

## Infomart Newsletters

**From:** Infomart Newsletters  
**Sent:** March 27, 2018 8:02 AM  
**To:** Rosemarie Leclair  
**Subject:** Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, March 27, 2018

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# Morning News Clippings

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Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018  
 Edited by: Paul Crawford ( [Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca](mailto:Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca) )

[Contact Editor](#)

## Clippings Summary

### News - 14 Results



#### Council backs NextBridge transmission line proposal - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Tue Mar 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

**Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, March 27, 2018**

OEB is mentioned.

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#### Province denies auditor's red flag; 'Bogus' accounting standards same as used elsewhere, Liberals say

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 27 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$8,659

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

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## Ontario energy minister downplays dispute over 'bogus' accounting practices | CTV Toronto News

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Tone: **Neutral**  
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## Energy minister downplays dispute between auditor and electricity system operator | National Post

nationalpost.com - Mon Mar 26 2018

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Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$398

Reach: 3206 Page: A4

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## Canada's Wataynikaneyap project receives \$1.2bn in funding - Power Technology

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The governments of Canada and Ontario have granted C\$1.6bn (\$1.2bn) in funding to support the construction of the proposed Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project.



### Gridlocked power grid?

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Byline: Gary Manley

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The Daily Observer

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Byline: John Yakabuski

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**Ontario's** Liberal government is trying to brush aside auditor general Bonnie Lysyk's latest concern about "bogus" accounting standards, this time over the government's "**Fair Hydro Plan**" that reduced **electricity rates** by 25 per cent.

The criticisms followed a special audit of the province's **Independent Electricity System Operator** in which Lysyk - who first issued a red flag last October - determined the accounting methods lowball the cost of the **rate** relief program to taxpayers by as much as \$1.3 billion, potentially understating the size of a provincial deficit.

But **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said Monday the government has opinions from major consulting firms such as KPMG, Deloitte and Ernst & Young that the "**rate**-regulated" accounting practices are approved for the **public** sector.

"We go with what we're being told by those in the field," he told reporters after

MPP Vic Fedeli, leader of the Progressive Conservatives in the Legislature, raised the issue in question period.

"The same accounting process is used by **Toronto Hydro**, as well as it's used in Alberta, New England, New York, Minnesota and Texas."

Fedeli said Lysyk's accusation in a legislative committee meeting last week that the government can use the accounting method to "falsely claim" its budget numbers are better than they truly are heading into the June 7 provincial election raises important questions of credibility.

"She highlights the fact that the financial and accounting structure was designed to avoid reporting the unfair **hydro** scheme's costs," added Fedeli, whose party agreed to keep the Liberal **hydro rate** cut **plan** intact in its now-defunct People's Guarantee election platform, axed after Patrick Brown was ousted as leader in favour of new PC boss Doug Ford.

Last October, Lysyk signalled the **hydro rate** relief scheme, in which billions in recent improvements to the **electricity** system are being amortized over 30 years through bigger loans, could cost an extra \$4 billion in interest costs, lifting the final tally to \$39.4 billion.

Thibeault said the government has been "transparent" about the accounting methods being used all along.

"We disagree (with Lysyk) on the accounting standards," said Terry Young, spokesman for the **IESO**, which is the provincial agency tasked with meeting **Ontario's** day-to-day **electricity** needs.

Lysyk has also taken issue with the government's accounting for its share of assets from the teachers' and **public** servants' pension plans. A government-appointed panel of experts sided with Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals on their interpretation of allowing the money to be counted toward the province's bottom line.

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Ad Value: \$398

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A wide-scale **transmission** project that got started last August has received more financial support to provide a number of First Nations communities with cleaner **energy**.

Representatives from the federal and provincial government gathered in **Thunder Bay** on Thursday, March 22 to announce \$1.6 billion in federal funding for **Wataynikaneyap Power** to connect 16 **northern** First Nations to the provincial **power** grid and end their reliance on diesel-generated **power**.

"Today, we celebrate a truly momentous occasion," said **Kenora** MP Bob Nault in a statement on his official website. "These 16 remote First Nations in Northwestern **Ontario** will have reliable, cost-effective **electricity** in their communities through the completion of this project. This historic investment will bring with it new economic development opportunities, better access to services, and create safer and healthier communities."

Last August, **Wataynikaneyap Power** received \$60 million to build a 117-kilometre grid line from Red Lake to Pikangikum First Nation. Nault said in a previous interview with the Miner that project is on schedule for completion in late 2018.

