

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: March 16, 2018 8:04 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, March 16, 2018

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, March 16, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 19 Results



Entegrus , St. Thomas Energy merger wins energy board's OK

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: **Positive**
Ad Value: \$291
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

Chatham-Kent's **electrical utility** is about to make it into the top 10. It was announced late Thursday afternoon the **Ontario Energy Board** has issued a decision and order approving the ...



Energy board approves pairing of two area utilities

Sarnia Observer - Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: **Positive**
Ad Value: \$116
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A2

The **Ontario Energy Board** has approved an **application** to allow **Entegrus Powerlines** Inc. to merge with St. Thomas **Energy** Inc. The St. Thomas **utility** will adopt the ...



BlackburnNews.com - Entegrus-St. Thomas Energy Merger Given The Green Light

blackburnnews.com - Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

A merger between Entegrus Powerlines Inc. and St. Thomas Energy Inc. has

been given final approval. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) recently gave the green light to an application submitted by the two utilities, which will see St. Thomas Energy ...



The rising cost of space on hydro poles may result in a hike in the cost of internet and cable - Sudbury - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The wires attached to hydro poles not only provide electricity, but they deliver phone, internet and cable services. And the cost of attaching those wires to the poles is on the way up. The Ontario Energy Board wants to increase those fees after ...



Implementing The Province's Long-Term Energy Plan: 3 Things To Bear In Mind - Energy and Natural Resources - Canada

www.mondaq.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, March 16, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

In July 2016, Ontario's Liberal government amended the Electricity Act to (finally) dismantle the previous "Integrated Power System Plan" (IPSP) promulgation and public review mechanism.



Opinion | Trying to make sense of the murky future of Peterborough Distribution Inc. | ThePeterboroughExaminer.com

www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Were you among those cheering that negotiations over the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc. have fallen through?



Opinion | Peterpodcast: Episode 7 — What's next for PDI? | ThePeterboroughExaminer.com

www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

With the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc. to Hydro One flatlined, what's next for Peterborough's hydro services?



Liberal party has done irreparable damage to Ontario

Peterborough This Week - Thu Mar 15 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$21

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

To the editor: re: 'What's next in Ontario's Tory drama,' by Sylvia Sutherland, March 11, 2018 Never in the history of politics have I ever seen a Liberal party like Wynne's putting **Ontario** in debt that will probably never be ...



Ontario's debt just keeps climbing

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$798

Reach: 63465 Page: A7

Ontario will not have balanced budget on March 28 - March 8 Are you kidding me? The Liberals are spending taxpayer funds to the tune of almost \$1 billion a month just to pay the interest on our provincial debt, without paying a dime of ...



Wynne Liberals to deliver throne speech Monday; Premier to tout new investments, while Opposition pans it as desperation move

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$4,135

Reach: 114846 Page: A3

Ontario's Liberal government, trailing in the polls ahead of a spring election, will deliver a throne speech outlining its priorities on Monday, as the opposition accuses it of attempting to hit the reset button before the June vote. Kathleen Wynne ...



Kevin Libin: Trudeau's carbon tax plan is close to blowing up in his face

Financial Post - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Kevin Libin

Reach: 607500

Things have turned very much Jim Karahalios's way lately, and they might not be done yet. If you haven't heard of Karahalios, he was the noisy member of the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives persecuted by his own party for refusing to let ...



Power plant boost to Algoma's 'sustainability': Ghosh

The Sault Star - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$349

Reach: 17077 Page: A1 / Front

Algoma has acquired the former Lake Superior **Power** Plant to augment its **power** generating capacity. The 55 MW heat and **power** plant will supplement Algoma's current supply of **power** and steam for ...



Partnership brings solar broadband to First Nation

National Post - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Emily Jackson

Ad Value: \$5,998

Reach: 159480 Page: FP3

Ottawa may be investing millions of dollars to improve access to highspeed internet in rural, remote and First Nation communities, but some aren't waiting for the government funds to start flowing to get started. Instead, they're ...



