

## Infomart Newsletters

**From:** Infomart Newsletters  
**Sent:** January 23, 2018 7:51 AM  
**To:** Rosemarie Leclair  
**Subject:** Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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## Morning News Clippings

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Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018  
 Edited by: Paul Crawford ( [Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca](mailto:Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca) )

[Contact Editor](#)

### Clippings Summary

#### News - 9 Results



#### Liberals put liberals first; A criminal conviction confirms what ontarians already knew

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: \$8,717

Reach: 114846 Page: N8

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#### MPP calls for turbine inspection; Collapse adds to concerns of citizen group over another wind farm project

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$398

Reach: 7920 Page: A3

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Port Perry Star - Mon Jan 22 2018

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Ad Value: \$180

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Peterborough Examiner - Tue Jan 23 2018

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Byline: Rob Ferguson

Ad Value: \$1,599

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## Higher value put on environment; Job creation takes back seat to climate change efforts on resource projects, poll says

Toronto Star - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Alex Boutilier Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$22,053

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

More Canadians believe the country, when faced with decisions on major resource projects like pipelines, should be guided more by combating **climate change** than creating jobs, a new poll commissioned by the federal government ...



## A greener, poorer, slower economy

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Byline: Paige Macpherson

Ad Value: \$4,446

Reach: 171076 Page: A15

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## Memorial site built for helicopter crash victims | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Neutral**  
Permalink



## Critics seek answers, assurances after wind tower topples

Sarnia Observer - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$775

Reach: 12173 Page: A3

MPP Rick Nicholls wants assurances the other **turbine** towers that are part of a **wind** farm in south Raleigh won't topple over like one did overnight Friday. The provincial representative for Chatham-Kent-**Essex** knows ...

## Clippings Summary

### Full Articles



## Liberals put liberals first; A criminal conviction confirms what ontarians already knew

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: \$8,717

Reach: 114846 Page: N8

When he abruptly quit his job five years ago, former **Ontario** premier Dalton McGuinty let it be known he was upset at the furor opposition members had mounted over a pair of cancelled **gas** plants.

"The opposition's political games are holding **Ontario** back," he railed, fed up with demands for ever-more information, more inquiries, more answers about his mid-campaign decision to cancel the two projects at a cost of \$1 billion, a decision that appeared to have everything to do with Liberal election prospects and little to do with **public** good. Before departing he pointedly prorogued the legislature, shutting down hearings on the scandal while the Liberals picked a new leader.

Now that leader - Kathleen Wynne, a senior member of Mc-Guinty's cabinet and co-chair of the 2011 re-election campaign - wants it known that she sees the **gas** plant scandal as tired, old and unworthy of the attention the media and opposition insist on paying it. Indeed, when former McGuinty chief of staff David Livingston was convicted Friday of deliberately destroying documents in an effort to contain the scandal, Wynne's office treated it as some ancient issue from a distant past. (McGuinty himself had not faced any charges.)

A spokesperson sighed that Livingston and Laura Miller - who helped Livingston wipe clean 20 hard drives but was cleared by Justice Timothy Lipson - were "former officials of the former premier." Nobodies, in other words. Hardly worth noticing ... certainly nothing to do with Wynne's own struggling government, now preparing for a June election.

In Liberal eyes, it's all just hohum stuff. Hadn't they already distanced themselves from the McGuinty way of doing things? Haven't they avoided blanket

hard-drive wiping ever since? Haven't they done their best to pretend Livingston doesn't exist? While Liberals may wish that to be true, it's possible that many Ontarians feel otherwise. While neither Wynne nor her government were on trial, the methods, culture and attitude behind Livingston's actions go to the heart of what troubles so many people about the way the Liberals do business.

Lipson made clear his view that Livingston was engaged in a politically-driven effort to protect his boss by destroying records he'd been warned to preserve. "Mr. Livingston's **plan** to eliminate sensitive and confidential work-related data, in my view, amounted to a 'scorched earth' strategy, where information that could be potentially useful to adversaries, both within and outside of the Liberal Party, would be destroyed," he said. He deceived cabinet secretary Peter Wallace, gained special access to the hard drives, and then had Miller's boyfriend wipe them clean.

