Karen Evans

From:	Karen Evans
Sent:	April 2, 2018 9:38 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject:	RE: Morning Clippings Summary: Monday, April 2, 2018

Good Morning,
-There were a number of articles over the weekend dealing with the pay of the Hydro One CEO. The OEB was mentioned in an OP ED in the Sun on the subject in the Sun by former Ombudsman Andre Marin and an article in the Toronto Star.
- The Hamilton Spectator had a story about what the mayor makes serving on Alectra's board.

Toronto Sun: **MARIN: No good news in bad news Liberal budget**

- "Hydro One CEO Mayo Schmidt's take home pay jumped from an already whopping $4.5 million to a grotesque $6.2 million."
- "Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault had no qualms offering this feeble and somewhat misleading defence: "We recognize that executive salaries are high compared to the vast majority of Ontario salaries, and we remain committed to Hydro One's regulation, accountability and transparency. That said, Hydro One is now a publicly traded company, not a government entity, and this means it is subject to different oversight and disclosure rules. We remain confident in the role of the independent Ontario Energy Board (OEB), to regulate Hydro One's rates and protect the interests of Ontarians."
- "Thibeault points to the Ontario Energy Board as "protecting the interests of Ontario. Wrong again. While it takes and "reviews" complaints, it is a board, a quasi-judicial body and not equipped to conduct field and systemic investigations. Try complaining about Schmidt's salary and see what happens."
- "When I was ombudsman, there was never any overlap over the work I was doing and the OEB."

Toronto Star: **Chief executive officer Mayo Schmidt is Hydro One's $6 million man**

- Chief executive officer Mayo Schmidt got a $1.7-million raise, lifting his total compensation for 2017 to $6.2 million at the former Crown corporation partially privatized by Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government two years ago. With the June 7 provincial election 10 weeks away, opposition parties jumped on the issue Thursday as Hydro One released compensation details for its top five executive just before Easter long weekend began.
- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault acknowledged the pay levels have become a lightning rod, but said 80 per cent of the compensation is granted "only if aggressive performance targets are met" and noted $114 million in "productivity savings" to mitigate hydro bills have been found since privatization two years ago.
- "We recognize that executive salaries are high compared to the vast majority of Ontario salaries, and we remain committed to Hydro One's regulation, accountability and transparency," Thibeault said in a statement.
- "That said, Hydro One is now a publicly traded company, not a government entity, and this means it is subject to different oversight and disclosure rules. We remain confident in the role of the independent Ontario Energy Board, to regulate Hydro One's rates and protect the interests of Ontarians."

Hamilton Spectator: **Alectra board pay pumped up Hamilton's mayor's salary to more than $221,000**

- Fred Eisenberger earned an extra $40,416 for sitting on the newly amalgamated hydro board last year. Combined, those earnings made Eisenberger one of the top-paid mayors in Ontario and Canada last year.

- The mayor said this week he considers the compensation for both jobs "reasonable" but added his position on the newly amalgamated hydro board is "additional" to the duties of mayor. Some colleagues have suggested he donate his stipend to the hydro arrears fund
- Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie topped her Hamilton counterpart with $243,117 in total pay in 2017 thanks partly to her own Alectra stipend of $48,613. That came on top of city and Region of Peel salaries of $139,374 and $55,130, respectively.

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, April 2, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 23 Results

Liberals blasted for Hydro One CEO's pay; Opposition parties lead outcry over $6.2M salary

Toronto Star - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $15,180
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

It was a good year to be the boss at **Hydro One**. Chief executive officer Mayo Schmidt got a $1.7-million raise, lifting his total compensation for 2017 to $6.2 million at the former Crown **corporation** partially ...

Hydro One salaries 'outrageous'

Ottawa Sun - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,032
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

The head of **Hydro One** was paid almost $6.2 million last year - as much as 10 times what comparable **electricity** executives in the country earn, Progressive Conservative finance critic Vic Fedeli says. "(PC Leader ...

Horwath: massive pay raises at Hydro One a slap in the face to hard-working Ontario families – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath issued the following statement regarding pay raises at Hydro One: "Seeing the executives at Hydro One take massive raises is a slap in the face to the hard-working Ontario families being gouged on their hydro ...

Alectra board pay has pumped up Hamilton mayor's salary; Fred Eisenberger earned an extra $40,416 for sitting on the newly amalgamated Alectra hydro board last year

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Matthew Van Dongen The Hamilton Spectator

Ad Value: $3,730
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A4

Mayor Fred Eisenberger's **utility** board earnings bumped his overall pay above $221,000 last year. The mayor earned $40,416 last year for sitting on the **hydro** board of newly formed Alectra **Utilities** and heading an ...

MARIN: No good news in bad news Liberal budget | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, March 31, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

Ontario taxpayers got hit on the head three times last week.