Once Pikangikum is connected to the grid, the **Wataynikaneyap Power** project is scheduled to be completed in two phases. The first phase is to upgrade the **electrical** system with a new line to Pickle Lake, which is expected to start in early 2019 and be completed in late 2020.

Construction for the connection of the First Nations communities will make up the second phase beginning in 2019, community connections starting in 2021. All communities are expected to be connected by the end of 2023.

The **Wataynikaneyap Power transmission** company is majority owned by 22

First Nations communities, and Nault said they played a critical role in leadership on the project.

"By bringing reliable, clean **power**, to these communities, they will be able to significantly reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions and offer substantial environmental benefits and cost-savings over the long term so they can focus on building a better future," Nault said. "Ensuring that our First Nation communities have equal opportunities to succeed is just one step in the reconciliation process; in order for the **North** to thrive, we all must thrive."

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## Canada's Wataynikaneyap project receives \$1.2bn in funding - Power Technology

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The latest **London Hydro** test project, allowing **hydro** in private residences to be shut down during peak demand, is a look into the future.

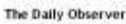
With the popularity of **electric** vehicles being added to the grid, the system, if not upgraded, will overload frequently. Add the increased population when Via starts the high-speed trains from here to **Toronto** and **London Hydro** had better start upgrading its transformers now. I have read articles that stated on a street of 20 houses only 10 could charge their car at one time before the grid went down under our current system.

This test will see if customers will allow **London Hydro** to cut their **power** when required or face an almost 450 per cent increase in price. I can't understand why anyone would sign up for this **plan**. Is there a reimbursement not mentioned?

Gary Manley

**London**

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## Ready to take on the Liberals

Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Tue Mar 27 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Yakabuski

Ad Value: \$427

Reach: 6045 Page: A5

On March 10 the membership of the PC Party chose Doug Ford as our new leader. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Ford as we take our message of accountability and change to the people of **Ontario**. It is great to have the issue of the leadership race behind us now so that we can concentrate our efforts on the real challenge: defeating Kathleen Wynne and her tired, old, and out-of-touch Liberal government.

On March 19 Kathleen Wynne made a desperate attempt to pull a rabbit out of a hat, hoping she could fool the people one more time. She prorogued the legislature so that she could introduce a Throne Speech. A Throne Speech is traditionally used to signal a new beginning, and it is clear that Wynne and the Liberals would like you to believe that they can start all over again.

I recently had the opportunity to respond to the Throne Speech and you can watch that response here: ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) Over the last 15 years while the Liberals have been in office, they have more than doubled the province's debt, taking spending to record levels, but they have also made life harder for the people of **Ontario**.

Let me remind you of the 300 per cent increase in your **electricity** bills, the endless increases in licensing fees of every nature, and who can forget the health tax? In spite of taking more and more out of people's pockets, they still have managed to burden this and future generations with a debt that would have been hard to imagine only a few short years ago. Servicing the debt is now the third largest item in the provincial budget - exceeded only by health and education; this at a time when interest **rates** have enjoyed the longest sustained period at very low levels, but what happens when those **rates** inevitably go up?

It's not like they haven't spent money. The Liberals are very good at that. In 2002-03 government expenditures were \$66.5 billion versus a projected \$150 billion for the fiscal year of 2018-2019. The problem with Liberals is they are more interested in spending money than concerned with the results. Liberals like to say, "Look at how much we have been able to spend." I like to say, "Look at what we've been able to accomplish by spending your money wisely."

Despite the fact that they spend money at record levels, the services received by people seems to be fewer and fewer. For example, 34,000 people are currently on a wait list for a bed in a long-term care home.

In the budget coming Wednesday, it is expected that we will be going even deeper into debt. Wynne and the Liberals have decided that the only way for them to win the election is to bribe you with more of your own money. What Liberals fail to realize is there will always be requests for spending from the electorate: it is the job of government to provide the best-possible services while acting responsibly and respecting people's ability to pay.

As you read this we should be in the middle of Holy Week, a very special time for Christians all over the world. I hope that you have some time to reflect on how your faith impacts your life and those around you on a daily basis. Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! John Yakabuski is the **Ontario** PC Party member of provincial parliament for the riding of **Renfrew**-Nipissing -Pembroke.

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## Kelly Dick wins NDP nomination in Kitchener - Conestoga

Kitchener Post - Mon Mar 26 2018  
Tone: **Neutral** Page: 1

**Kitchener** - Conestoga New Democrats have nominated Kelly Dick to carry the NDP banner into the provincial election in June.

According to a press release, Dick is currently the recording secretary and an

executive board member with the **Waterloo Regional** Labour Council who has previously worked as a resource mobilization officer at the United Way.