What resonates is the singlemindedness of the Liberal view that **power** must be protected at all costs, opponents must be hobbled by any and all means, and that serving party interests comes above all else, legal, ethical or otherwise.

Other Liberal officials have survived recent trials that did not produce convictions, but left a distinct stain on any claim to principled government. The party has relentlessly pursued practices of primary benefit to its own fortunes: an auditor-general too critical of self-promoting ads has her veto **power** removed; an ombudsman who takes obvious glee in skewering government failures is dumped; unions friendly to the government find themselves offered generous **contract** extensions as the election nears, and their negotiating costs covered at **public** expense; doctors - less willing to withdraw their services than teachers or bureaucrats - find themselves targeted for attack by a government eager for an opportunity to posture.

**Electricity** bills grossly inflated by government policies are accorded subsidies at a cost of billions in new borrowing, solely to dilute anger in advance of the forthcoming election. The added debt is then artfully hidden by accounting manoeuvres to enable the finance minister to falsely claim a balanced budget. The lost revenue is recouped via a new tax on carbon, negating the promised savings.

Minimum wage **rates** are increased 30 per cent over barely a year's time - difficult for small businesses to absorb without extensive pain, but targeted to Liberal electoral hopes. When the predicted problems arise - restaurants forced to cut staff or reduce benefits - Wynne and her ministers attack the employers as bullies rather than acknowledge their own role in setting off the spiral. When daycare costs - already the highest in the country - are forced up by the pay rise, the government promises more spending, fuelled by more borrowing, to provide more spaces with more subsidies. The spending spiral thus escalates, as debt **fuels** more spending which pushes up more costs which requires more borrowing.

Ontarians have been absorbing these scorched-earth tactics for years. Only after a sustained **public** outcry did Wynne end the practice of selling access to herself and top Liberals in return for hefty "donations." In September the government finally admitted the province has far more **power** than it needs, and ended plans for billions more in unnecessary projects. Since Wynne's government introduced rent controls in its "**Fair** Housing" **plan** last year, rents have increased 15 per cent; **Toronto** passed Vancouver this month as the most expensive rental market in Canada.

What emerges from it all is the ongoing priority put on Liberal needs over those of the province, and often at voters' expense. Livingston acted because his first priority was to defend the reputation of the McGuinty government, even as McGuinty himself was leaving, rather than respect the responsibility entrusted to him to retain crucial records. He shrugged off explicit warnings from Wallace as "political bullshit" and barrelled ahead. His lawyers saw the nature of his crime as so acceptable they sought to have the charges thrown out without need

for a defence.

Lipson didn't grant their request. On Friday he said Livingston knew exactly what he was doing, and that it was all about politics.

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

Wynne and her cheerleaders will now do their best to maintain the claim that it's old news, that Ontarians forgave them long ago and that any election impact will be negligible. Like Livingston, they will ignore the warnings and do whatever it takes to protect themselves and the party, at whatever **public** cost.

Twitter.com/kellymcparland

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## MPP calls for turbine inspection; Collapse adds to concerns of citizen group over another wind farm project

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Tue Jan 23 2018

**Tone:** **Negative**

**Byline:** Ellwood Shreve

**Ad Value:** \$398

**Reach:** 7920 **Page:** A3

Chatham-Kent-**Essex** MPP Rick Nicholls wants assurances **turbine** towers that are part of a **wind** farm won't topple over like one did overnight Friday.

Nicholls knows the company is looking into the cause of the collapse, but added, "I want to call on the ownership of those turbines to do a thorough inspection of all the remaining turbines in that **wind** farm." The Progressive Conservation MPP said he wants to know the results of the investigation, including the company that built the **turbine** towers, noting, "there could be a flaw in the engineering, which could cause another one to come down." Nicholls is also renewing his call for a moratorium on construction of industrial **wind turbine** projects across **Ontario** until safety and other issues, including the effect on area water wells, are dealt with.

The investigation underway into what caused a **turbine** tower to collapse in south Chatham-Kent is going to take weeks, the owner of the **wind** farm said.

In an email Monday to Postmedia News, Chad Reed, director of investor relations for TerraForm **Power**, said a team of experts is onsite investigating what caused a **turbine** tower to collapse on Sixteenth Line near Drake Road.