Powering into the future; Small-scale manure digester closes the loop on energy at Harcolm Farms

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Chris Funston

Ad Value: \$990

Reach: 7920 Page: A1 / Front

From waste to **energy**, Harcolm Farms converts trash to treasure. The construction of the farm's packaged small-scale anaerobic digester was just completed and on full display Thursday at a Harcolm Farms open house. Robert McKinlay of ...



Power utilities forced to adapt as climate change brings wilder weather | CTV Atlantic News

atlantic.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The increasing intensity of storms that lead to massive power outages highlights the need for Canada's electrical utilities to be more robust and innovative, climate change scientists say.



Hydro Ottawa workers home after helping U.S. snowstorm victims | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Dozens of Hydro Ottawa workers are returning home after restoring power to hundreds of New York State residents left in the dark by this month's severe snowstorms.



The Hydroelectric Crises: The Fight to Live in the North | Opinions – The Link

thelinknewspaper.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, March 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

For First Nations peoples, living on their ancestral lands has been a challenge. For centuries, they have been snubbed, in one way or the other, by North American governments.



While #pinotnotpipelines is funny, what's at stake is not

www.dawsoncreekmirror.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, March 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Headlines and hashtags everywhere proclaim Alberta is putting a stop to the import of B.C. wine amid a pipeline dispute.



Green leader Elizabeth May on Notley, Kinder Morgan and pipeline 'propaganda' - British Columbia - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, March 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Thousands of people in Burnaby marched in protest last weekend against the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — among them the Green Party's federal leader.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Chatham Daily News

Entegrus , St. Thomas Energy merger wins energy board's OK

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$291

Reach: 15320 Page: A3

Chatham-Kent's **electrical utility** is about to make it into the top 10.

It was announced late Thursday afternoon the **Ontario Energy Board** has issued a decision and order approving the **application** to allow **Entegrus Powerlines** Inc. to merge with **St. Thomas Energy** Inc.

The **St. Thomas utility** will adopt the **Entegrus Powerlines** name on April 1, at which time the combined **utility** will be serving 17 communities throughout Ssuthwestern **Ontario** with a **customer** base of more than 58,000, making it the 10th largest local **distribution** company in **Ontario**.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will be the majority owner, followed by the City of **St. Thomas**. Corix will continue to be a minority shareholder.

"We are committed to offering the excellent levels of **service** customers have come to expect," **Entegrus** president and chief executive Jim Hogan said in a media release.

"Together, we will continue to operate by the strong values that guide us to be a safe, **customer** and community-focused, and sustainable **utility**."

Rob Kent, chief operating officer of **St. Thomas Energy**, will become vice-president of IT services and fibre operations with **Entegrus**.

Fibre optic network services previously offered by Ascent in **St. Thomas** will be provided under the **Entegrus** group of companies.

"We look forward to working with our new team as we begin this transition to merge our operations," Kent said in the release.

"There will be no disruption to services offered by **St. Thomas Energy**," he said, adding the main office will remain open.

"Additional changes may occur as we begin to merge systems, but we will continue to communicate any changes that will affect our customers."

St. Thomas Energy branding will change to **Entegrus** in the coming months on

the building, fleet, **customer** billing and website.

Additional merger-related information is available online at www.entegrus.com.

"The combined expertise and dedication of our employees will ensure our customers and communities we serve will benefit from increased resources and experience," Kent said.

"The name **St. Thomas Energy** may be changing, but as a company we are still committed to operating with local values in mind."

Distribution rates are expected to remain fairly stable over the next several years, with projected increases being less than inflation, stated the release.

The merged **utility** plans to seek **OEB** approval for harmonization of **distribution rates** between all communities during the next scheduled **distribution rate application** in 2026.

[Back to Top](#)



Energy board approves pairing of two area utilities

Sarnia Observer - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$116

Reach: 12173 Page: A2

The **Ontario Energy Board** has approved an **application** to allow **Entegrus Powerlines** Inc. to merge with **St. Thomas Energy** Inc. The **St. Thomas utility** will adopt the **Entegrus Powerlines** name on April 1. The combined **utility** will be serving 17 communities with a **customer** base of more than 58,000, making it the 10th-largest local **distribution** company in **Ontario**. The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will be the majority owner, followed by the City of **St. Thomas**. Corix will continue to be a minority shareholder.