Settlement Reached in Washington for Avista-Hydro One Marriage | 2018-03-29 | Natural Gas Intelligence

www.naturalgasintel.com - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

In Washington state a settlement has been reached in the $5.3 billion acquisition of Spokane, WA-based natural gas and power distributor Avista Corp. by Ontario-based Hydro One Ltd., a former provincial Crown company that is now investor-controlled.

Avista and Hydro One file settlement agreement in Olympia

www.ktoo.org - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Alaska Electric Light & Power's parent company has reached a settlement with state regulators in Washington to merge with Hydro One.

Phone scam asks for credit card info to pay hydro

Waterloo Region Record - Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $830
Reach: 63465 **Page:** B1

Local hydro utilities are warning customers about a scam in which a caller claims to be from their local electrical distribution company. During the call, customers are told their power will be ...

Aggressive scam artists target Waterloo North Hydro customers

www.570news.com - Sun Apr 1 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Scammers may have once called you using an 1-888 or 1-855 number — but now they have local 519 numbers.

Hydro Ottawa warns of text message scam | CTV Ottawa News

ottawa.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Hydro Ottawa is warning customers to watch out for phony text messages.

Ontario takes triple hit in the finances

Ottawa Sun - Sun Apr 1 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Andre Marin

Ad Value: $1,270
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A12

Ontario taxpayers got hit on the head three times last week. First, Premier Kathleen Wynne unveiled a new round of orgy-spending in a budget clearly aimed at salvaging her Liberal party from the ashes. When our economy is rather robust ...

Where is the promise of good government versus goodies?

New Hamburg Independent - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $150
Reach: 2966 **Page:** 1

Last week's provincial budget is setting up a showdown about how to spend your money that will ultimately be decided on June 7 when Ontarians go to the polls. The dichotomy is stark as the governing Liberals are betting that people want things ...

OPG says Pickering accident wouldn't mirror Fukushima

Pickering News Advertiser - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $436
Reach: 51400 **Page:** 1

PICKERING - Pickering Nuclear's deputy site vice president gave a spring update to council recently. Steve Gregoris said the current performance at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is the best in the station's history. He noted ...

What would happen in Pickering nuclear accident: report

Pickering News Advertiser - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,445
Reach: 51400 **Page:** 1

PICKERING - A Fukushima-type disaster at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station could lead to 26,000 cancers and $125 billion in lost home values, according to a report released by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance. Groups opposed to ...

Wynne worried about wrong kind of bull

Toronto Sun - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,960
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Doug Ford's not everyone's cup of tea. He's got strong opinions about politicians being accountable for the tax dollars they spend, tends to be blunt about his opinions and isn't overly fussed if they offend people. But for Kathleen Wynne to ...

U.S. Pipelines also under fire

National Post - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Toby Mack

Ad Value: $4,094
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A11

Re: The tide is turning on Tides, March 21 As an American working to advance our energy renaissance, I was struck by former B.C. justice minister Suzanne Anton's recent article decrying the "particularly egregious" and "blatant U.S.-based ...

Wind company drove in pilings when Hydro One new better, MPP points out

Windsor Star - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: $5,776
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A6

Essex MPP Taras Natyshak is calling a report that states piledriving would negatively impact water wells in the north Chatham-Kent area a "smoking gun." Natyshak, who was ejected from Queen's Park on March 8 for bringing a ...

Has Trudeau given up on Atlantic Canada?; The Prime Minister may very well have concluded it's not worth the effort

The Globe and Mail - Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: DONALD SAVOIE

Ad Value: $18,406
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Canada Research Chair in Public Administration and Governance at University of Moncton rime Minister Justin TruP deau accomplished what no political leader was ever able to do. His party won all 32 seats in Atlantic Canada in the 2015 ...

Jason Kenney taps into deep well of Western alienation

The Globe and Mail - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: GARY MASON

Ad Value: $17,468
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A13

There's a story Jason Kenney enjoys telling on the rubber-chicken circuit in Alberta these days that is being particularly well-received. It begins with the Leader of the United Conservative Party denouncing the federal government and politicians ...

Cap, Then Trade

Ottawa Sun - Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Fred Lawson

Ad Value: $85
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

I have now decided to become a proponent of cap-and-trade. Put a cap on government spending, and trade Kathleen Wynne for a player to be named later. FRED LAWSON HAMILTON (As politics jokes go, that's pretty good.) ...

Clearview wind project challengers should be paid back: Wilson

Wasaga Sun - Tue Mar 27 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $74
Reach: 8042 **Page:** 1

Simcoe-Grey's Member of Provincial Parliament wants to see the province reimburse area residents and municipalities in their fight against a wind turbine project. Jim Wilson questioned energy minister ...

Rift emerges in oilpatch as gas producers seek their own champion | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Splinter groups are emerging in the oilpatch as the interests of Canadian natural gas producers and the rest of the industry start to diverge.

