids between provinces.

Further integration could lead to bigger **power** deals that achieve much larger cuts to greenhouse **gases**, said Sarah Petrevan, senior policy adviser at the think tank Clean **Energy** Canada.

"It's the start of a trend we would like to see continue," she said in an interview.

"When you look at provincial governments grappling with reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions, one of the better ways to do that is through **energy** and **electricity** integration - putting lower-carbon options on the grid, including those outside your jurisdiction."

Ms. Petrevan said the deal could encourage other provinces to explore similar arrangements.

Alberta, for instance, is trying to wean itself off **coal-fired electricity** and could consider importing cleaner **power** from other provinces to make it happen. The federal government also has a role to play, she said, in helping pay for upgrades to long-distance **power** lines to make it possible to move larger amounts of **electricity** around the country.

"These things can happen when the federal government gets involved, and when the provinces work together to address a problem," she said.

Pierre-Olivier Pineau, professor and holder of the chair in energysector management at the business school HEC Montreal, said all provinces could make significant gains in cost-savings and attain more efficient management of **energy** use with **power**-trading agreements of the type struck between Ontario and Quebec.

"It makes me a little more optimistic to see Ontario and Quebec beginning to reach these kinds of agreements," he said.

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'Green dream' expensive

Kingston Whig-Standard - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$265

Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

Re: "Premier defends **energy** plan," Oct. 13.

I am not sure which is worse: seeing Premier Kathleen Wynne's ideologically driven green dream result in companies fleeing the province, taking thousands of good paying jobs with them as our **hydro** costs are now among the highest in North American; or have her now stubbornly defend this seriously flawed program. Let's face it, with Canada's greenhouse **gas** emissions estimated at under two per cent, how Premier Wynne can possibly try to justify spending tens of billions of inefficient and highly subsidized green **energy** is mind-boggling and very arrogant. Many seniors are now forced to decide whether to buy food or pay outrageous **hydro** bills.

Hydro One customers are really struggling as their **hydro** bills are astronomical. Rural farmers and small business are in desperate straits.

I would have hoped the loss of long-held Liberal Scarborough would have made the Wynne Liberals finally realize Ontarians have had enough of their nonsensical green dream. But no. To add insult to injury, they will bring in a job-killing carbon tax this January, driving up costs of driving, heating our homes, **hydro** and the costs of all consumer goods. We surely are seeing a case of ideology trumping common sense with this government and it must be gone.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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Councillor's hydro petition gets a cool reception; But Darouze optimistic after delivering request for lower Hydro One rates

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$6,781

Reach: 114846 **Page:** A7

Osgoode Coun. George Darouze physically hauled his 8,500-name petition to Toronto on Wednesday, asking the legislature to order **Hydro** One to charge

Hydro Ottawa prices to its 45,000 Ottawa customers.

Hydro One customers on Ottawa's rural fringes pay a lot more to get their **power** delivered than **Hydro** Ottawa customers do, it's not fair that Ottawans pay different prices, and the legislature should do something about it, Darouze argues. Darouze has been working on this for months, since shortly after talks between the provincial and the city **electricity** utilities on transferring those customers from one company to the other broke down, again.

Now that the petition has been delivered (officially presented to the legislature by Nepean-Carleton Progressive Conservative MPP Lisa MacLeod, one of 13 that assorted legislators delivered Wednesday alone) the government has about six weeks to give a formal response.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has an informal one immediately, a discouraging one.

The only way anything is going to change for **hydro** customers in Vernon and Vars and Fitzroy Harbour is if the utilities make a deal on their own, a spokeswoman said by email: "We're always open to hearing what Ontarians have to say. Transactions related to the transfer of customers from one local distribution company (LDC) to another require both sides to agree to terms that do not increase prices for other customers in the region. We have consistently encouraged constructive discussions between **Hydro** Ottawa and **Hydro** One in order to reach an agreement that benefits their customers."

In spite of the cool reception, Darouze is optimistic.

