

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: January 22, 2018 7:52 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, January 22, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Monday, January 22, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 19 Results



Ontario producer's hydro bill shows outrageous delivery charge | Farms.com

www.farms.com - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

An Ontario producer shared a photo of his hydro bill on social media to highlight the high monthly bills farmers face. Curtis VanQuaethem, who farms about 10,000 acres of corn and soybeans near Tillsonburg, Ont., was billed \$4,483.15 for last ...



Conviction in gas plants case a win for common sense; McGuinty chief of staff guilty, deputy not

National Post - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$15,007

Reach: 185480 Page: A5

David Livingston, the former right-hand man to **Ontario** Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty, has been criminally convicted of two charges in the deliberate destruction of documents in the notorious **gas** plants case. ...



David Livingston guilty, Laura Miller not guilty in Ontario gas plants trial | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

A former top political aide in Ontario has been found guilty of illegally destroying documents related to a controversial government decision to cancel two gas plants before a provincial election.



McGuinty aide David Livingston found guilty in gas plants trial | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

A top political adviser to former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty was found guilty Friday of criminal charges for wiping government computers following the cancellation of two gas-fired power plants.



Former top McGuinty aide found guilty over deleted documents; other aide acquitted | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty's chief of staff was found guilty Friday of destroying politically sensitive documents related to a controversial Liberal government decision to scrap two gas plants ahead of the 2011 election at a cost of \$1.1 ...



Livingston found guilty in gas plants trial

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Colin Perkel

Ad Value: \$548
Reach: 10143 Page: A2

A former **Ontario** premier's chief of staff was found guilty Friday of destroying documents related to a controversial Liberal government decision to scrap two **gas** plants ahead of the 2011 election. The ruling comes just months ...



Judge Not Buying It; Finds McGuinty's ex-chief of staff guilty in gas plants e-mail scandal

Ottawa Sun - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$2,834
Reach: 36297 Page: A3

A former senior **Ontario** Liberal staffer has been convicted in what the judge called a deliberate "scorched earth" attempt to destroy government e-mails or records related to cancelled **gas** plants. Crown Tom Lemon said he will ...



'At risk' behaviours lead to pause on Darlington nuclear reactor project

thestar.com - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson

Reach: 999000

Workers on the \$12.8 billion nuclear reactor refurbishment(
<https://www.thestar.com/> ») at **Ontario Power** Generation's ...



Turbine snaps in half in Chatham-Kent, MPP calls for halt of wind projects

THE NATIONAL - Fri Jan 19 2018, 9:00pm ET

Tone: **Neutral**

IAN HANOMANSING (HOST): How does a **wind turbine** collapse on itself? That's the question officials are trying to answer in **Ontario**, after one snapped in half overnight. It has since been disconnected from the grid. ...



Turbine snaps in half in Chatham-Kent, MPP calls for halt of wind projects | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

A wind turbine in Chatham-Kent, Ont. has snapped in half, leading to calls from one area MPP to halt all wind projects.



Wind Turbine breaks in half in Chatham-Kent | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

A wind turbine has snapped in half and is currently sitting bent over in an open field in Chatham-Kent.



Wind turbine collapses

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$854

Reach: 107026 Page: A16

A Maryland-based **renewable energy** company is investigating after one of its **wind** turbines collapsed in southwestern **Ontario**. Chad Reed, a spokesperson for Terraform **Power**, said it happened late ...



Broken Wind Turbine In Chatham-Kent | Ontario Wind Resistance

ontario-wind-resistance.org - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Terraform Power crews are investigating after a wind turbine that's part of a wind energy project just south of Chatham broke in half.



Wind turbine moratorium urged; Toppling of tower highlights failure of program: McNaughton

Windsor Star - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Sharon Hill

Ad Value: \$5,459

Reach: 54680 Page: A1 / Front

A toppled **turbine** in Chatham-Kent has renewed calls for a moratorium on **wind** turbines, including from Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton. "I was shocked and dismayed," McNaughton, a member of the Progressive ...