What's wrong here? - Letters - Castanet.net

www.castanet.net - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, March 30, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

I have to give my head a shake when I see on the news the pipeline protestors in Burnaby and what they are doing. While it is good that they are able to express their views, they should have a good look at themselves.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Liberals blasted for Hydro One CEO's pay; Opposition parties lead outcry over $6.2M salary

Toronto Star - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $15,180
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

It was a good year to be the boss at **Hydro** One.

Chief executive officer Mayo Schmidt got a $1.7-million raise, lifting his total compensation for 2017 to $6.2 million at the former Crown **corporation** partially privatized by Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government two years ago.

With the June 7 provincial election 10 weeks away, opposition parties jumped on the issue Thursday as **Hydro** One released compensation details for its top five executive just before Easter long weekend began.

"All that is while families still have to stay at home and choose whether to heat or eat because of their **hydro** **rates**," said Progressive Conservative MPP Vic Fedeli.

"Our message from Doug Ford and the PC party is that relief is on the way."

Schmidt's package including almost $1.1 million in base salary - which works out to $20,808 a week - plus $3.5 million in shares, and $1.45 million in incentive pay.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath called the massive raise "a slap in the face to hard-working **Ontario** families being gouged on their **hydro** bills" and blamed the sale of about half the province's shares on **Hydro** One.

"The CEO's $6.2-million paycheque is over eight times what the CEO made when **Hydro** One was owned by the people of **Ontario** - part of more than $14 million just the top five executives take home."

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** acknowledged the pay levels have become a lightning rod, but said 80 per cent of the compensation is granted "only if aggressive performance targets are met" and noted $114 million in "productivity savings" to mitigate **hydro** bills have been found since privatization two years ago.

"We recognize that executive salaries are high compared to the vast majority of **Ontario** salaries, and we remain committed to **Hydro** One's regulation, accountability and transparency," Thibeault said in a statement.

"That said, **Hydro** One is now a publicly traded company, not a government entity, and this means it is subject to different oversight and disclosure **rules**. We remain confident in the role of the **independent** **Ontario Energy Board**, to regulate **Hydro** One's **rates** and protect the interests of Ontarians."

Hydro One, which had almost $6 billion in revenues last year, said its executive salaries account for seven cents on a customer's monthly bill, as was the case before privatization, and less than two cents of that is for Schmidt.

Opposition parties are trying to keep concerns about hydro bills alive after the government - facing a public outcry about skyrocketing electricity costs, particularly in rural areas - cut residential rates 25 per cent a year ago by borrowing billions to amortize the costs of system improvements over a longer period of time.

The outcry over Hydro One follows the release of last week's Sunshine List of public sector workers earning more than $100,000.

It was led by Ontario Power Generation chief executive Jeffrey Lyash, at $1.55 million.

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Hydro One salaries 'outrageous'

Ottawa Sun - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,032
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

The head of Hydro One was paid almost $6.2 million last year - as much as 10 times what comparable electricity executives in the country earn, Progressive Conservative finance critic Vic Fedeli says.

"(PC Leader Doug Ford) is livid over this," Fedeli said Thursday. "And he said we will rein in executive compensation. Period."

Hydro One President and CEO Mayo Schmidt's package grew by $1.7 million in just one year, from $4.5 million in 2016.

"This will raise your hydro rates," Fedeli said. "Last year, Hydro One applied for a rate increase citing higher executive compensation. They asked Ontario to raise hydro rates to pay for their raises last year. What's going to stop them from doing that this year and now that it's wildly exorbitant?" People holding similar positions in Canada - including the head of Hydro Quebec who is also responsible for electricity generation - can make in the ballpark of half a million dollars a year, Fedeli said.

The Kathleen Wynne government sold off a portion of Hydro One and relieved the utility from the obligation of reporting its six-figure salaries through the annual Sunshine List, but did remain the largest single shareholder.

Top executive compensation was included in an Annual Information Form filed by Hydro One Thursday.

"The government would have blessed this; certainly they're not doing anything about it," Fedeli said, of what he called an "outrageous" salary.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault issued a statement in response to the executive compensation disclosure, noting that 80% of the funds are paid out only if "aggressive" performance targets are met" - Antonella Artuso

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Horwath: massive pay raises at Hydro One a slap in the face to hard-working Ontario families – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath issued the following statement regarding pay raises at Hydro One:

"Seeing the executives at Hydro One take massive raises is a slap in the face to the hard-working Ontario families being gouged on their hydro bills as a result of Kathleen Wynne's disastrous sell-off of our public utilities.

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Alectra board pay has pumped up Hamilton mayor's salary; Fred Eisenberger earned an extra $40,416 for sitting on the newly amalgamated Alectra hydro board last year

The Hamilton Spectator - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Matthew Van Dongen The Hamilton Spectator

Ad Value: $3,730
Reach: 107026 **Page:** A4

Mayor Fred Eisenberger's utility board earnings bumped his overall pay above $221,000 last year.