"Many of the families who I saw at the United Way struggle with the cost of medicine and dental care, the NDP **plan** would cover everyone - so it would take a huge burden off of people who are struggling," said Dick.

"This community also faces incredibly high **hydro rates**, and folks here understand that only Andrea Horwath and the NDP are going to bring **Hydro** One back into **public** hands. No one wanted it to be sold off - but that's what Kathleen Wynne did after the last election, even when she promised not to. **Hydro rates** have gone up under the Liberals and the Conservatives have the exact same **hydro plan** - the NDP **plan** will bring everyone's **hydro** bills down by about 30 per cent."

Dick lives with her family in **Kitchener**. She is an active volunteer with the **Waterloo** chapter of the **Ontario** Health Coalition and says that overcrowding in the region's hospitals is another big issue that she knows the NDP will address.

"I know that the only party that reflects my values and this community's need for good health care and lower **hydro** bills is the NDP," said Dick.

Dick joins Tory incumbent Michael Harris, Liberal candidate Joe Gowing and Libertarian candidate Daniel Benoy as registered candidates for the **Kitchener**-Conestoga riding to date.

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## It's capitalism, not big government, that improves environment

Ottawa Sun - Tue Mar 27 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Matthew Lau

Ad Value: \$1,214

Reach: 45442 Page: A13

The common refrain of **climate**-concerned Liberals, to justify massive government interference of commerce and wasteful environment subsidies and spending, is that "the environment and the economy go together." Carbon taxes, stricter fuel regulations, restrictions on international trade - all these things, we are told, will bring both economic and environmental benefit.

The federal government recently announced its "Low Carbon Economy Challenge." More than \$500-million in corporate welfare and other spending was justified as part of a **plan** to ensure "a safe **climate**, healthy environment, and prosperous future." When Liberals announce millions of dollars in unnecessary costs for taxpayers, consumers, and private industry, the country becomes richer and the environment becomes cleaner. Amazing! There is, however, a major problem with the Liberal narrative. It's that in the past few centuries, mankind (or peoplekind, according to the Prime Minister) has become spectacularly richer while the environment has become far cleaner. This happened even before Justin Trudeau, Rachel Notley, and Kathleen Wynne arrived on the scene to carbontax-and-spend humanity into prosperity and cleanliness.

What is the source of the material prosperity and environmental cleanliness we enjoy today? The answer is capitalism, trade, and fossil **fuels** - not government control, taxes, and subsidized **solar power**. For example, cities were cleaned by the invention and widespread use of automobiles, which rid the streets of horses and manure that attracted flies and disease. The invention of refrigerators improved cleanliness by curtailing bacteria growth in food. The

window screen - another product of private industry - keeps homes clean from insects.

And then there's soap. A couple centuries ago, soap was homemade, and involved boiling water mixed with ashes mixed with fat over an open fire for hours. Most people bathed only once monthly and rarely washed their hair. When they did wash, the soap left residue after being used. Today, thanks to profit-driven businesses, the quality of soap is much better and is affordable even for the poor - though not in socialist Venezuela, where people are dying because even some hospitals have no soap.

On a larger scale, the story is the same - capitalism cleans. In the 1980s, the Communist world suffered far worse pollution than the free world. The United Nations declared East Germany the most polluted country in Europe and Greenpeace said it was the most polluted in the world. According to a Fraser Institute study from 2014 examining more than 100 countries over the span of a decade, the most economically free countries "experience much cleaner air quality" than the countries with the least economic freedom.

Of course, government does have some responsibility to constrain pollution. Property rights and a justice system that protects people from damage to their person and property are important both for environmental protection and economic growth. But when government oversteps these boundaries with arbitrary and wasteful subsidies and regulation, the economy and environment both suffer.

Some people might point to global warming as a failure of free markets. However, as economics professor Don Boudreaux has explained, the alleged consequences of global warming - filth, starvation, and shorter life expectancy - "are not the recent consequences of **climate** change. They are the ages-old consequences of persistent and widespread poverty."

Across countries and over time, the consequences of widespread poverty were conquered only when and where societies embraced capitalism and trade. Boudreaux therefore concluded that "the worst environmental calamity is the absence of capitalism." The evidence shows this to apply to **climate** calamity, too.

According to environmentalist Bjorn Lomborg, the death risk from **climate**-related disaster has plummeted 99 percent in the past century. Surely these happy results cannot be attributed to the **climate**-driven economic interventions enacted by modern politicians.

Matthew Lau is an economics writer in **Toronto** and a contributor to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**.

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