"People sometimes, you know, people are negative and they say nothing's going to happen. But you know, the timing cannot be better," he says. "**Hydro** One mismanagement, it's becoming a provincial issue, it's not a local issue."

Indeed, four of Wednesday's petitions were about **electricity** prices (plus a couple more against the Liberals' selling off shares in **Hydro** One). The Liberals

are suffering from incipient panic over **hydro**, realizing just how livid plenty of Ontarians are over prices and poor service - especially from **Hydro** One. Thibeault has said more than once that if he can cut bills by \$2.50, \$5, \$50 - however much or little it might be, he'll try to do it.

"We are not by ourselves here," Darouze says.

Still. Those 45,000 **Hydro** One customers, snuggled up around one of Ontario's major urban centres, are among **Hydro** One's best. Compared with customers in, say, Red Lake, it takes short wires and few poles to get Ottawans their **power**. But since they pay **Hydro** One prices, they're great for the company to have on its roster. The high prices they pay subsidize **Hydro** One's remote operations.

Those same customers would be among **Hydro** Ottawa's worst. Compared with customers in Carlington or Beacon Hill, it takes a lot of infrastructure to get **power** to Vernon. They'd be terrible additions to **Hydro** Ottawa's customer list. Hundreds of thousands of suburban and downtown customers would have to pay higher **rates** to subsidize them.

The customers are assets to **Hydro** One. They'd be a liability to **Hydro** Ottawa. That's why the two companies have never been close to a deal on transferring the accounts. Yes, they've gone through the motions because their political bosses asked them to, but the same people's business is worth a lot to **Hydro** One and less than nothing to **Hydro** Ottawa. There'd be no commercial sense to the exchange, which is why negotiations on the idea go nowhere.

The precise dollar figure has been kept secret, but Darouze admits that the price for 45,000 customers and the perpetual revenue stream they represent could destroy **Hydro** Ottawa's finances. The company made \$32 million in operating profits last year, an amount that could be wiped out for years by the transfer payment.

Darouze went to Toronto to argue that MPPs should override **Hydro** One's logic rather than seeking his fellow councillors' support for a motion ordering **Hydro** Ottawa to pay **Hydro** One's asking price. They'd never go for it.

With private investors taking stakes in **Hydro** One, provincial politicians will be even more reluctant to tinker with it than they used to be. But as Darouze says, the Liberals are realizing how many votes are at risk over **hydro rates**. However slim his petition's odds, they'll probably never be better.

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Hydro Rebate Plan: Tories say Liberals spent \$11.7 million on consultants, media

Daily Miner & News (Kenora) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value: \$498

Reach: 3206 Page: A5

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault is defending the fact that nearly \$12 million was spent on consultants and advertising for a plan that offers discounts to low-income **electricity** customers. About 145,000 of an estimated 500,000 eligible families have been approved to get between \$30 and \$50 a month taken off their **electricity** bills since the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program started last January.

"Twelve million (dollars) to have 145,000 families, and hopefully more, to sign up for this program is money well spent," Thibeault said Tuesday. "These families need to apply for the program, but in order to apply they need to know about it."

The program run by the **Ontario Energy Board** has delivered about \$21 million worth of rebates to low income families so far, added Thibeault.

The budget for the program is up to \$225 million, and "just five per cent was allocated to initial start-up costs to administer, design, run and promote the program to make sure that Ontarians get the help they need," said Thibeault's spokeswoman, Katrina Xavier, in an email.

The Progressive Conservatives accused the Liberals of mismanaging the program because \$9.3 million was spent on consultants and \$2.4 million on media and advertising.

"Do you approve of \$9 million worth of consultants to figure out how to hand out the rebates?" asked PC **energy** critic John Yakabuski. "Why wouldn't you have just applied this (**rebate**) to the households with the lowest incomes?" Thibeault said it's difficult to implement a program with a means test for income because it has to involve the Canada Revenue Agency, which requires "a wet signature" on applications. The province cannot just give the rebates to people on welfare and social assistance payments, who are obviously low-income, so it had to create a brand new program.