Conservatives' vows don't add up

Ottawa Sun - Sun Jan 21 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: \$1,587

Reach: 38456 Page: A16

Progressive Conservative MPP Rick Nicholls' column ("Be wary of Liberal promises", Jan 16) is proof that his party will say anything to get elected. To help himself out, Nicholls trotted out a few numbers cherry-picked to make his case. So let's ...



Roy Green: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is wrongly in attack mode | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Francesca Dobbyn of United Way Bruce Grey in Ontario shared on air that she was worried someone in her community would die because of hugely expensive electricity costs.



Hydro One wasteful

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: B. Burrell

Ad Value: \$130

Reach: 7920 Page: A4

Let me start by saying that I really like the new format **Hydro One** is using for its invoices. I hear it is being criticized for spending \$14 million for this redesign. Why would this cost \$14 million? Even if it had to ...



Business sector looking for firm commitments this provincial election

Waterloo Chronicle - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$231

Reach: 31746 Page: 1

This column will be the first of many related to the upcoming **Ontario** election. If the current polls are an indication, the next five months could see regular shifts and turns and nothing will be certain until election night. Our ...



Stronger ties needed between Quebec and N.B., minister says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Jan 21 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, January 21, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Quebec's minister responsible for Canadian relations wants to strengthen ties with New Brunswick, saying the two provinces are linked by more than a proposed pipeline.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Ontario producer's hydro bill shows outrageous delivery charge | Farms.com

www.farms.com - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

An Ontario producer shared a photo of his hydro bill on social media to highlight the high monthly bills farmers face.

Curtis VanQuaethem, who farms about 10,000 acres of corn and soybeans near Tillsonburg, Ont., was billed \$4,483.15 for last month's hydro usage.

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Conviction in gas plants case a win for common sense; McGuinty chief of staff guilty, deputy not

National Post - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$15,007

Reach: 185480 Page: A5

David Livingston, the former right-hand man to **Ontario** Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty, has been criminally convicted of two charges in the deliberate destruction of documents in the notorious **gas** plants case.

Ontario Court Judge Tim Lipson announced the convictions Friday, reading most of his scathing decision aloud to a packed house at **Toronto**'s Old City Hall courthouse.

It was a decision redolent with ordinary man common sense - that if a thing looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it's probably a duck.

In this instance, Lipson said that what looked for all the world like a sneaky attempt to indiscriminately destroy documents possibly "dangerous" to the Liberal government was borne out by "compelling circumstantial evidence."

Essentially, what Lipson found was that what the now 65-year-old Livingston actually did - quietly arranging for unprecedented access to all the computers in the premier's office, lying by omission to the top civil servant that this was indeed what he was after, then getting the boyfriend of a deputy to come in and wipe

about 20 hard drives, not to mention Livingston's decided fixation with deleting emails and leaving no records behind - defied the benign explanations offered by defence lawyers.

Livingston was the chief of staff in McGuinty's office during the final turbulent months of the then-premier's last term in the fall of 2012 and through the transition period in early 2013, when the government of Kathleen Wynne took over.

McGuinty, who abruptly resigned in October of 2012 amid continuing Opposition howls for **gas**-plant document production from his government - that had been going on for months - was never implicated in what Lipson described at one point in his decision as a scheme to ensure "no records (about the **gas** plants) could be retained."

Where Livingston was convicted of attempted mischief to data and unauthorized use of a computer, his former deputy, 39-year-old Laura Miller, was acquitted on the same charges.

It was Miller's boyfriend, Peter Faist, who actually came into the premier's office in February of 2013 to wipe the hard drives and was paid \$10,000 by the Liberal Caucus Services Bureau.

Lipson said that while Miller was, like Livingston, a sophisticated political operative who was deeply involved in damage control for the McGuinty government, she wasn't present at several key meetings Livingston had with **Ontario's** then-top civil servant, Peter Wallace, and may not have known how Livingston had deceived him.

The decisions to cancel the two **gas**-fired plants in **Oakville** and Mississauga - the former was cancelled in 2010, while the cancellation of the latter came during the 2011 provincial election - will cost **Ontario** taxpayers more than \$1 billion over the next two decades, according to the provincial auditor.

Wallace's testimony, which the judge pronounced "completely credible," was key to his verdicts.