[Back to Top](#)



BlackburnNews.com - Entegrus-St. Thomas Energy Merger Given The Green Light

blackburnnews.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A merger between Entegrus Powerlines Inc. and St. Thomas Energy Inc. has been given final approval.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) recently gave the green light to an application submitted by the two utilities, which will see St. Thomas Energy adopt the Entegrus Powerlines name as of April 1.

[Back to Top](#)



The rising cost of space on hydro poles may result in a hike in the cost of internet and cable - Sudbury - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The wires attached to hydro poles not only provide electricity, but they deliver phone, internet and cable services.

And the cost of attaching those wires to the poles is on the way up.

The Ontario Energy Board wants to increase those fees after requests from hydro companies like Hydro One.

[Back to Top](#)



Implementing The Province's Long-Term Energy Plan: 3 Things To Bear In Mind - Energy and Natural Resources - Canada

www.mondaq.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

In July 2016, Ontario's Liberal government amended the Electricity Act to (finally) dismantle the previous "Integrated Power System Plan" (IPSP) promulgation and public review mechanism.

[Back to Top](#)



Opinion | Trying to make sense of the murky future of Peterborough Distribution Inc. | ThePeterboroughExaminer.com

www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Were you among those cheering that negotiations over the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc. have fallen through?

[Back to Top](#)



Opinion | Peterpodcast: Episode 7 — What's next for PDI? | ThePeterboroughExaminer.com

www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

With the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc. to Hydro One flatlined, what's next for Peterborough's hydro services?

[Back to Top](#)



Liberal party has done irreparable damage to Ontario

Peterborough This Week - Thu Mar 15 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$21

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

To the editor: re: 'What's next in **Ontario**'s Tory drama,' by Sylvia Sutherland, March 11, 2018

Never in the history of politics have I ever seen a Liberal party like Wynne's putting **Ontario** in debt that will probably never be recovered.

The Liberals have been in **power** for the last 15 years. Doctors have moved out of the province as well as businesses.

Hospitals are complaining about lack of funding, seniors are complaining about having no place to live. Why did Wynne give Enbridge permission to raise the price of **natural gas**, when the price of **natural gas** has actually dropped?

The province of **Ontario** used to be a "have" province, but now is a "have not" province.

Wynne has raised the minimum wage to \$15 starting January 2019. That will probably cause more job losses. Because of Wynne heat, **hydro** and taxes have sky rocketed out of control and people cannot afford this as well as food for their family.

Then we have Mayor Sutherland writing opinion pieces comparing the Conservative leadership convention to The Young and the Restless soap opera and the Emmy Awards.

It seems to me she has no concept about the damage that has been done to **Ontario** by the Liberals.

Somebody has to try and turn this around.

Bob Thompson

Peterborough

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario's debt just keeps climbing

Waterloo Region Record - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$798

Reach: 63465 Page: A7

Ontario will not have balanced budget on March 28 - March 8

Are you kidding me? The Liberals are spending taxpayer funds to the tune of almost \$1 billion a month just to pay the interest on our provincial debt, without paying a dime of the principal. It boggles the mind. As a non-national borrower, we have the most debt in the world at a current \$312 billion. Wait for it, we're adding another \$8 billion on top because Kathleen Wynne now says she can't balance the budget next year. That interest represents almost \$12 billion a year that doesn't go toward assisting our hospitals to reduce wait times, aiding doctors, **public** transit, better OHIP drug coverage, improved education or lower taxes. And the list of Liberal debacles continues to grow, increasing the debt with Wynne's **Fair Hydro Plan**. It's like a bad dream, where so much money has been needlessly spent that could have helped so many. There's one consolation - each sunrise brings June 7 closer.