The mayor earned $40,416 last year for sitting on the hydro board of newly formed Alectra Utilities and heading an associated subcommittee, according to 2017 salary and expenses information released for council members.

That stipend comes atop the taxable mayoral salary of $181,042. Eisenberger also filed $14,498 in expenses related mostly to travel for conferences, events and meetings.

Combined, those earnings made Eisenberger one of the top-paid mayors in Ontario and Canada last year.

The mayor said this week he considers the compensation for both jobs "reasonable" but added his position on the newly amalgamated hydro board is "additional" to the duties of mayor.

"It's not the same as sitting on a city committee or board," he said, pointing as an example to his unpaid position as a Hamilton Police Services Board member.

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie topped her Hamilton counterpart with $243,117 in total pay in 2017 thanks partly to her own Alectra stipend of $48,613. That came on top of city and Region of Peel salaries of $139,374 and $55,130, respectively.

Also in the compensation ballpark are the mayors of Calgary and Edmonton, Naheed Nenshi and Don Iveson, each of whom make a mayoral salary of about $200,000 - that's after recent pay cuts in both cities.

The merger of Hamilton's Horizon Utilities, Enersource, PowerStream and Hydro One Brampton created one of the largest municipally owned utilities in Canada last year, serving 15 communities. Eisenberger and other mayors appointed to the new hydro board fielded criticism last year at the perceived high level of pay, with some colleagues even suggesting he donate his stipend to the hydro arrears fund. The mayor said he made "private" donations to charity last year but did not specifically give away his hydro stipend. He argued city politicians have historically been paid to sit on hydro boards including the Hamilton Utilities Corporation. (Ward 10 Coun. Maria Pearson made $16,500 to sit on that board last year. She estimated she gave away 30 per cent of that stipend to charitable groups in or around her Stoney Creek ward based on last year's suggestion from her colleagues.)

Eisenberger noted he did not set the Alectra board stipend **rate** but suggested the wider reach of the second-largest **utility** in **Ontario** creates more work and responsibilities for board members. The board of **Toronto Hydro**, the largest municipal **utility** in Canada, offers the same compensation as Alectra for board chair ($75,000), a $12,500 member retainer plus $1,000 a meeting up to a maximum of $30,000 annually.

Each city councillor last year made a taxable salary of $95,448 and together council members filed $35,240 in expenses. The bulk of those expenses were eaten up by flights and hotels for out-of-town conferences and mileage. Ward 11 councillor Brenda Johnson again topped the mileage charts with $4,786 claimed for driving to appointments around the sprawling ward that covers Glanbrook and parts of Stoney Creek.

To see detailed lists of council expenses, check out the online report under the March 26 audit, finance and administration committee agenda at hamilton.ca

mvandongen@thespec.com

905-526-3241 @Mattatthespec

Council member 2017 expenses

Aidan Johnson: $50

Jason Farr: $2,301.69

Matthew Green: $1,315.29

Sam Merulla: $0

Chad Collins: 4,522.26

Tom Jackson: $1,827.60

Donna Skelly: $1,293.18

Terry Whitehead: $719.06

Doug Conley: $290

Maria Pearson: $1,000.18

Brenda Johnson $4,951.15

Lloyd Ferguson: $1,070.71

Arlene Vanderbeek: $270.06

Rob Pasuta: $1,151.97

Judi Partridge: $38.88

Fred Eisenberger: $14,498.86

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MARIN: No good news in bad news Liberal budget | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario taxpayers got hit on the head three times last week.

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Settlement Reached in Washington for Avista-Hydro One Marriage | 2018-03-29 | Natural Gas Intelligence

www.naturalgasintel.com - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

In Washington state a settlement has been reached in the $5.3 billion acquisition of Spokane, WA-based natural gas and power distributor Avista Corp. by Ontario-based Hydro One Ltd., a former provincial Crown company that is now investor-controlled.

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Avista and Hydro One file settlement agreement in Olympia

www.ktoo.org - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

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Phone scam asks for credit card info to pay hydro

Waterloo Region Record - Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $830
Reach: 63465 **Page:** B1

Local **hydro utilities** are warning customers about a scam in which a caller claims to be from their local **electrical distribution** company.

During the call, customers are told their **power** will be immediately disconnected unless they make an immediate payment using a credit card or cryptocurrency.

The calls, which appear on a phone's call display either as a 1-888 number or are masked as their local **hydro** distributor, are being made during the day.

The **utilities** - **Energy**+ Inc., **Kitchener**-**Wilmot Hydro** and **Waterloo North Hydro** - point out that they do not:

ask for credit card payments over the phone, or accept cryptocurrency as an acceptable form of payment;

ask for bank or **electricity** account information via text message, email, or fax;

disconnect **service** with little or no notice;

and call regarding their account outside of regular business hours.