Indeed, the slight, serious man, who is now the top civil servant for the City of **Toronto**, was the prosecution's best **weapon**.

Their case against Livingston and Miller had nearly collapsed after Lipson ruled that their forensic computer expert, retired **Ontario** Provincial Police detectivesergeant Bob Gagnon, had become too embroiled in the hurly-burly of the OPP investigation itself to be deemed a neutral enough figure to testify as an expert.

That meant Gagnon couldn't testify about the recovered emails and documents the OPP had obtained through search warrants and production orders.

As well, prosecutors had withdrawn the most serious charge, breach of trust, against the pair, admitting there was no longer a reasonable prospect of conviction.

The state of the law on expert witnesses had changed dramatically the year after Gagnon was hired on **contract**, but federal prosecutors Tom Lemon and Sarah Egan didn't appear to recognize the difficult position the evolving law meant for their expert.

Nor did they ever seek to replace Gagnon with an outside forensic expert.

Into that breach, however, came Wallace, who testified that his discussions with Livingston - he once told him his concerns about document retention was "all political bulls-t" - had left him "acutely worried" that he had staff in the premier's office and at the ministry of the environment who "were not in compliance" with

government retention policies for Freedom of Information requests and orders of Legislative committees.

Wallace said he was "extremely concerned" about this, saddened at how "an extremely successful premiership was limping to an end and the issues associated with the termination or resignation (of McGuinty) did revolve around the **gas** plants and the decision-making process associated with those."

As a result of his gnawing fear, Wallace had a special meeting with Livingston, to remind him of his responsibility to retain such records.

Yet in early 2013, even as new FOI requests for **gasplant** documents from the premier's office came in at Queen's Park, "Mr. Livingston and Ms. Miller were arranging for the indiscriminate wiping of the local hard drives that potentially contained responsive records," the judge said.

And just days after Wallace granted Livingston the sweeping computer access - against all his instincts and without information Livingston kept from him - the two went ahead and had Faist wipe the computers.

The explanations offered by defence lawyers Scott Hutchison, for Miller, and Brian Gover, for Livingston, that this was all just a little housekeeping, meant to destroy only personal information or Liberal party documents was "simply implausible," the judge said, and inconsistent with "the dishonest character of the acts."

Livingston will be sentenced Feb. 26.

cblatchford@postmedia.com

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David Livingston guilty, Laura Miller not guilty in Ontario gas plants trial | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A former top political aide in Ontario has been found guilty of illegally destroying documents related to a controversial government decision to cancel two gas plants before a provincial election.

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McGuinty aide David Livingston found guilty in gas plants trial | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A top political adviser to former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty was found guilty Friday of criminal charges for wiping government computers following the cancellation of two gas-fired power plants.

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Former top McGuinty aide found guilty over deleted documents; other aide acquitted | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty's chief of staff was found guilty Friday of destroying politically sensitive documents related to a controversial Liberal government decision to scrap two gas plants ahead of the 2011 election at a cost of \$1.1 billion to taxpayers.

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Livingston found guilty in gas plants trial



Stratford Beacon-Herald - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Colin Perkel

Ad Value: \$548

Reach: 10143 **Page:** A2

A former **Ontario** premier's chief of staff was found guilty Friday of destroying documents related to a controversial Liberal government decision to scrap two **gas** plants ahead of the 2011 election.

The ruling comes just months before the province heads to the polls, with the governing Liberals fighting an uphill battle against the Opposition.

David Livingston, who served ex-Liberal premier Dalton McGuinty, had been charged with attempted mischief and illegal use of a computer. His deputy, Laura Miller, faced the same charges and was found not guilty - a ruling that drew an audible **gasp** in the courtroom.

Judge Timothy Lipson, who presided over the case, said Livingston was a sophisticated individual who knew exactly what he was doing.

The political context around Livingston's actions was highly relevant, Lipson said. That context was the growing pressure in 2012 and early 2013 for the Liberal government to account for the cancellation of the two plants before the 2011 election.

"No issues were more challenging or more dangerous to the minority Liberal government than those related to the **gas** plants controversy," Lipson said. "This was the grim political backdrop."

The cancellation of the plants ended up costing taxpayers more than \$1 billion and caused a huge political scandal.