Gary Megaffin

Kitchener, ON

[Back to Top](#)



Wynne Liberals to deliver throne speech Monday; Premier to tout new investments, while Opposition pans it as desperation move

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$4,135

Reach: 114846 Page: A3

Ontario's Liberal government, trailing in the polls ahead of a spring election, will deliver a throne speech outlining its priorities on Monday, as the opposition accuses it of attempting to hit the reset button before the June vote.

Kathleen Wynne announced the move Thursday, less than a week after the province's Progressive Conservatives elected populist politician Doug Ford as their new leader.

Wynne said the speech will outline government priorities as people deal with "uncertainty in their lives."

"This throne speech is about making it clear we recognize people's stress and anxiety and that our government is making deliberate choices to invest in the care and the services that the people of this province rely on," she said in a statement.

"All of us know someone in need of more support and better care."

The procedural move requires the government to briefly prorogue the legislature, which means shutting it down, but no sitting days will be lost because the closure takes place this week over March Break.

Wynne said all government bills and motions that existed prior to prorogation will be re-introduced to the legislature.

The premier has spent the week making announcements that highlight her agenda and government policies to battle **climate** change, increase the province's minimum wage and invest in health care.

"Our government will make investments in mental health, health care, home care and child care and invest in areas that make life more affordable," Wynne said.

"This is no time for a government to take a step back or make deep cuts."

Ford, who has pledged to do away with the Liberals' cap-and-trade system and stop the minimum wage from rising next year, said the Liberals are trying to hit the "reset button" on their record.

"The people of this province know better," he said in a statement. "There is no reset on 15 years of Liberal waste and political corruption ... Kathleen Wynne is untrustworthy. Her government will say, do, and promise anything to cling to **power**."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath called the prorogation of the legislature a "stunt" and an attempt by the government to "wipe the slate clean."

"The Liberals had 15 years to make life better for Ontarians, and they let people down," Horwath said in a statement.

"People are not buying a lastditch attempt by Kathleen Wynne to grab their attention, and to convince them that this time she'll be different."

The throne speech, which is marked by a formal ceremony at Queen's Park, will come just a week before the Liberal government is set to table its 2018 budget on March 28.

The document will run what's expected to be an approximately \$8-billion deficit to enhance spending on health care, child care and support for **students**.

In September 2016, Wynne used a throne speech to announce relief for Ontarians from high **hydro rates** after being dogged by the issue for months. At the time, the government removed the provincial portion of the **HST** from bills and would go on to slash 25 per cent from **rates** the following spring.

Western University political science professor Cristine de Clercy said the government could use this speech to announce a major policy plank for its platform.

"Throne speeches tend to initiate the session or appear in the middle of a term when the government feels the need to re-orient or clarify or redirect their party and their bureaucracy," she said.

"There's no doubt that the throne speech has been crafted with a view towards the pending election. In that sense, it's unusual but perhaps not unexpected."

[Back to Top](#)



Kevin Libin: Trudeau's carbon tax plan is close to blowing up in his face

Financial Post - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Kevin Libin

Reach: 607500

Things have turned very much Jim Karahalios's way lately, and they might not be done yet. If you haven't heard of Karahalios, he was the noisy member of the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives persecuted by his own party for refusing to let former leader Patrick Brown get away with making carbon taxes an official policy. Although Karahalios clearly spoke for most members, Brown was determined to stick with his carbon tax - and to muzzle Karahalios and his "Axe the Tax" campaign, which has since expanded to every province. Karahalios was even tossed out of PC events and stripped of his PC membership.

With Doug Ford now leading the party into a spring election, the **Ontario** PC party looks less like Brown's than it does Karahalios's, who got his official apology (and the lawsuit appeal dropped) earlier this month from the party. And with Canada's largest province looking like it might soon be on the same warpath as other provinces against the federal Liberals over the carbon tax, the whole country could soon look more like Karahalios's sort of place than Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's.