"We had to set up a customer care centre. We had to set up an application centre. We had to work with 72 (**electricity**) distributors. We had to work with our indigenous communities," he said.

The New Democrats said it looks like the Liberals are once again rewarding their friends in the consulting sector, while the number of families eligible for the program who still defaulted on their **electricity** bills jumped 25 per cent last year.

"The average size of the unpaid bills was \$670, a 70-per-cent increase from two years ago," said NDP critic Peter Tabuns. "Money is clearly making its way to consultants and advertisers, but it's not making it to the people who are in need."

Thibeault insisted it's "essential" that the government communicate the onbill credits to eligible families, and suggested it was at least

partly the Tories' fault that so many haven't applied for the rebates.

"It was people that would come in from opposition ridings, specifically the PC party, they didn't know that this program existed," he said.

The **OEB**'s advertising campaign for the **electricity** support program includes radio, print, newsletters, social media, 275 transit shelters and inserts in **hydro** bills.

To qualify for the maximum amount, a family of six must have a household income of \$28,000 or less, or a family of seven could have an income up to \$39,000.

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Ontario signs deal for electricity from Quebec in bid to defuse anger over hydro bills

[thestar.com](https://www.thestar.com) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Rob Ferguson(<https://author.thestar.com/> »)

Reach: 999000

In a bid to defuse anger over skyrocketing bills, Ontario will announce a new deal Friday to buy more hydroelectric **power** from Quebec.

The seven-year pact - saving the province \$70 million - will have only a "small" impact on household **electricity** prices but will trim 1 million tonnes of greenhouse **gas** emissions annually, a senior Ontario official said Thursday.

That's because Ontario won't need to rely as much on **natural gas**-fired **power** plants while the Darlington nuclear **power** station is refurbished.

The agreement comes as Premier Kathleen Wynne's government holds a joint cabinet meeting with her Quebec (www.thestar.com) counterpart, Philippe Couillard, following months of behind-the-scenes negotiations.

"These are great ways of making use of our two **electricity** systems," the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said of the talks in which Quebec also agreed to "store" hydroelectric **power** until Ontario needs it.

To do that, **Hydro** Quebec will pump enough water behind its dams to produce 500 gigawatt hours of hydroelectricity on demand - enough to **power** North Bay for a year.

"We can call it back when we need it most," said the official, who declined to reveal what prices Ontario will pay for the **power**.

"That allows us to achieve savings and get better use of our renewable fleet," he added, noting this province has 40 per cent of the **wind** turbines operating in Canada.

In effect until 2023, the agreement allows Ontario to import up to two terawatt hours of clean hydroelectric **power** a year - enough to serve a city the size of Kitchener.

Those imports will not require new transmission lines, officials said.

Wynne's government, which is trailing the Progressive Conservatives in recent polls with a provincial election looming in June 2018, has been under daily attack from critics over **hydro** prices and has been taking steps to give consumers a break.

On Wednesday, the legislature unanimously passed legislation waiving the 8 per cent provincial tax on **electricity** (www.thestar.com) starting in January. As well, about 330,000 households in remote parts of rural Ontario will get up to 20 per cent off their bills.

Under an expanded conservation measure, another 1,000 companies will be given cheaper **electricity rates** in exchange for reducing their use during periods of peak demand.

The government has also cancelled plans (www.thestar.com) for another \$3.8 billion in **renewable energy** like **wind** and **solar**.

"We have an adequate supply of **power**," **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault said Thursday.

Ontario and Quebec have also agreed to join forces on improvements for **electric** vehicles in hopes more motorists will buy them, further reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions as a **cap-and-trade** program comes into effect.

Ontario has pledged to cut emissions to 37 per cent below 1990 levels within the next 14 years.