Livingston was openly dismissive of stern warnings and advice about his obligations to retain and produce **gas**-plant records a legislative committee had been demanding as it sought a contempt finding against the then-**minister of energy**, Lipson said.

It defies common sense and reality, Lipson said, to suggest that wholesale wiping of 20 hard drives in the outgoing premier's office was in accordance with policy.

While he was advised about retaining records, Lipson said, Livingston was "more interested in deleting them."

The fact that Livingston failed to warn the cabinet secretary that the wiping of 20 hard drives would be "indiscriminate" was even more serious than hiring Miller's spouse, Peter Faist B— who had no security clearance - to do the job.

"(Livingston) could not have honestly believed that he had the secretary's authorization to do what he did," Lipson said.

Lipson said, however, that he could not conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Miller knew Livingston had "fraudulently" obtained permission to access the

drives, what records they had been warned to keep, and why it was so inappropriate to hire her spouse to do the wiping.

As a result, the judge said, it was possible she was unaware of the illegalities perpetrated by her boss, even though she was intimately aware of the political context in which the wiping was happening.

Miller's lawyer said his client planned to move on from the case.

"She was not guilty of the crime," said Scott Hutchison. "I have no doubt that she will continue to contribute to **public** life in Canada in the way that she has for so many years."

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Judge Not Buying It; Finds McGuinty's ex-chief of staff guilty in gas plants e-mail scandal

Ottawa Sun · Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$2,834

Reach: 36297 Page: A3

A former senior **Ontario** Liberal staffer has been convicted in what the judge called a deliberate "scorched earth" attempt to destroy government e-mails or records related to cancelled **gas** plants.

Crown Tom Lemon said he will seek a custodial sentence for David Livingston, the former chief of staff to premier Dalton McGuinty, who was found guilty Friday of attempted mischief to data and unauthorized use of a computer.

Ontario Judge Timothy Lipson dismissed identical charges against Laura Miller, the former deputy chief of staff whose life partner was paid to wipe 20 hard drives in the premier's office just before McGuinty was replaced by Premier Kathleen Wynne in early 2013.

Brian Gover, Livingston's lawyer, said his client was disappointed with the ruling and would be submitting compelling character evidence at a sentencing hearing scheduled for Feb. 26.

"We're dealing with someone of prior unblemished character with an outstanding career in the business community, time in **public service** as the chief executive officer of Infrastructure **Ontario** and a very brief period in the office of the premier - a career as a political staffer of something of about eight months in duration," Gover said, suggesting a fine or probation would be a more appropriate sentence than jail time.

There was no comment yet on the possibility of an appeal.

In a statement, a spokesperson for Wynne said she introduced a number of measures to strengthen record retention on coming to office.

"This matter involved former staff to the former premier," the statement says. "We've been clear from the start that this is not how anyone in government should operate, and it is not how a premier's office should operate. "PC MPP Vic Fedeli, one of the opposition MPPs who pushed the government to reveal the true cost. However, he said no verdict would bring back \$1.1 billion that the provincial auditor estimates was lost through the cancellation of signed contracts to build **gas** plants in Mississauga and **Oakville**.

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns said the Liberal government will do anything to protect itself "and that was just validated by the guilty verdict today."

The trial heard Livingston obtained an administrative computer password and that he and Miller arranged to have staff computers wiped clean of all records.

The defence argued that the pair were interested in removing personal e-mails, like resumes and partisan. In a lengthy and thorough ruling, Lipson said that key staff members in the premier's office was consumed with the **gas** plant controversy and protecting the premier, and it stretched credibility to suggest no related records were created.

"All **gas** plants all the time - the political backdrop is relevant," the judge said.

At the time, a standing committee and freedom of information requests were demanding all **gas** plant-related records from staff in the premier's office, he said.

But Livingston was clearly more interested in deleting emails than he was in following the advice of. In dismissing the charges against Miller, Lipson noted there was no evidence presented that proved beyond a reasonable doubt that she had been advised of Wallace's warning.

The pair's defence said they wanted to delete e-mails that were personal in nature, like resumes, and those that referred to Liberal Party matters - both permitted actions.