Until now, most pundits have taken the federal Liberals' word that the carbon tax is going to happen, whether provinces sign on to it or not. No one's really questioned the legitimacy of Trudeau's threat to use a "backstop" **power** that would see **Ottawa** collecting a price-fixed carbon tax within a particular province if the province itself will not. Even the National Post's estimable Andrew Coyne suggested not long ago that the **Ontario** PC leadership candidates' "declaration of opposition to a carbon tax is... meaningless": Since **Ottawa** will levy the tax itself if it has to, "the tax will be collected" whether they liked it or not. In reality, though, a growing number of provinces are girding for battle in what could be a federal-provincial showdown for the ages. Far from being certain of getting its way, the federal government likely lacks the **weapons** it needs to win.

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna's tough talk this week warning the Saskatchewan government she was coming to get their carbon taxes (while revoking their \$62-million low-carbon grant) could be a bluff. In a few months, she might be trying the same bluff on **Ontario**, if polls hold up and the next premier ends up being Ford. He has been fiercely decrying the carbon tax, insisting the "reckless" and "job-killing" tax would "do great damage to **Ontario**." He promises to "take Justin Trudeau to court" to stop it.

And by next year, Ford could be teaming up in that fight not just with Saskatchewan's Premier Scott Moe, but likely Jason Kenney in Alberta, who is remarkably popular and currently on track for a landslide victory to become the province's first United Conservative Party premier in 2019, with a campaign built almost entirely on a promise to axe Alberta's carbon tax. Heck, even before then, Alberta's NDP Premier Rachel Notley said Thursday that she's now refusing to raise Alberta's carbon taxes to meet Trudeau's minimum **rates** if he doesn't stop B.C. from blocking the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Together, the provinces representing half the **Canadian** population now are or soon might be arming for a carbon-tax war with **Ottawa**. That doesn't even count Manitoba, which is still refusing to align its own less-burdensome carbon-tax **plan** with **Ottawa's** pricing scheme. Or New Brunswick, whose **plan** is also at odds with federal requirements. Or Nova Scotia, whose **cap-and-trade** scheme doesn't come close to meeting McKenna's stipulations. (Newfoundland and P.E.I. haven't revealed their plans yet.)

So how many provinces exactly do Trudeau and McKenna think they can successfully fight? And if they thought trying to force wildly unpopular small-business taxes down peoples' throats was a fiasco, wait till they see how ugly things get trying to force a carbon tax on hostile Canadians who loathe it even more than their premiers, who at least are tempted by the potential cash grab.

Yet McKenna sounded positively blithe this week about the ease with which she plans to deploy her "backstop" **weapon**, in responding to a letter from Saskatchewan's Environment Minister Dustin Duncan, who said the province could not accept her carbon tax. McKenna's response: If Duncan's government didn't start taxing carbon at the minimum price she requires, "we would have no choice but to ensure that a price on pollution applies We would do so by applying the federal carbon pricing system in Saskatchewan." It sounds so simple. Except the closer you examine her position, the weaker it seems.

There is already the matter of the constitutional clash that will form the basis of the Ford court case, over whether the feds even have the **power** to tax carbon, especially connected to resources. University of Saskatchewan constitutional law expert Dwight Newman thinks the provinces have "more of a case than a lot of people are giving them credit for."

More to the point, no one has explained the logistics that would let McKenna make good on her ultimatum. The ability of a **Canadian** government to implement policy has always relied on the co-operation of provincial governments, notes Newman. Indeed, B.C.'s current NDP government, with its pipeline-stalling mischief, is right at this moment revealing just how powerless the federal government can appear when a province refuses to play along with it. Besides that, Newman points out that the federal government has never tried exercising the **power** to levy a specific tax on Canadians of one province but not another. Even if this one were willing to try, in the face of so many obvious constitutional problems, does it really have the tools and the stomach to monitor and bill for the carbon use of every farmer, factory, fuel pump and furnace in Saskatchewan?

McKenna makes it all sound so simple and straightforward, from her perch there on the edge of a minefield of untold and unprecedented legal and logistical difficulties. But this is a government that has yet to succeed in executing on anything remotely this complicated. At least it will be entertaining watching McKenna trying to collect carbon bills from ill-disposed farmers in Melfort, without an ounce of help from the province or municipalities.