There will be an expansion of charging stations and better signs making drivers aware of them as they travel major routes between the two provinces, another senior Ontario government official said.

"We want to create a more seamless experience for people."

There will be no new incentives for the purchasing of **electric** vehicles, however.

Ontario announced an increase in subsidies (www.thestar.com) earlier this year, with a maximum of \$14,000 per vehicle if it has an extra-large battery, but most **electric** cars qualify for an incentive of between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Vehicles over \$75,000 qualify for only a \$3,000 subsidy.

Transportation emissions account for about 35 per cent of all greenhouse **gases** released into the atmosphere, contributing to **climate** change.

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Hydro sell-off fallout; Unstable job environment is too high a price to pay

Toronto Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Warren'Smokey'Thomas ,

Ad Value:\$3,831

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A19

I finally had the chance this week to ask Premier Kathleen Wynne's business adviser, Ed Clark, if he loses sleep at night knowing his advice to sell off **Hydro**. One is one of the most unpopular decisions in Ontario's recent history. But someone beat me to it, in more polite language, after he delivered his keynote address to the Canadian Club.

In Clark's answer, he said this was the price to pay for shutting down **coal-fired electricity** (a standard Liberal Party response). But then he also admitted that his wife was shocked about their **hydro** bill.

I would guess she has been reading the headlines over the past year wondering just what the provincial government is doing! Keep in mind that Mr. Clark gets paid a \$2.5-million -ayear pension, and for him, paying his **hydro** bills is not the same experience as what everyday working people face.

Everyday working people, according to Mr. Clark during his speech, should arm themselves in the future with the skills and training that supports the "knowledge economy."

Will this help them pay the bills? His point was that as we look into the future, Canadian manufacturing can't compete with low-wage economies. He suggests a complete overhaul of our system in which we automate ourselves out of "low-skill" manufacturing jobs and become knowledge workers.

Being a computer programmer, for example, is a career choice that embraces the "knowledge economy." However, he admitted in his speech that this kind of work tends to mean going **contract** to **contract**, and what I wanted to ask him is how many people he knows who are buying homes based on short-term **contract** work? Short-term **contract** work means a life on unstable income, and as a former banker he should know that securing a bank mortgage is nearly impossible if you don't have a full-time job.

Let's face it, it's more than just securing a mortgage - **contract**-tocontract work won't ever be enough for the average working person to pay all their bills. Ed Clark painted a picture of Ontario becoming the next Silicon Valley. He counted close to 3,000 jobs in the province in the sector. No doubt, we have a long way to go, and maybe one day we can optimistically get there given Ontario's superb, world-class college and university system.

But we are not helping Ontarians succeed if we encourage them to embrace what the future holds: Precarious, unstable jobs. No one would ever expect an executive in a bank to work on a shortterm **contract** basis, and no one should expect a computer programmer or "knowledge economy" worker to either.

Ontarians will have to brace themselves for years of pricey utility bills and mortgages, so I would rather hear our leaders promote the concept of reliable, full-time jobs than a Silicon Valley-wannabe full of short-term work. Thomas is the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union

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Ontario Energy Board holds the line on electricity rates until May 2017

Daily Miner & News (Kenora) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value: \$120

Reach: 3206 Page: A5

For the first time in eight years, **electricity rates** in Ontario will not rise on Nov. 1.

The **Ontario Energy Board** sets **rates** for customers on **time-of-use** pricing every May and November, when it also changes the hours for peak and off-peak **rates**.

The board says it is holding the line on **rates** for about five million Ontario households and small business customers next month for the first time since 2008.

Electricity customers will continue paying the same **rates** they've had since last May until May 2017.

The off-peak **rate** of 8.7 cents a kilowatt hour is less than half the on-peak **rate** of

18 cents per kwh, and off-peak hours expand to 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. weekdays and all day weekends and holidays starting next month.

Mid-peak hours, which cost 13.2 cents a kwh, will run from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. weekdays, while on-peak hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. weekdays.