"In the meantime, we have secured the immediate area around the **turbine** and taken the full facility offline as a precaution as we conduct a site inspection," Reed said. "We are making progress on the inspection and expect to complete it within the coming weeks. As a precaution, the facility will remain offline until the inspection is complete." The **turbine** is part of the 52-**turbine** Raleigh **Wind Energy Centre** project that went in **service** in 2011 under the previous owner Invenergy **Wind** LLC, before being purchased by TerraForm in late 2015.

Nicholls is also concerned about several **wind** turbines, owned by many different companies, near Highway 401 in Chatham-Kent.

Using his golf range finder he has seen instances where some of the turbines are located just over 100 metres from the busy highway.

"If they were to fall down towards the 401 that could be a terrible tragedy," Nicholls said, adding he is glad no one was injured from this incident.

The **turbine** collapse has also alarmed members of the Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns (WAWC) citizens group that already has fears about the impact of the Enercon E-141 model turbines will have on water wells and noise levels when they are erected as part of the Otter Creek **wind** project, to be located **north** of Wallaceburg.

The turbines will stand 185.7 metres (462 feet) high from base to the top of the **turbine** blade, which is 30 per cent higher than other turbines erected in Chatham-Kent.

When asked her reaction upon learning of the **turbine** tower collapse, WAWC spokesperson Violet Towell said: "My first thought was, 'There's yet another concern for us.'" The Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change said Monday in an email that it is taking the tower collapse seriously. "We are actively monitoring the situation and will ensure that the company determines the cause of the incident."

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## Slick sales pitches trap seniors in costly contracts

thestar.com - Tue Jan 23 2018

**Tone:** Positive

**Byline:** Ellen Roseman

**Reach:** 999000

Last April, **Ontario** took a first step to ban unsolicited door-to-door sales of furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and other products.

It passed a law to protect consumers from being pushed into signing contracts with high monthly costs and even higher cancellation fees.

The regulations come into force March 1. It's the start of a new regime aimed at protecting consumers from deception at the door.

This is a cause I've championed over the past two decades. I get many complaints about the abusive treatment of seniors by sales agents ambushing them at their homes.

Here are stories of two older widows who fell for slick pitches and signed contracts for home services. To preserve privacy, I'm not using their names.

The first woman, 92, has failing vision and qualifies as legally blind. Last July, she was persuaded to sign a 10-year **contract** to install a high-efficiency air filter for her furnace.

A salesman for **Ontario** Home Services came to her townhouse and identified himself as being with **Energy** Protection Care (a company that services equipment sold by OHS).

She felt comfortable speaking to him, since she had mixed up the name **Energy** Protection Care with Enercare and **Enbridge Gas** - two firms with which she already had relationships.

The salesman said she could rent an air filter for the same amount billed by Enbridge for her Enercare furnace maintenance **plan** and her hot water tank (about \$50 a month).

"He promised her costs would not change," said her friend Ian Tessier. "Her Enbridge bill would be replaced by a charge from his billing company (UtilEbill) and would cover everything she had now."

When the first bill arrived, she saw the \$50 charge had been added to the

amount she paid for the other services - doubling her cost.

The salesman said she had to wait a month for an adjusted bill. Then, he said she would receive **rebate** cheques until the billing could be corrected. No rebates ever came.

Stepping up his efforts, Tessier asked **Ontario** Home Services to cancel the **contract**. But the statutory 10-day cooling off period to cancel without penalty had long passed.

He tried another tack. Under **Ontario consumer** law, contracts can be cancelled for up to one year if there is evidence of misrepresentation.

The company said the **contract** was legal because it was co-signed by the woman's niece. The salesman drove from **Toronto** to St. Catharines (a distance of 115 kilometres) to enlist her, even though she didn't have a **power** of attorney for her aunt's finances.

The woman was offered a reduced **rate** of \$34.95 a month or a buyout price of \$3,550 to cancel. But after I intervened this month, along with the Better Business Bureau, OHS agreed to remove the air filter and cancel the deal at no cost.

"We understand this to be a positive outcome for OHS and demonstrative of OHS' commitment to **customer** satisfaction," said Pradeep Chand, the company's legal counsel.

I also heard about a 76-year-old widow who signed multiple contracts for home services with different companies, adding \$250 a month to her **Enbridge gas** bill.