They argued that the IT staff in the premier's office was not considered competent to wipe the computers.

Opposition parties at Queen's Park had contended the government was desperate to wipe out any e-mails that would show it was more interested in saving key political seats in Mississauga and **Oakville** than sparing **hydro** customers and taxpayers the hefty cost of breaking both contracts.

While the trial saw no smoking gun e-mails, the Crown pointed out that Livingston and Miller went to extraordinary lengths to bring in an outside techie to delete all records on those computers. aartuso@postmedia.com

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'At risk' behaviours lead to pause on Darlington nuclear reactor project

thestar.com - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson

Reach: 999000

Workers on the \$12.8 billion nuclear reactor refurbishment (www.thestar.com) at **Ontario Power Generation's** Darlington plant were told to stay home one Friday in December after bosses noticed safety habits getting sloppy.

Tools and parts were being dropped from scaffolding and workers were not always clipping safety harnesses on railings to prevent plunges at the generating station just east of **Oshawa**.

In one alarming incident that proved the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back, a bag of metal components weighing about 20 pounds was dropped from above and narrowly missed a worker.

But it could have been worse. Much worse.

"I called the staff in and said, 'enough's enough,'" says Cliff Eubanks, a Mississippian who heads the joint venture refurbishment project for contractors Aecon and SNC-Lavalin on behalf of **Ontario Power Generation**.

It wasn't just the drop that caused concern to Eubanks and OPG chief executive Jeff Lyash (www.thestar.com). It was the casual reaction to what could have been a life-changing injury.

"I saw a videotape of that. The worker who was almost hit looked up nonchalantly. I thought, 'the folks are not in the right frame of mind,'" adds Eubanks, who has seen too many preventable tragedies in 34 years of similar projects.

The "safety stand-down" clinic that followed the next day on a mock reactor for 300 supervisors and staff was intended to reinforce the importance of avoiding injury or death, and how to improve procedures for hundreds more workers on the 10-year refurbishment.

"If you ever have a fatality in the organization, you will never be the same. You won't," Lyash says to emphasize the point, recalling his own experience as executive vice-president of energy supply for U.S. firm Progress Energy from 2008 to 2012.

"I sat in the living room of a mother and explained why her 24-year-old wasn't coming home," the Pennsylvania native pauses, choking up and brushing away a tear.

"I'm never doing it again. Never want to do it again."

The young man, Cory Rogers, was killed in a hydrogen explosion doing routine maintenance on a generator in Wilmington, N.C., just seven months before another 24-year-old died (www.thestar.com) building the TTC's Spadina subway extension near York University.

"Those are the kinds of things you have in mind when you're doing this," Lyash says of the safety stand-down, where he gave an impromptu pep talk.

Front-line supervisors at Darlington had noticed a small but increasing number of troubling incidents on an otherwise exemplary safety record.

They were included in daily reports scrutinized by Lyash, a nuclear engineer, as he tracks progress from his downtown Toronto office. He can view the work on a live webcam as well.

"We began to see a pattern we didn't like. No injuries, just behaviours we would characterize as at risk," says Lyash.

"If you're working above the ground, you have to be wearing a fall protection harness and you have to be clipped off," he adds.

"People were making excuses like, 'I was just walking over there to get that tool.' Yeah, I hear ya, except that's not the behaviour we want."

Hence the decision to briefly halt the refurbishment of the first of four reactors. The complex work began in mid-October and is slated for completion in February 2020 before the other three nuclear units are tackled over the remaining seven years of the project.

There are daily targets for the work, but it's about more than the productivity alone.

"If you're driving those results and you're not driving the safety behaviours, people start taking short cuts," says Lyash.

"They believe they're 10 feet tall and bulletproof. Everyone thinks accidents will happen to somebody else," Eubanks adds in a separate interview.

He notes that safety stand-downs are more common on major projects, where

workers are often cycling through for specific jobs and the workforce changes over time.

"The extreme version of this is, if you have a life-changing injury on the job, or God forbid you have a fatality, it has a devastating impact. Certainly for the individual effected, for all those involved, and for the project," says Lyash.

He circles back to the death of backhoe operator Kyle Knox, also 24, on the TTC's Spadina subway extension to Vaughan.