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Trudeau urged to 'step up' over hydro project: Aboriginal anger

National Post - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Sue Bailey

Ad Value: \$10,249

Reach: 159480 Page: A12

Supporters of a growing movement to blockade the Muskrat Falls **hydro** project in Labrador over methylmercury concerns say it's a test of Justin Trudeau's bid to reconcile with aboriginal people. "Step up," Jim Learning, an Inuit resident and longtime critic of the project, urged the prime minister Thursday.

"Back us up, because there are three aboriginal cultures in this territory of Labrador being ignored. This more or less puts the pressure on truth and reconciliation to be, in fact, truth and reconciliation.

"The honeymoon is over, as somebody said, and now the rubber hits the road."

Nalcor **Energy** said early Thursday that project opponents blocked access to the Muskrat Falls construction site near Happy Valley-Goose Bay, preventing workers from getting in.

Spokeswoman Karen O'Neill said the blockade affected the day shift but didn't indicate what action may be taken. She confirmed essential work inside was going ahead.

The troubled project is already beset by cost overruns, delays and a price tag that with financing has soared to \$11.4 billion from \$7.4 billion four years ago.

First **power** is now expected to flow in 2019 instead of sometime next year.

Those who barred the site entrance Thursday defied a court injunction Nalcor obtained earlier this week against obstruction of its main entrance, leading to the arrests Monday of nine people.

The new, larger blockade started hours after Nalcor confirmed Wednesday that methylmercury levels are expected to rise in the 41-square-kilometre reservoir created by the dam. About 2,000 Inuit who live downstream from Muskrat Falls rely on fish and seal meat as food staples.

The provincial government has ordered Nalcor to remove more forest cover from the land that will be flooded amid fears of methylmercury contamination if too many trees are left to rot under water.

Learning said it's not nearly enough. "The real methylmercury is (created from) the ground itself. They can take every tree from around the shore, it would mean

nothing until they've dug up the moss down to the sand."

Nalcor, however, has indicated it plans to begin initial flooding - about 25 per cent of the total reservoir - later this month.

Learning said support from Wabush, Cartright and other parts of Labrador is expected to create an even larger blockade late Thursday. He hopes for a peaceful show of united opposition without injuries.

"I'm sure the police will use their discretion and, as we grow in numbers, they will step back."

A request for comment Thursday from the Prime Minister's Office was deferred to Fisheries Minister Dominic LeBlanc.

"Our government is committed to a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with indigenous peoples based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership," he said in a statement. Labrador Liberal MP Yvonne Jones, parliamentary secretary to the minister of indigenous affairs, has said she wants Premier Dwight Ball and Nalcor to hold more talks with residents before any flooding.

She also called for a review to ensure environmental conditions as part of federal permits are being met.

But the LeBlanc statement puts the ball back in the provincial court.

"We expect the province will meet its responsibilities to ensure the health and safety of Canadians."

Charlie Angus, the federal NDP critic for Indigenous and Northern Affairs, said the Liberal government isn't living up to Trudeau's promise of "real and positive change" for aboriginal people: "There are obvious issues in terms of the environmental threat for mercury poisoning. They're ignoring that."

"First Nation people were expecting this new relationship of respect and commitment from the government. And the government is trying to walk away on it."

Dozens of supporters from the provincial and Canadian arts and culture sectors on Thursday signed a letter in support of those trying "to halt the negligent flooding of the Muskrat Falls reservoir."

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[Energy East pipeline 'will happen,' but taking too long: Arthur Irving | Globalnews.ca](#)

[globalnews.ca](#) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Arthur Irving says Alberta's struggling economy badly needs the pipeline to sell its fossil fuels, while his firm remains eager to form a partnership with TransCanada to build a deepwater terminal in the Bay of Fundy where tankers can ship the crude to the world.