"She's had two hip replacements, a knee replacement and suffers from a slowly progressing degree of cognitive impairment," her son said.

"We recently had to move her to a retirement living environment to protect her from these vultures. She was afraid to open her door."

The woman was bound by the following contracts:

A water filtration system installed in 2007, costing \$35 a month for 10 years. Her son had to pay for the last few months, plus \$100 to have the system removed, since she still didn't own it.

A second water filtration system, installed in 2014. She'd already paid \$1,345 when she moved out and her son paid \$3,750 to cancel the **contract** (down from \$4,500 originally proposed).

A high-efficiency furnace and air filter system, installed in 2016 after a five-year-old furnace in great condition had been removed. She was paying \$110 a month for 10 years for something she didn't need, her son said, adding that he paid \$2,000 to cancel and got a refund of all other charges to date.

In March 2017, yet another seller came to her home and signed her up for a reverse osmosis water filter under her sink and a heat recovery ventilation system. Her son cancelled the **contract** within 10 days and finally set up a **power** of attorney for her finances.

"Her Enercare maintenance **plan** and Reliance **water heater** rental fees were reasonable, but none of the others were appropriate," her son said. "They all had to be closed to remove liens placed on the house before we could sell it to fund her long-term care."

What did the salespeople say to get in the front door and get her to sign each **contract**? Was she targeted because she had white hair?

Her son suspects that after the first high-priced deal was done, she may have ended up on a "sucker list," leading to other pitches.

Have you heard about companies exploiting cognitively challenged elders at home? I hope this column makes you ask **Ontario** politicians running for election this June why it took so long to regulate sellers and protect the vulnerable.

Ellen Roseman appears in Smart Money. You can reach her at [eroseman@thestar.ca](mailto:eroseman@thestar.ca) (mailto:eroseman@thestar.ca ).

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## Time to get rid of the Ontario Liberals

Port Perry Star - Mon Jan 22 2018

**Tone:** Negative

**Ad Value:** \$180

**Reach:** 15500 **Page:** 1

To the editor:

I have to say, I've been following the **Ontario** Liberals' corruption since Dalton McGuinty entered office as premier and I'm very disappointed with this leadership as of late.

Kathleen Wynne has followed in her predecessor's footsteps, her party is continuing the broken promises they've made to Ontarians time and time again to try to steal another election win. Sure Premier Wynne has gotten rid of some of the old faces in the party to try to trick Ontarians into thinking that she has changed but the facts are written on the wall. Families now are paying \$1,000 more in **hydro** per year than in 2003, **Ontario's** debt is \$312 billion, the **Ontario** Liberals are plagued by scandal, and Wynne thought it was a good idea to spend \$200,000 of taxpayer money on a giant rubber duck.

It's time to get **Ontario** back on track and it starts with getting rid of the **Ontario** Liberals and their broken promises come election time.

Sam Parker

Port Perry

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## Darlington refurbishment was paused last month

Peterborough Examiner - Tue Jan 23 2018

**Tone:** Neutral

**Byline:** Rob Ferguson

**Ad Value:** \$1,599

**Reach:** 19693 **Page:** A5

Workers on the \$12.8 billion nuclear reactor refurbishment at **Ontario Power Generation's** Darlington plant, 70 kilometres southwest of **Peterborough**, 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 the 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. 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.

You might be interested in "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 vicepresident 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, 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 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 standdown, 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.

In **North** Carolina at the Sutton **electricity** generating station, Cory Rogers 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.

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

"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," he says.

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.

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.

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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## Higher value put on environment; Job creation takes back seat to climate change efforts on resource projects, poll says

Toronto Star - Tue Jan 23 2018  
**Tone:** **Positive**  
**Byline:** Alex Boutilier Toronto Star

**Ad Value:** \$22,053  
**Reach:** 361323 **Page:** A8

More Canadians believe the country, when faced with decisions on major resource projects like pipelines, should be guided more by combating **climate** change than creating jobs, a new poll commissioned by the federal government suggests.

But while the data shows broad support for developing renewable sources of **energy** and reducing emissions, a significant number of respondents remain anxious about **energy** affordability.

These two "silos" of Canadians suggest **energy** and the environment will remain tricky political files for the Liberals, as they move closer to implementing

a national price on carbon emissions.

