

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: March 20, 2018 7:53 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, March 20, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 16 Results



Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says he has no control over proposed hydro pole fees - Sudbury - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The Minister of Energy says there isn't much he can do about a possible increase to hydro pole attachment fees in Ontario. Last week, CBC News reported a 133 per cent increase is being proposed by the Ontario Energy Board.



Greater Sudbury Utilities warns of phone scam | CBC News

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NextBridge '100 per cent' committed to East-West Tie - TBNewsWatch.com

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Wallaceburg Courier Press - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Positive** Page: A16

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Ontario budget to include major investments in health

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Positive**
Byline: Shawn Jeffords and Michelle McQuigge The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$2,795
Reach: 103267 Page: A1

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Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford tells supporters he can 'take back' province | CTV News

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Ad Value: \$559

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There are three parties in this race

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Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$31

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

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Statement from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on throne speech « Ontario NDP

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La CAQ s'allierait à l'Ontario pour l'hydroélectricité | TVA Nouvelles

www.tvanouvelles.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, March 19, 2018

The 'Coalition avenir Québec' political party wants Hydro-Québec to sign lucrative electricity contracts similar to the recent one in Massachusetts. (i.e. 20-year contract expected to generate up to \$500 million for that province) Party leader François Legault wants Quebec to do more to export its electricity. The head of the CAQ proposes to form an "energy alliance" with Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

Pour remplir les coffres du gouvernement, la Coalition avenir Québec veut qu'Hydro-Québec remporte plus de contrats lucratifs comme celui qu'elle a obtenu récemment dans le Massachusetts.

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Full Articles



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The consortium that was originally selected to develop a 450-kilometre transmission along the north shore of Lake Superior line is intent on moving forward to meet a 2020 completion date, despite Hydro One's application to take over the project.

The Ontario Energy Board in 2013 designated NextBridge Infrastructure as the developer of the East-West Tie, which would connect the Lakehead Transformer Station just east of Thunder Bay to the Wawa Transformer Station.

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Entegrus , St. Thomas Energy merger approved; C-K-based utility will become 10th largest LDC in Ontario on April 1

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

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 Southwestern **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," stated **Entegrus** president and CEO Jim Hogan in a media release.

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

Rob Kent, chief operating officer of **St. Thomas Energy**, will become vicepresident 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 media 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," Kent said.

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.

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Ontario budget to include major investments in health

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Positive**

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Reach: 103267 Page: A1

The final budget before a looming provincial election will offer measures to cut hospital wait times, lower child-care costs and expand mental-health services while reducing the overall deficit, the **Ontario** government said Monday.

The Liberal governments' speech from the throne, read out by Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, offered no specific numbers for the promised investments, simply saying they would be announced in the March 28 budget.

But the speech outlined some of the government's priorities for the final parliamentary session before the June 7 election, a contest in which polls suggest the Liberals are trailing the Progressive Conservatives.

Health care is poised to be a major focus of the coming budget, the government said, promising "significant investments" in hospital operations with a view to reducing hospital wait times.

Similar funding will be earmarked to expand home-care services, mental-health and addictions care, the speech said.

The government also announced plans to expand the OHIP Plus program that currently offers free pharmacare to residents under the age of 25, saying it wants to make the program available to a larger swath of the population.

"Your government's **plan** for care and opportunity is the right way forward for **Ontario's** people, and **Ontario's** economy, because the well-being of both are intrinsically linked," Dowdeswell read.

The speech also hinted at measures to address the cost of child care, which it identified as a "stumbling block" for many families.

It also contained promises for later in the child's life cycle, saying it would expand the program that currently offers free tuition to thousands of people.

Dowdeswell said the 2018 budget will run a small deficit of one per cent and would map out "a clear path" back to balance.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said it would be "precarious" to pursue a balanced budget and health-care supports simultaneously, adding that the current measures strike the best compromise.

"We can continue to balance, or we could continue to make these other investments that stimulate economic growth as well," he said.

"We're choosing to do that with a moderate deficit next year in order to accommodate all those areas."