The **utilities** ask customers who receive a scam phone call to notify them. They can also contact the **Canadian** Anti-Fraud **Centre** at 1-888-495-8501 or go to www.antifraudcentre.ca .

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Aggressive scam artists target Waterloo North Hydro customers

www.570news.com - Sun Apr 1 2018
Tone: Neutral

Scammers may have once called you using an 1-888 or 1-855 number — but now they have local 519 numbers.

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Hydro Ottawa warns of text message scam | CTV Ottawa News

ottawa.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

Hydro Ottawa is warning customers to watch out for phony text messages.

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Ontario takes triple hit in the finances

Ottawa Sun - Sun Apr 1 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Andre Marin

Ad Value: $1,270
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A12

Ontario taxpayers got hit on the head three times last week.

First, Premier Kathleen Wynne unveiled a new round of orgy-spending in a budget clearly aimed at salvaging her Liberal party from the ashes. When our economy is rather robust and tax money is running into our coffers, Wynne spends it faster than a drunken sailor, under the pretext of "caring" for "struggling" Ontarians.

If you don't agree with her, you're a bad person who wants to go backwards. She shamelessly trades in the politics of division while she navigates us into a $400 billion debt by 2024.

Pinocchio Finance Minister Sousa claims he needs to stimulate an already stimulated economy.

Predictably, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford wants to put the brakes on spending. He tweeted: "There is some good news in this budget for taxpayers - this will be Kathleen Wynne's last budget! The party with the taxpayer's money is over. To the people of **Ontario** I say, relief is on the way."

But don't take it from Ford. The second hit came from our credit-rating agencies, those which can really impact our provincial financial position. On Thursday, Moody's Investor **Service** and DBRS had sober news for Wynne. DBRS analysts said the government "demonstrates in the clearest terms that the province is not committed to disciplined fiscal policy."

"The province has made a deliberate decision to pursue expansionary fiscal policy potentially near the peak of the economic cycle. With interest **rates** set to rise, economic growth expected to moderate and program spending entrenched, eliminating the budget deficit will prove challenging in the coming years," DBRS said.

Translation: Wynne's recklessly screwing up our economy. And I like the way Sousa keeps saying that they're doing it "deliberately." It's like saying, "Yes, we're going to add $100 billion to the debt and we're proud of sticking it to you and your future generations."

The third hit came from the incredible news that the partially **public utility Hydro** One has a chief executive, Mayo Schmidt, whose take home pay jumped from an already whopping $4.5 million to a grotesque $6.2 million. Nice job if you can get it.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** had no qualms offering this feeble and somewhat misleading defence: "We recognize that executive salaries are high compared to the vast majority of **Ontario** salaries, and we remain committed to **Hydro** One's regulation, accountability and transparency. That said, **Hydro** One is now a publicly traded company, not a government entity, and this means it is subject to different oversight and disclosure **rules**. We remain confident in the role of the **independent Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**), to regulate **Hydro** One's **rates** and protect the interests of Ontarians."

That statement is a nose stretcher on several fronts. **Hydro** One may not be 100% government but it still holds 49.9% of its shares. The government believes so much in oversight and transparency that when **Hydro** One started its privatization process, it stripped it of all of the officers of parliament oversight. When you kill the messenger who brings bad news, the bad news is gone, presto.

And his argument that **independent** oversight and the private sector are incompatible is just plain wrong. Australia is rife with **independent energy** and water Ombudsmen. Thibeault points to the **Ontario Energy Board** as "protecting the interests of **Ontario**." Wrong again. While it takes and "reviews" complaints, it is a board, a quasi-judicial body and not equipped to conduct field and systemic investigations. Try complaining about Schmidt's salary and see what happens.

When I was ombudsman, there was never any overlap over the work I was doing and the **OEB**.

These are depressing financial times in **Ontario**. The only good news is that the June 7 election is fast approaching.

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Where is the promise of good government versus goodies?

New Hamburg Independent · Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $150
Reach: 2966 **Page:** 1

Last week's provincial budget is setting up a showdown about how to spend your money that will ultimately be decided on June 7 when Ontarians go to the polls.

The dichotomy is stark as the governing Liberals are betting that people want things like more universal daycare, extended dental care and more seniors covered by the province's pharmacare program. A lot of those programs were originally NDP policy platforms as Kathleen Wynne and her party veer to the left in the hopes of shoring up their support with progressive voters and leaving the Conservatives as their only real challengers.

The Liberals say they want to make life more affordable for people. The funny thing is that's what the other parties say they want to do with their plans.

The Conservatives have signalled they will be veering to the right under new leader Doug Ford, arguing that now is the time to tackle the debt and deficit instead of adding the province's record levels of red ink and paying more than $1 billion a month in debt servicing by the end of the year with the Liberals projecting a $6.7 billion deficit.