The poll, conducted in June 2017 and released last week, found that 34 per cent of Canadians think reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions should be a "guiding principle" in developing natural resources. That principle is followed by "keeping **energy** affordable" (25 per cent), ensuring safe production and **transportation** of **energy** (20 per cent), generating more **energy** jobs (10 per cent) and getting **energy** products to market (10 per cent).

"The values people chose could be grouped into two silos - those relating to safety and the environment (including **climate** change) and those that related more to jobs and affordability," the report, prepared by Environics Research, reads.

"In general, there was a tendency to put a higher value on the environment, but many also expressed concern about the costs of **energy**."

The polling firm did find a unifying value between the two groups, however: that Canada has an opportunity to grow its economy through the "clean technology sector."

An overwhelming majority of respondents supported **renewable energy** sources, such as **solar** (93 per cent), **hydro electricity** (91 per cent) and **wind** projects (86 per cent). Support for non-**renewable energy**, such as oil (63 per cent) and nuclear **power** (45 per cent), was considerably weaker.

Those numbers largely reflect where Canadians see demand for **energy** going in the future. Only 34 per cent of respondents thought demand for oil and **gas** will increase, while between 59 and 82 per cent expected demand for various renewables to increase.

"When participants were asked to consider potential trade-offs between affordability and the environment in Canada's **energy** future, many had difficulty understanding why these goals might conflict with one another," the report reads.

That's likely good news for the governing Liberals, who have tried to walk a line between approving major natural resource projects and putting forward a credible **plan** to combat **climate** change.

"We are in the midst of an **energy** transformation that will require all sources of **energy** to ensure Canada is a global leader in the low-carbon economy," wrote Alexandre Deslongchamps, a spokesperson for Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr, in an email to the Star.

A spokesperson for Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer refused to comment.

"We don't comment on **public** polling," wrote Jake Enwright.

Earlier this month, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna released draft legislation for the Liberals' national carbon pricing framework. The **plan** imposes a minimum price of \$20 a tonne in 2019, growing steadily to \$50 a tonne in 2022.

Provinces that meet or exceed **Ottawa's** targets can continue their own efforts, but provinces that refuse to take action - currently, only Saskatchewan - would have the federal price imposed on them.

The Environics poll surveyed 2,218 Canadians between June 7 and June 14, 2017, and is considered accurate to within 2.1 percentage points.

With files from The **Canadian** Press

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## A greener, poorer, slower economy

Toronto Sun - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Paige Macpherson

Ad Value: \$4,446

Reach: 171076 Page: A15

Without a doubt, rising population and prosperity in the developing world will grow global demand for **energy** for the foreseeable future. For human progress, this is fantastic.

Billions of people will be lifted out of poverty. Central to this progress is access to reliable and reasonably priced **power**.

According to every reliable forecasting agency, from the International **Energy** Agency to multinational **energy** conglomerates like BP, the rising demand for **energy** cannot be met any time soon by renewables like **wind** and **solar**. In the next several decades at least, many more hydrocarbons will be burned than are burned today.

For some, rising energyfueled growth and prosperity is more of a curse than a blessing. How can we "decarbonize" our world in the face of inexorable growth in demand for oil, coal and **natural gas**? As the world's fastest growing economies expand fossil **fuels** usage, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is heading the opposite direction, heaping on taxes and regulations designed to reduce consumption of carbon-based **energy** along with the emissions and jobs it produces.

The tax-and-regulatory gap with Canada's largest trading partner widened after Donald Trump became President of the United States. When Trump jettisoned the Paris **climate** agreement he was loudly rebuked.

**Consumer** products giant Procter & Gamble was among those calling for **climate** action. But soon after, the multinational closed its plant in Brockville, **Ontario**, to relocate operations in **West** Virginia where coal-powered **energy** is much cheaper.

Canada's CO2 emissions from P&G along with almost 500 manufacturing jobs will shift from **Ontario** to the U.S. - jobs from Canada are **West** Virginia's unexpected reward for voting Trump.