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[Ottawa names four for Energy East talks; 'Indigenous engagement' after NEB fallout](#)

National Post - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jesse Snyder

Ad Value: \$3,555

Reach: 159480 Page: FP8

The federal government has appointed four people to consult with communities along the **Energy** East pipeline after concerns over the integrity of National **Energy** Board's hearing process forced three members to step down last month.

Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Jim Carr announced Thursday that the four will travel along the route of the project on behalf of the NEB to "carry out enhanced community and Indigenous engagement." It said the positions would be temporary.

Hearings around the **Energy** East pipeline project, proposed by Calgary-based pipeline operator TransCanada Corp., have been marred in controversy since news outlet National Observer reported that some panellists with the regulator had met privately with a TransCanada lobbyist.

The lobbyist was Jean Charest, former premier of Quebec. The NEB has maintained that no inappropriate discussions took place between the two parties, and that it is common practice for panellists to meet with a variety of groups, including local communities, lobby groups and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In September all three panellists for the project stepped down amid concerns that the integrity of the hearing process could be potentially be tainted if they remained in their positions.

Those panellists have not yet been replaced, though the government says they are currently being recruited.

The four temporary members are Wilma Jacknife of Alberta; Alain Jolicoeur of Ontario; Damien Côté of Quebec and Ronald Durelle of New Brunswick.

The **Energy** East pipeline would ship up to 1.1 million barrels per day from oilfields in Alberta and Saskatchewan to New Brunswick.

Proposals to build oil pipelines from Alberta to coastal waters have in recent years been strongly opposed by local stakeholders and environmental groups, who have campaigned to delay the approval of such projects.

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Ontario has no plans to end offshore wind ban



yorkregion.com - Thu Oct 20 2016
Tone: **Negative** Reach: 12253

TORONTO - Five years after issuing a moratorium on offshore **wind** projects, the Ontario government says it still doesn't have enough information to decide if the ban should be lifted.

A NAFTA tribunal last week awarded \$28 million in damages to Windstream **Energy**, whose \$5.2-billion, 300-megawatt offshore **wind contract** was put in limbo by the 2011 moratorium.

The tribunal decision is not yet publicly available, but Windstream says the ruling found the provincial government "on the whole did relatively little to address the scientific uncertainty surrounding offshore **wind** that it relied upon as the main publicly cited reason for the moratorium."

Windstream director David Mars said he's unclear as to whether the government is still conducting research.

"We haven't had a conversation with them since four **energy** ministers ago," he said. "We've attempted and tried, but we've been rebuffed at all passes."

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said lifting the moratorium eventually is not off the table as the government conducts a review of its long-term **energy** plan, but for now it needs to continue.

"It is important for us to try and look at getting the (Ministry of the Environment) involved to ensure that we can have a clear understanding on some of the aspects and some of the possible problems that are related with offshore **wind**," Thibeault said.

"We do have a lot of data on on-shore **wind**, but we don't have enough yet on offshore **wind**."

Even though the moratorium has been in place for five years, Thibeault said more data is needed, but he is "not 100 per cent sure" if research is still actively being conducted.

Both the NDP and the Progressive Conservatives said the moratorium was never about research, it was about saving Liberal seats in the run-up to the 2011 election.

"They've done no more new research as far as we know," said PC **energy** critic John Yakubski. "They keep talking about it, but it was a political decision that

we know now has cost us at least \$28 million."

The Windstream **contract** was signed at a time when the Ontario government was shutting down **coal-fired electricity** generation and looking for green sources of **power**. Now, the Liberal government is under fire for its green **energy** program, recently cancelling plans to sign contracts for up to 1,000 megawatts of **power** from **solar**, **wind** and other **renewable energy** sources.

It was determined that **power** wasn't needed, Thibeault said, though he stressed that Ontario isn't backing away from its green **energy** policies, including long-term contracts - most for 20 years - for 18,000 megawatts of **power** from **wind**, **solar** bio-**energy** and **energy**-from-waste projects.

Mars, of Windstream, said he couldn't speak to whether Ontario still needed the **power** from his company's project, but he is still hoping the **contract** is fulfilled.