They think that more of that money should remain in taxpayers pockets, and that they should have tax relief instead of more spending promises. They called the budget an attempt to bribe people with their own money, and the current government is making life unaffordable with tax grabs like **cap and trade**.

The government plans to hike taxes on higher earners retroactively to Jan. 1, which works out to about $168 a year for someone earning $95,000 a year. They also increased tobacco taxes by $4, plus **HST**, a carton, effective last Thursday and will do so by another $4 a carton in 2019.

Even with the tax increase, the Liberal budget will run deficits until 2024, with **Ontario**'s debt projected to rise to $325 billion after the province ran a nominal surplus last year.

The NDP has been left on the sidelines pointing out that once again the Liberals have stolen their policy platform and are only funding things like an increase to hospital funding to win an election and not because they're committed to stable funding of our health-care system that at least matches inflation.

That leaves most of us, the voters, at the **centre** wondering what direction to go as the parties diverge to the extremes and battle over the fundamental philosophy of responsible government.

There has to be a more balanced approach to government than either giving us goodies in services or goodies in tax breaks. How about all these parties strive for good government.

Delivering on that would be the best promise they could keep.

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OPG says Pickering accident wouldn't mirror Fukushima

Pickering News Advertiser - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $436
Reach: 51400 **Page:** 1

PICKERING - Pickering Nuclear's deputy site vice president gave a spring update to council recently.

Steve Gregoris said the current performance at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station is the best in the station's history.

He noted **OPG** is seeking relicencing for Pickering to 2028, to cover continued operations until end of 2024, and allow for safe storage activities such as removal of fuel and water.

Hearings are scheduled for April 4 in **Ottawa**, and June 26 to 28 in Clarington. Gregoris said the deadline for written intervention, or a request to make an oral intervention is May 7, and to visit **opg**.com for more information.

He said continued operations to 2024 would reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions by an estimated 17 million tonnes - the equivalent of removing 3.4 million cars from **Ontario**'s roads.

Ward 2 regional Coun. Bill McLean asked about the likelihood of an accident.

"The likelihood is very low," said Gregoris. "I can't say the likelihood is zero but what I can say is we would not have an event of that severity. It would be arrested earlier and we would not see the same (disaster) as we saw with Fukushima."

Ward 1 city Coun. Maurice Brenner asked about rate increases to customers. Gregoris assured him there will be no rate increases above inflation going forward.

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What would happen in Pickering nuclear accident: report

Pickering News Advertiser - Thu Mar 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,445
Reach: 51400 **Page:** 1

PICKERING - A Fukushima-type disaster at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station could lead to 26,000 cancers and $125 billion in lost home values, according to a report released by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

Groups opposed to the continuous operation of the Pickering plant, Durham Nuclear Awareness and the Ontario Clean Air Alliance (OCAA), hosted an event at the Pickering Public Library in March, addressing a new report by Ian Fairlie, radiation biologist from the U.K. His report considers what would happen if a serious nuclear accident, similar in extent to what took place in Fukushima, were to happen at the equally old six-reactor Pickering plant.

The event marked the seventh anniversary of a runaway triple nuclear meltdown at the Fukushima Nuclear Station in Japan. The effects of this catastrophe continue today, says OCAA.

Jack Gibbons, chair of OCAA, said 2.2 million people live within 30 kilometres of the plant.

"Pickering is surrounded by more people than any other nuclear station in North America," said Gibbons.

According to Fairlie's report, assuming similar amounts of radioactivity and a similar fallout distribution pattern, more than 650,000 people and 154,000 homes would have to be evacuated for 30 to 100 years in the GTA.

Evacuated residents would not be fully compensated for their losses. Ontario Power Generation's nuclear liability is capped at $1 billion.

"If you look at your home insurance policy, it doesn't protect you in the case of a nuclear accident," said Gibbons.

Low level fallout would stretch from west of London to the southwestern corner of Algonquin Park. All of Pickering plus parts of Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Aurora and Scarborough would need to be evacuated. Major highways, including highways 401, 407 and 404 and major rail lines would now run through no-go zones.

OCAA believes it could happen here, and says no system is perfect, noting Pickering is now 47 years old.

Glenn Jager, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) nuclear president and chief nuclear officer, noted in a statement, the plant's staff, who are responsible for safely operating the plant, also live and raise their families in this community.

Retired OPG employee Steven Clift spoke against some of the claims OCAA made at the meeting.

"I believe it's absolutely safe and if I didn't believe it was safe, I wouldn't live in **Whitby** with my family, and if I knew there was something wrong, I definitely would go to the papers and make it **public**," he said.

Although he's been retired for nine years, he believes **OPG** still operates to the same standards.

"Quite honestly I feel that the people are well qualified and trained to a very high standard," he said. "I think that the equipment is in excellent condition. I believe that the CNSC (**Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission) keeps a very close eye, with oversight on the happenings of the station."

Jager said OCAA continues to push "unsubstantiated claims."