When Trudeau came faceto-face with 54-year-old Kathy Katula from rural **Ontario** last January, he learned about real-life consequences. "My heat and **hydro** now cost me more than my mortgage," Katula tearfully explained. "How is it justified for you to ask me to pay a carbon tax when I only have \$65 left of my pay cheque every two weeks to feed my family?" Although Trudeau's carbon tax will make hydrocarbon **fuels** even more expensive, Katula's main complaint is with the Liberal government of **Ontario**.

Ontarians suffering from **energy** poverty can blame the province's massively subsidized and poorly structured green **energy** contracts, recklessly rapid phase-out of coal **power**, the infamous **gas** plant cancellations, and gross mismanagement of **power** supply and demand.

In **Ontario**, residential **electricity** bills have more than doubled in the last decade. **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation research reveals **electricity** costs at **St. Thomas** Elgin General Hospital have increased 75 percent since 2013; Woodstock Hospital has seen a 60 per cent increase in the same time.

In British Columbia, the health authorities spent over \$5-million on carbon offsets in 2015 alone. Yet, that province will begin to ratchet up its carbon tax

each year on April 1 until it hits \$50 a tonne in 2021.

Alberta's NDP government is also accelerating coal plant closures, subsidizing renewables, and taxing and regulating carbon dioxide. Their carbon tax increased by 50 percent to \$30 a tonne on Jan. 1.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley defended her carbon tax by suggesting it would have negligible effects on **gasoline** costs, yet would reduce emissions by incenting some Albertans to walk or take the bus. Critics slammed her as either illogical or hypocritical, and badly out of touch.

Like Trudeau's encounter with Kathy Katula, it was another example of a green political crusader talking down to the people paying for the crusade.

As taxes and costs rise, promised green jobs fail to materialize, and few others in the world make these sacrifices, Canadians may soon start demanding a new approach that puts affordability on par with sustainability - and political accountability.

Paige MacPherson is a contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable **Energy** and works for a taxpayer research and advocacy group in Alberta.

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## Memorial site built for helicopter crash victims | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Mon Jan 22 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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## Critics seek answers, assurances after wind tower topples

Samia Observer - Tue Jan 23 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

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MPP Rick Nicholls wants assurances the other **turbine** towers that are part of a **wind** farm in south Raleigh won't topple over like one did overnight Friday.

The provincial representative for Chatham-Kent-**Essex** knows the company is looking into the cause of the collapse, but added, "I want to call on the ownership of those turbines to do a thorough inspection of all the remaining turbines in that **wind** farm."

He wants to know the results of the investigation, noting, "there could be a flaw in the engineering, which could cause another one to come down."

Nicholls is renewing his call for a moratorium on industrial **wind turbine** projects across **Ontario** until this and other issues, including the impacts on area water wells, are dealt with.

The investigation underway into what caused a **turbine** tower to collapse in south Chatham-Kent will take weeks, says a spokesperson for the **wind** farm's owner.

Chad Reed, director of investor relations for TerraForm **Power**, said Monday a team of experts is onsite investigating what caused a **wind turbine** tower to collapse on Sixteenth Line near Drake Road.

"We have secured the immediate area around the **turbine** and taken the full

facility offline as a precaution as we conduct a site inspection," Reed said.

"We are making progress on the inspection and expect to complete it within the coming weeks."

The turbine is part of the 52-turbine Raleigh Wind Energy Centre project that went into service in 2011 under previous owner Invenergy Wind LLC. It was bought by TerraForm in late 2015.

Nicholls is concerned about several wind turbines, owned by many different companies, near Highway 401 in Chatham-Kent.

Using his golf rangefinder, he has seen instances where turbines are just over 100 metres from the busy highway. "If they were to fall down toward the 401, that could be a terrible tragedy," Nicholls said.

He knows some people may say he's fear-mongering, but said, "No, I'm not. I'm being a realist."

The turbine collapse has also alarmed members of the Wallaceburg Area Wind Concerns citizen group, which already has fears about turbines' impact on water wells and noise levels in the Otter Creek wind project north of Wallaceburg. The turbines will stand 185.7 metres high from base to the top of the turbine blade, 30 per cent higher than other turbines in Chatham-Kent.

Of the tower collapse, the group's Violet Towell said: "My first thought was, 'There's yet another concern for us.'" She noted the group is still waiting for definitive answers on noise assessment data and the impact vibration from construction and operation of the Otter Creek wind farm will have on water wells.

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