"Walking away from this **contract** now creates a significant riskiness to investment in the province in general and specifically any foreign investment coming from abroad," he said.

"We invest around the world and we've never had this situation happen to us before. Whether it be Russia or Brazil, we've always signed our contracts and been able to implement and fulfil them, so it's very strange to us that in North America, specifically that Ontario would be such a risky place to invest."

Thibeault said the government is taking time to review the tribunal's decision.

The Liberal government is also under criminal investigation and is being sued over another offshore **wind** project.

Trillium **Power Wind** Corp. has alleged in a lawsuit that government officials destroyed documents after the company sued over the government's cancellation of a Lake Ontario **wind** project. The provincial police started an investigation in the spring after Trillium made a complaint.

None of Trillium's allegations has been proven in court.

In its statement of defence, the government says it was a coincidence that the moratorium and cancellations were issued just before Trillium's financing was set to close.

By Allison Jones, The Canadian Press

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Sale of Hydro One a crying shame

 The Sudbury Star

Sudbury Star - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Art Peach

Ad Value: \$485

Reach: 14934 Page: A10

Unfortunately, nothing appears to have changed in the provincial government's road to selling out the peoples' valuable assets that make good financial returns for the people. Is there no chance of changing course on this, or is the great ship of Ontario going to continue on its disastrous course? Are we to repeat the tragedy of the sale of Highway 407? I cry tears of frustration when I think about the millions in profit going to foreign investors instead of the health care of Ontarians and, yes, improvement of our public highway and transit systems.

I have not seen any convincing arguments as to why the province cannot retain 100 per cent ownership of **Hydro** One and deposit the proceeds of that Crown company in a special fund to finance the infrastructure that you purport the share sale would finance. My understanding is that the profit from **Hydro** One is more than \$1 billion per year.

With that much and the participation of the federal government and municipalities, why can't it be done that way? I would very much appreciate the answer to that.

I can just picture the bankers, the brokers and other financial wizards sitting down to happy hour cocktails with each share in **Hydro** One that they pick up for their shareholders. And this in the weeks that they are netting record multibillions in money for the latest quarter, no less.

This perception of the situation re: the sale of **Hydro** One shares is, I know, not only mine, but a growing constituency across the whole province. I notice various groups and meetings convening in just Sudbury alone. People are starting to wake up to the possibility of the province being robbed of its heritage, and they are mounting the ramparts (metaphorically speaking, of course). I myself am receiving emails and other messages about this matter from many friends and relatives bemoaning what our government is doing to us. And, they are right. If nothing else, this government will go down on this issue, and that would be tragic for all of us. Art Peach Sudbury

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Ontario, Quebec to sign electricity deal



Brampton Guardian - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$601

Reach: 120000

TORONTO - Ontario and Quebec will sign a new seven-year **electricity** agreement today when the two governments hold a joint cabinet meeting in Toronto.

The Canadian Press has learned Premiers Kathleen Wynne and Philippe Couillard will sign the deal, which will see Ontario import up to two terawatt hours of **electricity** from Quebec each year, enough to **power** a city the size of Kitchener.

It's also expected to save Ontario's **electricity** system about \$70 million in costs over the seven years.

Sources familiar with the agreement say **power** generated from Quebec's **hydro** dams will allow Ontario to cut its reliance on **natural-gas** generators, reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions by one million tonnes a year.

Ontario will also be allowed to keep up to 500 gigawatt hours of **power** behind Quebec's dams in a "pump storage" system, which will allow the province to reduce its surplus generation.

The sources say the focus of the joint cabinet meeting will be jobs and the economy, with an emphasis on innovation such as expanded use of **electric** vehicles and more public charging stations.

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By The Canadian Press

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Hydro motion supported



Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Rick Owen

Ad Value: \$97

Reach: 5917 **Page:** A1 / Front

Town council has put its support behind a Grey County resolution asking the provincial government to **restructure** the way it charges rural customers more for the delivery of **hydro**.