The speech made no mention of rising **electricity rates** that have contributed to historically low popularity **rates** for Premier Kathleen Wynne and which are expected to be a key issue at the ballot box when voters go to the polls.

At least one opposition party promptly dismissed the Liberals' planned health-care measures as carrots dangled in anticipation of the looming vote.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath likened the **plan** to her own dental-care platform announced just days ago, which saw her promise to invest \$1.2 billion on a dental program that would subsidize care for 4.5 million residents.

"The difference is New Democrats actually believe these things and will implement them upon being elected," Horwath said, adding that the Liberals often change their tune after they've been voted in.

"We believe in these things before elections and after elections."

Horwath has said the money for the dental care program, dubbed **Ontario Benefits**, would be raised through tax increases on corporations and wealthy individuals. She has said her government would run a deficit, but did not provide additional details.

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Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford tells supporters he can 'take back' province | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford told a group of nearly 2,000 supporters that he plans to "take back this province" at his first major event since he was made leader of the Progressive Conservative party earlier this month.

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Dental care is overdue

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$11,040

Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Give **Ontario's** New Democrats full marks for putting a key health issue - extending basic dental coverage to everyone - at the top of their election agenda.

If the Liberals try and steal the idea, as they hinted at in Monday's throne speech, then fine. The more the merrier when it comes to a policy that would address a basic health need that has been neglected for decades.

If Doug Ford is serious about upholding the "progressive" part of the Progressive Conservative party he now leads, he could support extending dental care as well. We aren't holding our breath on that one, though.

More **public** support for dental care is hardly a new or revolutionary concept. More than a decade ago, the Liberals promised to help low-income workers access basic care, leading to headlines like this one from the Star in September 2007: "Dental **plan** could aid 500,000." Unfortunately, they backed off when the recession blew a hole in the province's finances and never carried through.

Still, it was a good idea then, and it's an even better one now. It's bizarre that our health-care system covers the whole body - but excludes the mouth and teeth. And basic dental care is no luxury. Untreated decay and infection can lead to serious illness, not to mention pain and emergency treatment that puts a heavy cost on health budgets.

The dental-care proposal will be a key part of the NDP's election platform. Over the weekend, leader Andrea Horwath gave a first look at some of what it will offer - including more money for health and long-term care, reversing the privatization of **Hydro** One, extending pharmacare and converting **student** loans into grants.

All this, they say, will be paid for by some combination of higher taxes on corporations and "the wealthiest" plus a larger budget deficit. Clearly, the NDP doesn't **plan** to let the Liberals outflank them on the left, as happened in 2014 when Premier Kathleen Wynne pulled off a surprise majority victory.

As for the Liberals themselves, they also are planning to run on the left, building on the progressive measures they have brought in over the past year.

Monday's throne speech, vague as it was, promises more money to reduce hospital wait times, expand home care to help seniors stay in their homes, strengthen mental-health and addiction services, train more apprentices, and expand the OHIP+ pharmacare **plan** that now covers everyone under 25 "to include other parts of the population." Details presumably to come next week in the provincial budget.

Which leaves Ford and the PCs. At this point, 80 days before the general election, they have both the greatest support in opinion polls and the least to say about what they would actually do if they win on June 7.

Ford says he'll be presenting "five simple points" to voters - including lowering hospital waiting times; cutting **hydro rates**; reducing the cost and size of government; ending the **cap-and-trade** system; and revamping sex-education in schools. All this while saving \$6 billion in costs every year through finding unspecified "efficiencies" and not laying anyone off.

It doesn't add up, and the PCs owe it to voters to spell out how they intend to accomplish this governmental miracle.

This election is shaping up as a once-in-a-generation choice between fundamentally different directions for the province, and we deserve to know where the parties **plan** to take us - and how they intend to get there.

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Wynne's throne speech is Liberal snake oil

Toronto Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$4,138

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

In a textbook example of bribing **Ontario** voters with their own money, Premier Kathleen Wynne claimed more government spending will make our lives better in her throne speech on Monday.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa will follow up with a March 28 budget that will be a desperate attempt by the Liberals to buy the June 7 election by assuring us we can spend ourselves rich.