Knox was killed when an unstable **drilling** rig toppled on him, stopping work on the subway project for four months and contributing to further delays in the line that finally opened a month ago.

In **North** Carolina, Cory Rogers had started at the coal-fired Sutton **electricity** generating station at 17, part of a training program to get people involved in the **energy** industry.

In his seven years at the plant, Rogers had become an instrument and control technician. He was working on a generator from which the hydrogen **gas** had not been fully purged. The volatile **gas** was ignited by a fan or work light Rogers was using.

Plant owner Progress **Energy** was later fined \$31,500 by state regulators who found nine safety violations, including an absence of warning signs and improper procedures.

Years later, Lyash wells with emotion talking about the incident.

"The manager of that plant and the shift superintendent who authorized that work never went to work again. They couldn't come back to the plant. They just couldn't do it," says the grandfather of eight.

"People tend to think about these projects in abstract, but these projects are people. You have to care about the people that are doing it and their safety and their health."

After the 300 supervisors and managers gathered at Darlington to develop better plans and procedures for all their crews and their disparate tasks - some performed through robots because of radioactivity - they were asked to sign pledges to reinforce the importance of safety.

"We put the question to the supervisors at the end of the day . . . are you committed?" says Lyash.

"We actually had two or three supervisors not come back. People are people. Some people don't like the stress. Some people don't like being criticized, even though it wasn't meant that way. Some people take it personally."

Workers were back to their shifts on Dec. 2, although a crew with the most safety infractions was held out until the following Tuesday for additional training.

There are technicians working on the project 24/7, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day for key tasks, to keep the refurbishment on schedule.

Lyash is betting the lost time for the safety stand-down will pay off.

"If you take the time to get those behaviours right, in the long run you're more productive. It will save us more than a day."

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Turbine snaps in half in Chatham-Kent, MPP calls for halt of wind projects | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A wind turbine in Chatham-Kent, Ont. has snapped in half, leading to calls from one area MPP to halt all wind projects.

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Wind Turbine breaks in half in Chatham-Kent | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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Wind turbine collapses

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$854

Reach: 107026 Page: A16

A Maryland-based **renewable energy** company is investigating after one of its **wind** turbines collapsed in southwestern **Ontario**.

Chad Reed, a spokesperson for Terraform **Power**, said it happened late Thursday or early Friday at the company's Raleigh project in Chatham-Kent.

"The issue did not cause any injuries or impact to the broader community," Reed said in an email Friday. "We are currently investigating the cause of the issue. In the meantime, we have secured the immediate area around the **turbine** and taken the full facility off-line as a precaution as we conduct a site inspection."

Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, posted an image of the collapsed **turbine** on Twitter. The Progressive Conservative politician called on **Ontario's** Liberal government to place a moratorium on two other **wind** projects in the region.

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Broken Wind Turbine In Chatham-Kent | Ontario Wind Resistance

ontario-wind-resistance.org - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Terraform Power crews are investigating after a wind turbine that's part of a wind energy project just south of Chatham broke in half.

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Wind turbine moratorium urged; Toppling of tower highlights failure of program: McNaughton

Windsor Star - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Sharon Hill

Ad Value: \$5,459

Reach: 54680 Page: A1 / Front

A toppled **turbine** in Chatham-Kent has renewed calls for a moratorium on **wind** turbines, including from Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton.

"I was shocked and dismayed," McNaughton, a member of the Progressive Conservative opposition, said of the pictures he saw Friday of a **wind turbine** near Merlin that collapsed in half. "To see a **wind turbine** break in half and the blade down on the ground and the engine down on the ground it just highlighted to me what an utter failure the **Green Energy Act** has become."

McNaughton had already been calling for a moratorium on two **wind** projects in Chatham-Kent - the **North Kent Wind** project **north** of Chatham and the Otter Creek project in Wallaceburg - over various health and environmental concerns including complaints from 17 families over their well water which they suspect has been affected by pile driving for the **turbine** foundations.