[Back to Top](#)



Power plant boost to Algoma's 'sustainability': Ghosh

The Sault Star - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$349

Reach: 17077 Page: A1 / Front

Algoma has acquired the former Lake Superior **Power** Plant to augment its **power** generating capacity.

The 55 MW heat and **power** plant will supplement **Algoma's** current supply of **power** and steam for the steelworks operation, making the steelmaker "near

self-sufficiency in **power** generation."

Algoma CEO Kalyan Ghosh said the acquisition is a well-maintained asset in close proximity to the steel plant.

"Not only does it give **Algoma** the capability to satisfy its peak **power** requirements, but it significantly enhances our sustainability and reliability by offering some redundancy as several of our existing assets approach end of life" he said in a press release.

Ghosh said the acquisition, and the potential for a further 71 MW in sustainable **power** projects through the addition of a **solar** farm (50MW), a low pressure steam **turbine** (8 MW) in the steelmaking facility and a top **gas** recovery **turbine** (13 MW) at the No. 7 blast furnace, **Algoma** is rapidly approaching near self-sufficiency in **power** generation.

The combined heat and **power** plant has a capacity to increase output to 110 MW with the addition of a second **gas turbine**.

Plans are to have the facility operate intermittently in the initial stages, supplementing **Algoma's** current **power** requirements.

[Back to Top](#)



Partnership brings solar broadband to First Nation

National Post - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Emily Jackson

Ad Value: \$5,998

Reach: 159480 Page: FP3

Ottawa may be investing millions of dollars to improve access to highspeed internet in rural, remote and First Nation communities, but some aren't waiting for the government funds to start flowing to get started.

Instead, they're partnering with businesses that are developing creative ways to bring faster broadband to underserved areas for a lower cost.

One such case is a partnership announced this week between WireIE Holdings International Inc., a wholesale network operator, and Indigenous-owned **alternative energy** company W Dusk **Energy** Group Inc. WireIE and W Dusk **plan** to connect five First Nations communities in Southwestern **Ontario**, including Chippewa of the **Thames** and Wampole Island, with a network powered by **solar energy** to reduce the cost and avoid the reliability issues of diesel-powered generators.

The pair already launched **solar**-powered infrastructure to serve the Wikwemikong Nation on Manitoulin Island. WireIE uses a mix of fibre, point-to-point microwave and point-to-multipoint spectrum to connect to its core network and sells wholesale access to the First Nation-owned internet provider, FirstTel.

"We're delivering the same type of **service** you'd get in a metropolitan area to underserved markets," WireIE chief executive Rob Barlow said in an interview.

Barlow believes it doesn't have to be so costly to build the critical infrastructure that underserved communities need to participate in the digital economy. WireIE is one-tenth the cost of a typical network, with **solar energy** decreasing its operating costs, he said. WireIE has not received any government subsidies and the First Nation communities it serves have applied for but not yet received funding, he added.

"They're working around it by finding other ways, by working with guys like us

who can actually do it in a cost-effective matter because it's so urgent," Barlow said.

W Dusk CEO David Isaac said this is the first internet project for his company, which builds **energy** infrastructure to help Indigenous communities become self-reliant. In conversations with communities he works with, Isaac said internet access kept coming up as one of the top three infrastructure needs.

Solar energy presents "huge savings compared to typical **energy** system installations," Isaac said, adding he can monitor the **energy** systems via an app and handle maintenance and operational issues from anywhere.

As the world continues to shift into the digital era, Isaac foresees an increase in **alternative energy** sources like **solar** or lithium ion batteries. He believes communities will be able to rely even less on diesel, even up **North**.

"There's also a lot of myth busting. In Canada we actually have a very good resource of **solar power**," Isaac said, noting that colder temperatures reduce resistance and snow reflects light in the winter.

Meantime, **Ottawa** continues to invest \$500 million through the Connecting Canadians program to bring people online. This week, Innovation, Science and Economic Development announced \$60.5 million in funding to get residents online in 72 communities in Alberta and B.C.

"Access to high-speed Internet is not a luxury; it's essential," Minister Navdeep Bains said in a statement Thursday.