It's the oldest snake oil in the Liberals' bag of tricks and if it was true, **Ontario's** streets would already be paved with gold.

In reality, Wynne faces the classic dilemma of socialism as famously described by Margaret Thatcher.

The premier has run out of other people's money. Our money.

Since coming to **power** in 2003, the Liberals have doubled government spending from \$71 billion to \$141 billion.

They've more than doubled provincial debt from \$139 billion to \$312 billion.

Ontario is now the world's most indebted nonnational government.

Last week, the Liberals broke their pledge of just one year ago to balance **Ontario's** budget for the next two years.

Wynne now proposes to add billions of dollars in new debt to pay for more Liberal election bribes.

And yet, despite 15 years of runaway Liberal spending, taxing and debt, Wynne herself admitted in her throne speech that, "life is getting harder" for average Ontarians.

That "people are struggling to take care of themselves, and their loved ones."

That "the cost of living is rising".

That "part-time and precarious work is becoming more common."

That medical wait times are too long and that it's getting harder for seniors to stay in their homes as they grow older.

So much for the utopia the Liberals promised us.

So much for their claim that we could spend ourselves rich.

Nowhere in her throne speech did Wynne acknowledge the reality that the Liberals' reckless budgeting means **Ontario** taxpayers are now paying \$1 billion

a month just to **service** the interest on debt, money that can't be used to make our lives better.

That Wynne's carbon pricing scheme has inflated the cost of living.

That seniors have been forced to choose between heat and food because of skyrocketing **electricity** prices under the Liberals'insane **energy** policies.

That at least 50,000 jobs of the province's most vulnerable workers will be lost by her reckless 31.6% hike to the minimum wage over 18 months, according to the Legislature's **independent**, non-partisan financial accountability office.

And yet, Wynne's solution for all of the hardships the Liberals'tax-and-spend policies have caused is more taxing, more debt and giving away more "free" stuff.

More free prescription drugs.

More free college and university tuitions.

More free dental care, as part of a bizarre bidding war for voters with NDP leader Andrea Howarth.

And a 25% discount on **hydro** bills, financed with more debt and skyrocketing **electricity** prices in four years.

In the real world, nothing is free. Everything has to be paid back, with interest.

As the Fraser Institute recently noted, over a lost decade of runaway Liberal taxing, spending and debt, **Ontario** ended up in seventh place out of the 10 **Canadian** provinces in average annual GDP growth per person; eighth in private sector job growth; ninth in government debt accumulated per person and tenth and dead last in median household income growth.

And what's Wynne's solution? More of the same.

Which is why we can't afford the Liberals anymore. [@lgoldstein@postmedia.com](mailto:lgoldstein@postmedia.com)
[@sunlorrie](mailto:sunlorrie)

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Out-of-control spending key to Ontario election

Samia Observer - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jim Merriam

Ad Value: \$559

Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

The 2018 **Ontario** election will be fought around the edges of the central issue facing the province: how much government can we afford? Premier Kathleen Wynne was right when she said the contest will offer a clear choice between her governing Liberals and the poll-leading Conservatives.

Here's the premier: "There's a stark choice on June 7. So we're making a deliberate choice with our next budget."

That budget, due March 28, is expected to begin a whole new era of spending since the government has abandoned its commitment to balance the books in 2018. (It never appeared to be a serious commitment.)

Instead, Wynne said there will be new money for mental health, seniors care and the environment.

Across the great political divide, Doug Ford, the new Progressive Conservative leader, said he will campaign on a balanced budget and continue to meet needs by eliminating government waste.

Ford said he can cut billions through efficiencies, without any government employees losing their jobs.

In fact, the leaders of both parties reached into thin air and grabbed numbers to support their arguments.

Wynne pulled 40,000 from nowhere, saying that's how many jobs Ford will cut.