"I've long called for an end to **wind turbine** development anyhow because we're sending **electricity** down to the United States and paying other jurisdictions to take it and our **hydro** bills have tripled over a number of years in **Ontario**. It makes no sense to continue building these projects when **Ontario** is overproducing as it is," said McNaughton, adding **Ontario** is losing manufacturing jobs because of the high cost of **hydro**.

He said he was thankful no one was injured or killed when the tower on the 16th Line near Drake Road southeast of Merlin fell over Friday.

"I think it's scary for families across **Ontario** who live nearby **wind** turbines."

Violet Towell, a former Windsorite who now lives in Wallaceburg and is a spokeswoman for Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns, called it shocking.

"I hope it highlights things enough for them to see the dangers inherent in these things," Towell said Saturday. "I don't know why that thing fell over but let's hit the pause button and find out why."

The Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change and the Ministry of Labour were aware of the collapsed **turbine** Friday, and the Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change said it was "actively monitoring the situation and will ensure that the company determines the cause of the incident." Other turbines in the area were shut down as a precaution.

The citizens' group Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns called on the province to halt the Otter Creek **application** process last week over concerns about noise and pile driving for the **turbine** foundations, Towell said. The group is fighting plans for 12 turbines **north** of Wallaceburg that are expected to be the tallest turbines in Canada at about 196 metres high, she said.

In **Essex** County, Lakeshore, **Essex**, Leamington and Amherstburg have said they don't want any more **wind** turbines. A **plan** in 2010 to put hundreds of turbines in Lake **Erie** and Lake St. Clair was met with opposition.

Eleanor Piotrowski was marching down Ouellette Avenue Saturday in the Women's March with her "Dear sister I have your back" sign written on the back of an old "No Lake **Wind** Turbines" sign.

The Lakeshore resident hadn't seen the toppled **turbine** in Chatham-Kent but

didn't need to see it to remain opposed to **wind** turbines on land or in the lakes. In November, McNaughton delivered a bottle of dirty water from a well in Chatham-Kent to Environment Minister Chris Ballard and earlier this month sent a letter to Ballard asking him to meet with the 17 families concerned about their well water. McNaughton first raised the well water issue at a different **wind** project in 2012. For him, the **turbine** that fell over Friday is just another reason to rethink the **wind** projects.

"If these turbines were being built in and around **Toronto**, I guarantee that the government would have put a moratorium on them." shill@postmedia.com

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Conservatives' vows don't add up

Ottawa Sun - Sun Jan 21 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: \$1,587

Reach: 38456 Page: A16

Progressive Conservative MPP Rick Nicholls' column ("Be wary of Liberal promises", Jan 16) is proof that his party will say anything to get elected.

To help himself out, Nicholls trotted out a few numbers cherry-picked to make his case.

So let's get some facts straight.

It is true that **electricity rates** rose faster than expected, and made things difficult for **Ontario** families.

That's why we took action last year, through **Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan**, to reduce **rates** by 25% on average for all households across the province.

As many as half a million small businesses and farms are also benefitting.

Ontarians who live in remote areas, or qualify for low-income assistance, are eligible for more relief - as much as 50%.

This is the single largest **rate** reduction in **Ontario's** history.

The fact is our **rates** are in the middle of the pack in Canada - more expensive than Quebec and Manitoba, but less expensive than PEI and Nova Scotia.

We're also significantly less expensive than other major **North** American cities, like Detroit, Boston, New York or San Francisco.

We can't ignore that the Conservatives voted against our **hydro rate** reduction for **Ontario** families, and have spent nearly a year criticizing it.

And now they have sneakily included it in their platform.

We appreciate the endorsement, but they can't have it both ways - if they support our **Fair Hydro Plan**, that's exactly what they should be saying.

Supporting the **Fair Hydro Plan** isn't the only thing they're not telling Ontarians.

They're not telling us about the \$12 billion in cuts they're planning, \$6 billion of which are not earmarked.

It's not possible to remove that amount of money from the budget without impacting healthcare or education.

The last time we saw this under Mike Harris, the Progressive Conservatives created a crisis in both education and health care.

They removed 10,000 hospital beds. They closed two dozen hospitals.

Ontarians deserve better than that.

Not only is **Ontario** one of the best places in the world to live, we have the fastest-growing economy in the G7.