About three per cent of Canada's 14.1 million households (about 423,000 homes) didn't have access to broadband by the end of 2016, according to the **Canadian** Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

[Back to Top](#)



Powering into the future; Small-scale manure digester closes the loop on energy at Harcolm Farms

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Chris Funston

Ad Value: \$990

Reach: 7920 Page: A1 / Front

From waste to **energy**, Harlcom Farms converts trash to treasure.

The construction of the farm's packaged small-scale anaerobic digester was just completed and on full display Thursday at a Harcolm Farms open house.

Robert McKinlay of Harcolm Farms said the idea for the project started more than two years ago, when he began a conversation with Wayside **Energy's** John Hawkes. The idea revolved around having a small-scale digester run off of the waste of the farm's 75 dairy cows, capturing the methane **gas** and using it to **power** the entire operation.

In that time, they received government funding since the digester would be part of a pilot project focusing on reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions. Without the new equipment, manure would accumulate in a pit where methane would vent off into the atmosphere. With this system in place, it will reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 110 tonnes a year.

"In this case, we capture it and make use of it," said McKinlay during the open house. "I think there's some benefit from others doing this. You get the opportunity to control your fixed and **energy** costs moving forward."

This system, which was installed alongside Bioelectric out of Belgium, has 18 parts to it, beginning in the barn. From there, waste is transferred from an automatic feed into the reactor, where it is heated and mixed. This creates and captures the methane that is used to **power** the engines creating **electricity** for the farm. **Microfit** 10-kilowatt and netmetered 10-kilowatt contracts with the province are in place to supply **electricity** to the farm, with the surplus being sold back to the grid.

This closed-loop system will recover residual **energy** to heat the farm buildings, convert the solid digestate for use as animal bedding, and apply the liquid digestate to the field to improve nitrogen value.

While there are many largescale digesters costing upwards of \$3 million, they typically act as a waste-management solution for urban centres and generate between 200 and 500 kilowatts.

Hawkes has been involved with the **Canadian** Biogas Association for more than seven years. He said these smaller digesters are perfect for an average-sized dairy or hog farm, and he's looking at expanding these projects outside of Oxford County.

"Many projects are on the horizon," he said. "We hope to sell these in the hundreds and, by doing that, there's a lot of contributions to knocking out greenhouse **gases**."

Hawkes said the partnership between his company, Wayside **Energy**, Harcolm Farms and a government agency is the first of its kind in **North** America.

"Given Oxford County's commitment to reach 100-per-cent **renewable energy** by 2050, this plays right into that goal.

reduction of greenhouse **gas**, self-sufficiency with renewable **power**, use of the waste heat and improved soil health."

Future plans at the farm include a fully **electric** feeding system, along with the elimination of fossil **fuels** for day-to-day milking.

[Back to Top](#)



Power utilities forced to adapt as climate change brings wilder weather | CTV Atlantic News

atlantic.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The increasing intensity of storms that lead to massive power outages highlights the need for Canada's electrical utilities to be more robust and innovative, climate change scientists say.

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro Ottawa workers home after helping U.S. snowstorm victims | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Dozens of Hydro Ottawa workers are returning home after restoring power to hundreds of New York State residents left in the dark by this month's severe snowstorms.

[Back to Top](#)



The Hydroelectric Crises: The Fight to Live in the North | Opinions – The Link

thelinknewspaper.ca · Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

For First Nations peoples, living on their ancestral lands has been a challenge. For centuries, they have been snubbed, in one way or the other, by North American governments.

[Back to Top](#)



While #pinotnotpipelines is funny, what's at stake is not

www.dawsoncreekmirror.ca · Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Headlines and hashtags everywhere proclaim Alberta is putting a stop to the import of B.C. wine amid a pipeline dispute.

[Back to Top](#)



Green leader Elizabeth May on Notley, Kinder Morgan and pipeline 'propaganda' - British Columbia - CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Fri Mar 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Thousands of people in Burnaby marched in protest last weekend against the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — among them the Green Party's federal leader.

[Back to Top](#)