"The reality is that our Pickering station continues to run efficiently, receives the highest possible safety rating from our **regulator**, and we remain prepared in the event of an emergency," he said. "Suggestions to the contrary are both false and misleading. Over the years, Pickering has received significant investments in major components and equipment to make sure this valuable **public** asset can continue to operate safely and provide the clean, low-cost **electricity** that the people of **Ontario** need."

Newcastle resident Dan Rudka is a former **nuclear energy** worker at a different plant. He experienced an incident and has been dealing with numerous health problems, from damage to his face, to liver problems and severe lung damage to the extent that he's required a double-lung transplant.

"I know it's dangerous, accidents happen, and this is the result," he said.

OCAA questions why **OPG** continues to operate **North** America's fourth oldest nuclear station stating there are safer and lower cost options, from importing low-cost **power** from Quebec to improving **energy** efficiency at a cost of pennies per kilowatt hour?

OPG is applying for a 10-year licence extension for Pickering, **North** America's fifth largest and costliest to operate nuclear station.

Public hearings will take place on April 4 in **Ottawa** and June 26 to June 28 in Courtice.

This requested 10 year licence term will cover the period between Sept. 1, 2018 and Aug. 31, 2028.

The current **plan** is to operate the Pickering station until the end of 2024. The licence term between 2024 and 2028 will allow for safe storage activities such as removal of fuel and water.

The plant is currently scheduled to close in August 2018.

Factbox: The reality is that our Pickering Station continues to run efficiently, receives the highest possible safety rating from our **regulator**, and we remain prepared in the event of an emergency. **OPG** nuclear president and chief nuclear officer Glenn Jagar

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Wynne worried about wrong kind of bull

Toronto Sun - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,960

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Doug Ford's not everyone's cup of tea. He's got strong opinions about politicians being accountable for the tax dollars they spend, tends to be blunt about his opinions and isn't overly fussed if they offend people.

But for Kathleen Wynne to fearmonger that Ford will take a "bulldozer" to the ruin she's made of **Ontario**, and suggest she and her scandal-plagued Liberal government are a better alternative is as galling a piece of political chutzpah we've ever seen.

The call center scam artists who hound Canadians claiming they're from Revenue Canada, and who threaten to call the cops if their marks don't hand over credit card information immediately, make a more compelling case than **Ontario**'s Premier.

At least they wouldn't cost us as much. Let's **review** the Liberal record. **Ontario**'s health care system is in crisis, plagued with chronic wait times, jammed emergency rooms, hallway medicine, nursing cuts, cancelled surgeries and bed shortages.

Why? Because the Liberals cut hospital and health care funding over the past decade - and promised new spending won't reverse the damage of the past 10 years, says the **Ontario** Health Coalition.

Think 1$billion wasted on the eHeath electronic health record program.

Think the highest **electricity** **rates** in the country, the $37 billion Ontarians overpaid for **power** from 2006-2014, about the botched **Smart Meter** program, the botched green **energy** program that saw consumers overpay billions for **wind** and **solar**, the disastrous privatization of **Hydro** One.

Think about the track record of broken promises, often made just before an election - like former Premier Dalton McGuinty's pledge not to raise taxes or Wynne's promise to cut auto insurance premiums by 15%.

Or about the $1 billion **gas** plant scandal and subsequent corruption trial. The cash-for-access scandal, appalling **student** math test scores, loss of 75,000 manufacturing jobs, businesses fleeing the province, endless tax and user fee hikes.

Think about the government's toxic, divisive far-left social justice agenda.

Think about the Liberal fiscal record - the doubling **Ontario**'s debt, now projected at $325 billion, deficits virtually every year they've been in **power**, the 10 years of stagnant economic growth prior to 2017 and the **plan** for six more years of crippling deficits and almost $100 billion in new debt.

Ford won't bulldoze the province.

Wynne's already done that.

His difficult and unenviable task will be to clean up the mess she made.

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U.S. Pipelines also under fire

National Post - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Toby Mack

Ad Value: $4,094
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A11

Re: The tide is turning on Tides, March 21 As an American working to advance our **energy** renaissance, I was struck by former B.C. justice minister Suzanne Anton's recent article decrying the "particularly egregious" and "blatant U.S.-based interference in **Canadian** **energy** policy." Canadians should be outraged by U.S.-based organizations funding opposition to much-needed new **Canadian** **energy** infrastructure.

As a member of the **Energy** Builders coalition in the United States, our organization represents workers and businesspeople who build the pipelines that deliver oil and **natural gas** from America's rich shale formations and Canada's oilsands bounty to consumers throughout **North** America and, increasingly, globally. America's recent rapid rise in production, closing in on the status of net **energy** exporter, has been made possible by new pipelines.