For his part, Ford has talked about cutting some \$6 billion from provincial expenditures.

Although I have serious reservations about Ford as premier, he is absolutely right about the need to reduce government spending.

With the province's debt of over \$311 billion, and carrying charges of \$1 billion a month, **Ontario** can't afford any more borrowing.

In the heartland - if rural **Ontario** can be called that - spending and debt at all levels of government, but particularly provincial, are a concern of many voters.

The out-of-control spending over the past 15 years of Liberal rule is proof that the government does not have what's best for the people, or the province, top of mind.

Today's debt levels simply are not sustainable, particularly in a province that has made life economically tough for small businesses and individuals in so many ways, from **hydro rates** to user fees.

Shovelling money out the door on all kinds of priorities at Queen's Park means more bureaucrats to keep track of it all. Since bureaucrats, in both the **public** and private sector produce nothing, the growth in their numbers is a warning sign of problems down the road.

The province needs entrepreneurs and business people willing to take a risk to establish entities that actually produce wealth and employ others.

The other party that should be in the running to win the June election, the NDP, seems anxious to outspend even the Liberals.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has pledged free dental care and pharmacare as part of a universal health care **plan**.

Such a **plan** would be ideal in a province as rich as **Ontario**, but we can't afford it with today's balance sheet and the waste of billions over the past 15 years. The party is to discuss costing in the days ahead.

We're not even in the official election campaign yet, but we're getting good insight to where it's headed.

As I said, around the edges of the real issue. jimmerriam@hotmail.com

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There are three parties in this race

Peterborough This Week - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$31

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

On a late October day in 1990, the 21st premier of **Ontario** sat in my City Hall office eating a salmon sandwich.

"I really didn't expect to be here, you know," said Bob Rae, eyeing a cookie.

I thought it best not to agree, since I was trying to convince him to follow through with the previous Liberal government's promise to relocate the head office of the Ministry of Natural Resources to **Peterborough**.

Just a few weeks before, Rae and his NDP had pulled off what everyone in the province, including Rae, thought was impossible. They had soundly defeated David Peterson's Liberals to form the first and, until now, last NDP government in the province's history.

Rae couldn't have won at a worse time. The national economy tanked and his response, which by any objective accounting was not a bad one, upset his base and we got Mike Harris's Conservatives five years later.

Which brings us to Andrea Horwath. If all you know about the impending **Ontario** election is what you read and see in the media, you might well ask "Andrea who?"

It's all about the new, by-the-skin-of-his-teeth Conservative leader, Doug Ford, and the country's least popular premier, Kathleen Wynne. Just as 28 years ago it was all about David Peterson and Mike Harris.

Bob who?

Horwath has been barely visible in pre-election coverage, where the Conservative circus has sucked in most of the air.

Despite this, recent polls have found her as the province's most popular leader, undoubtedly due to the unpopularity of the other two. More interestingly, two recent polls, DART and Forum, have Horwath's NDP in second place to Ford's Conservatives.

Horwath comes with little baggage. She worked her way through school as a waitress, not (allegedly) pushing hash to her fellow classmates. Unlike Ford, she has a thought-out platform and, unlike Wynne, she isn't haunted by **hydro rates**, **gas** plants or homophobia.

It's time to wake up to the fact that this is a three person race.

Sylvia Sutherland is a journalist and was **Peterborough**'s mayor from 1986 to 1991 and from 1998 to 2006 and a provincial Liberal candidate in the 1990s.

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Ford fires up Tories at rally; Skipping throne speech, PC leader meets fans at 'unity' celebration

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

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Newly minted PC boss Doug Ford took a big swipe at Premier Kathleen Wynne's throne speech during a Monday night rally designed to make up for the lack of a splashy victory celebration after a chaotic Tory leadership announcement just over a week ago.

The former city councillor and brother of late **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford accused the Liberals of doing "anything to stay in **power**" with the June 7 provincial election fast approaching.

"Today Kathleen Wynne wrote a lot of cheques on the taxpayers' back," a feisty Ford told hundreds of supporters at the **Toronto** Congress **Centre** near Pearson airport.