The Grey County resolution notes that there is an inequity between the cost of **hydro** for rural resident when compared with urban residents due to higher distribution charges. It continues that this pricing system targets rural customers who are already having a hard time paying for the high cost of **hydro**. The resolution asks the province to re-evaluate the structure of **hydro** in terms of access and delivery and implement structural changes to address the unfair practice of charging for delivery for rural residents.

Councillor Tom Barker said the issue is not with **hydro rates** but with inequality between rural and urban distribution charges, and this needs to be brought to the government's attention.

Mayor Tony Antoniazzi said what he understands is that the province is looking

at urban areas paying a little more to bring down rural areas and that means **rates** would go up in Kirkland Lake. He also said he is not sure people will want to pay more.

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Shut down government

Ottawa Sun - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mike Alain

Ad Value: \$335

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A20

Re: \$12M on advisers, ads, for **hydro rebate** plan. Oct. 19: So the Wynne government thinks \$12 million wasted to start the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program was money well spent.

It never ceases to amaze how they get away with continually defending the indefensible.

Perhaps it's because when they spout meaningless pap as their excuse, the media swallow it hook, line and sinker, instead of pressing them to explain the "how" and "why" details.

That \$12 million translates to more than \$80 per family not given to those that have applied.

It is past time the lieutenantgovernor exercised her authority to protect the province from total ruin by removing these clowns from office.

She has the constitutional **power** to do so.

The question is does she have the strength to weather the political firestorm of such a move? I hope with enough public support, she will.

MIKE ALAIN

OTTAWA (We've been as hard on the government as anyone, but Ontarians spoke - it would be highly anti-democratic for one person to dump an elected government.)

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'Unreasonable increases'

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$98

Reach: 5917 **Page:** A2

Michael Mantha, NDP MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin, is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to step in to help Northern families whose property tax assessments have been disproportionately increased by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

"People in the North use more **hydro** because they lack access to **natural gas**," Mantha said during Question Period on Tuesday. "They also pay the highest **hydro rates**. On top of this, now some Northern families are getting hit with huge property tax assessments, with MPAC claiming that homes in places like Walkers Lake have somehow doubled or tripled in value in just the past four years. I heard from one senior on a fixed income, whose property assessment has increased from under \$80,000 to over \$180,000. It doesn't make sense and she can't afford it."

Mantha said Northern families cannot afford to defend themselves from MPAC's "unreasonable increases," and reiterated his call on the premier to intervene on their behalf.

"These homes are not connected to municipal water or sewer services. These families have to drive their garbage to the dump. No Northern realtor in their right mind would value these properties as MPAC has assessed them," he said.

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Hydro meeting set locally

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Fri Oct 21 2016

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$292

Reach: 11983 Page: A3

Residents and business owners will soon have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the public watchdog in charge of overseeing **Hydro** One. Ombudsman Fiona Crean is planning a pair of public meetings in the area next month where residents with questions and concerns about their **Hydro** One bills are encouraged to raise them directly with her.

Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark announced the meetings, which he will be co-hosting with the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of North Grenville. The meetings will take place on November 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Brockville Arts Centre and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the North Grenville Municipal Centre.

"**Hydro** bills continue to be the number one issue that I hear about in my constituency office and that's why I've invited Fiona Crean to come to Leeds-Grenville and hear from those for whom **energy** poverty is a sad reality," said Clark.

"But we also continue to hear from those who are having problems with inaccurate, inconsistent billing and from businesses being charged outrageous deposit fees," said Clark, adding unreliable **power** also continues to be an issue in communities. Clark said he has spoken out regularly at Queen's Park about the "skyrocketing **electricity rates**" and how they are forcing families to choose between "heating and eating," while making Ontario less competitive for business and industry.

"This is an opportunity to raise those complaints directly with Ms. Crean, who now has the responsibility for being the voice of the public within **Hydro** One," said Clark.

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