Our government is committed to making sure everyone in the province gets a **fair** shake at that prosperity.

We're increasing the minimum wage, so people are paid what they deserve.

We're making prescription drugs free for kids and young adults under 25, and we're making tuition free for more **students**.

On the **energy** file, we've banned winter **disconnections**, launched a renewables industry that came with more than 40,000 jobs, and eliminated coal generation.

As a result, we haven't had a smog day since 2014.

These are game-changers that will benefit generations to come.

Experts are saying the Conservative platform uses "magic money", and is "fiscally risky and economically incoherent."

Given their promise to magically increase government spending and cut taxes at the same time, that's not really surprising.

Like any deal that sounds too good to be true, I would encourage Ontarians to read the fine print before signing on the dotted line.

Thibeault is **Ontario's minister of Energy**

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Roy Green: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is wrongly in attack mode | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Fri Jan 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Francesca Dobbyn of United Way Bruce Grey in Ontario shared on air that she was worried someone in her community would die because of hugely expensive electricity costs.

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Hydro One wasteful

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: B. Burrell

Ad Value: \$130

Reach: 7920 Page: A4

Let me start by saying that I really like the new format **Hydro** One is using for its invoices. I hear it is being criticized for spending \$14 million for this redesign.

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

Maybe **Hydro** One does reside in a different universe than other businesses and cost savings are only talked about and never really a priority. For example, I have been paying a lot of my bills online for about 10 years. After paying online for one month, my credit card company stopped sending a return envelope with my invoice. But all these years later, I still receive one every month from **Hydro** One. Multiply that by 12 bills per year and then by all the customers who throw them in the blue box and I'm sure the savings would be significant.

B. Burrell

Dorchester

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Business sector looking for firm commitments this provincial election

Waterloo Chronicle - Sat Jan 20 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$231

Reach: 31746 Page: 1

This column will be the first of many related to the upcoming **Ontario** election. If the current polls are an indication, the next five months could see regular shifts and turns and nothing will be certain until election night.

Our colleagues at the **Ontario** Chamber of Commerce (OCC) have, through significant research and consultations, identified several factors that are limiting business growth including lacklustre exports, an elevated cost of living, and decreased labour force participation.

These factors combined with high input costs such as **electricity**, **cap and trade** and labour law reform including the minimum wage translate to a higher cost of doing business.

Ontario businesses require tax cuts and other offsets to mitigate the impact of minimum wage increases and other changes from Bill 148. For example, the general corporate income tax was scheduled for reduction to 10 per cent in 2013. Due to the province's financial predicament at that time, the cut was cancelled with a promise to deliver when the budget became balanced. That time has arrived and with major corporate reductions in the U.S., **Ontario** business tax relief is required to send a positive message to investors.

Standardization of the Business Education Tax across **Ontario**, a long-standing recommendation of the provincial business sector, and reductions in the Employer Health Tax are also measures for mitigating the impact of a higher minimum wage.

In a recent OCC survey 62 per cent of respondents attempted to recruit new staff in 2016. Approximately 82 per cent experienced at least one major challenge in the recruitment process, most related to securing workers with the appropriate qualifications. The entire apprenticeship system is also seriously out of date and requires reform.

Of all new jobs created over the next decade, 40 per cent are expected in the skilled trades, however only 26 per cent of **students** aged 13 to 24 are considering careers in these areas.

Provincial **electricity** prices have risen by 71 per cent from 2008 to 2016, far

outpacing the **electricity** increases in other **Canadian** provinces. One solution, according to the OCC, is allowing businesses to purchase surplus **electricity** at **rates** equal to or better than the exported price to other jurisdictions.

Our Chamber will be active in the four local campaigns in **Kitchener-Waterloo**, including candidate forums on dates to be determined once the writ is dropped. As always, it is our role to assist our members with making informed decisions and providing the appropriate information on party policies.

Ian McLean is President and CEO of the **Greater Kitchener-Waterloo** Chamber of Commerce.

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Stronger ties needed between Quebec and N.B., minister says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Jan 21 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Quebec's minister responsible for Canadian relations wants to strengthen ties with New Brunswick, saying the two provinces are linked by more than a proposed pipeline.

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