"All those cheques are going to end up bouncing."

At every mention of Wynne's name, the diverse band of Progressive Conservatives jeered and booed, prompting a grinning Ford to veer from the prepared text he was reading during an eight-minute speech. "We've got a lively **crowd** tonight," he said.

Ford took the stage to the Rocky song "Eye of the Tiger" and joined hands with the three women he defeated in the brief leadership race to replace Patrick Brown, who resigned in the wake of a CTV News report on sexual misconduct allegations from two young women. Brown denies the allegations.

Ford, second-place finisher Christine Elliott - who initially refused to concede her loss of the job she had failed to win twice before - Caroline Mulroney and Tanya Granic Allen all raised their arms in the air, smiling.

But none of the women spoke, and Ford was not joined by the party's caucus of more than two dozen MPPs on the stage at what was dubbed a "unity rally."

Instead, Ford was introduced by new campaign chairperson Dean French, who joked that the massive convention hall - where Brown won the leadership in 2015 - was booked for the whole night "just to be safe."

That was a reference to the botched leadership announcement on March 10 at a Markham hotel, where PC official had promised to reveal the winner by mid-afternoon but snags in counting ballots delayed the news until after 10 p.m. By then, an impatient and disappointed **crowd** had been asked to leave because the convention room had to be cleared for a previously booked wedding.

Borrowing a phrase from former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper's ill-fated 2015 re-election campaign, Ford said supporters can expect "a strong, stable majority government," and called on disaffected New Democrats and Liberals to join with the PCs to defeat Wynne after almost 15 years of Liberal rule.

"They are terrified when they see a united party like the PC party," proclaimed Ford. "That is their worst nightmare."

He has yet to reveal a formal platform for the pending campaign.

To date, Ford has promised to lower hospital wait times, cut **hydro rates** further than Wynne's Liberals, scrap the sexual education curriculum that was updated for the social media era, and shrink government by finding almost \$6 billion in "efficiencies" he has not identified, except to say "no one is getting laid off."

He has also mused about privatizing recreational marijuana sales in a "free market" - contrary to Wynne's **plan** to open a chain of government-run stores - and requiring girls under 16 to get parental permission for abortions.

Since being elected leader, Ford and the party have overturned controversial candidate nominations in a handful of ridings and barred Brown from running as a PC candidate in June.

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Statement from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on throne speech « Ontario NDP

www.ontariondp.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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Ottawa Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Mike Lefebvre

Ad Value: \$174
Reach: 45442 Page: A14

I have read three articles recently that hint that **Ontario** Conservatives should be a little nervous, in the upcoming election, because Kathleen Wynne is a great campaigner. My question would have to be, "What's she campaigning on?" Could it be record deficits, corruption, mismanagement of the province top to bottom? Or perhaps she's campaigning on **hydro rates**, selling off provincial assets, wait times for health care, as well as alienating all our doctors?

MIKE LEFEBVRE SMITHS FALLS (Well said.)

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Working Ontario people pay for government ads

Northumberland News - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Ad Value: \$199
Reach: 22800 Page: 1

To the editor:

In recent years, watching TV and listening to radio, I can't help but think of some advertisements put forth by our different forms of government that are really starting to get under my skin. Take for example the **Hydro** Fiasco ads or the Opioids Crisis ads (which I agreed with) just to name a few.

It is not the content of these ads, but what it never fails to say at the end — Paid for by the Government of **Ontario**. Well, I think these ads should acknowledge where the money really comes from — Paid for by the working people of **Ontario**. Their money is our money, without it they would not have so much to boast about.

Terry O'Leary,

Castleton

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La CAQ s'allierait à l'Ontario pour l'hydroélectricité | TVA Nouvelles

www.tvanouvelles.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Pour remplir les coffres du gouvernement, la Coalition avenir Québec veut

qu'Hydro-Québec remporte plus de contrats lucratifs comme celui qu'elle a obtenu récemment dans le Massachusetts.

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