The U.S.-based groups cited by Anton as funding and mobilizing illegal protests against the Trans Mountain and (the now suspended) **Energy** East projects in Canada are also attacking virtually every American oil and **gas** pipeline project. Theirs is a wildly wrong-headed crusade to "keep it in the ground," by "cutting the veins" (pipelines) to "kill the heart" (production).

Here's a rich irony. The U.S. House of Representatives Science Committee recently published a report finding that Russian government-funded entities are channelling resources and otherwise supporting American anti-pipeline zealots. Canadians might want to check to see if Russians are also stoking anti-pipeline discord in Canada for the same purpose. But then why should the Russians bother, when their witting or unwitting accomplices in the U.S. extremist movement are doing Russia's dirty work in Canada for them? Canadians have every reason to be as concerned about U.S.-based meddling in their internal affairs as Americans are about Russian meddling in theirs.

Let's not only hope they fail; let's mobilize in both countries to make certain they do.

Toby Mack, president and CEO

Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance

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WINDSOR STAR

Wind company drove in pilings when Hydro One new better, MPP points out

Windsor Star - Sat Mar 31 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: $5,776
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A6

Essex MPP Taras Natyshak is calling a report that states piledriving would negatively impact water wells in the **north** Chatham-Kent area a "smoking gun."

Natyshak, who was ejected from Queen's Park on March 8 for bringing a sample of sediment-filled water into the legislature, raised the issue of water well problems on several properties in the **North** Kent **Wind** 1 **wind** farm project area again on Wednesday.

During question period, he cited a **public** report from EBS Geostructural, the contractor **Hydro** One hired to install **hydro** towers to connect the **North** Kent **Wind** project to the **power** grid.

"In a shocking discovery," Natyshak said EBS Geostructural ruled out the use of traditional deep foundations, such as caissons and driven piles as not feasible because of "the potential for driven pile to cause issues with nearby active water wells.

"That's a smoking gun," the New Democrat MPP said, adding even **Hydro** One knew that piledriving would contaminate nearby wells.

Natyshak said he has also provided the Liberal government with the documentation.

The grassroots citizen group Water Wells First began sounding the alarm nearly two years ago, before construction on the **wind** farm began, claiming that the vibration caused from piledriving spiles into the Kettle Point black shale bedrock would have a negative impact on water wells in the area. The group's primary concern is the heavy metals in the black shale bedrock, such as uranium, arsenic and lead - known to be harmful to human health - would impact water wells.

Natyshak pointed out the well water on about 20 farms within the project area turned black and undrinkable after Samsung, a developer of the project with Patter **Energy**, began piledriving.

"Clearly there was a potential issue with piledriving in this region of **Ontario**," the MPP said. "**Hydro** One wouldn't do it and when Samsung did, local wells turned black."

He said local residents, hydrogeologists, academics, engineers, construction companies and even **Hydro** One seemed to have been aware of the risks of piledriving to the local well water.

"So why did (Premier) Kathleen Wynne ignore these warnings?" Natyshak said. "Why is she still ignoring these risks, even when the evidence of black well water contamination is placed right before her eyes?" Chris Ballard, minister of the environment and **climate** change, said that after thorough testing, "the ministry has found no evidence of any ongoing or permanent impact to water quality related to **wind** **turbine** construction in the area."

He also reiterated that the ministry takes concerns about water quality very seriously and that "we're holding the company accountable to address these complaints."

Ballard noted a productive meeting was held a few weeks ago with Water Wells First representatives.

"We're waiting to hear still from Water Wells First for the data that they say they have," he added. "I would be really appreciative if we could get our hands on it so we could look at their data."

Natyshak once again called on the **Ontario** government to complete a health hazard investigation at contaminated wells on local farms surrounding **wind** farm site.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Has Trudeau given up on Atlantic Canada?; The Prime Minister may very well have concluded it's not worth the effort

The Globe and Mail · Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: DONALD SAVOIE

Ad Value: $18,406
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Canada Research Chair in **Public** Administration and Governance at University of Moncton rime Minister Justin TruP deau accomplished what no political leader was ever able to do. His party won all 32 seats in Atlantic Canada in the 2015 general election. The Conservative Party was at least able to win one seat in the three Maritime provinces in 1935, when Mackenzie King defeated R. B. Bennett in a landslide victory in the immediate aftermath of the Great Depression.

Mr. Trudeau has his work cut out if he wishes to pull off the same victory in 2019. At this point, at least, it seems unlikely. It may well be that the Prime Minister and his most trusted political advisers have concluded that it is simply not worth the effort, given that the region only has 32 MPs in a 338-member House of Commons.

Consider the following: For the first time since the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency was established in 1987, a minister from outside the region is responsible for the the ACOA. The minister is from Mississauga and is also responsible for the two federal **regional** development agencies in **Ontario**, one in Quebec, one in Western Canada and another for the **North**.

It is not lost on Atlantic Canadians that the federal government now has a **regional** development agency for every postal code in Canada. Best to focus on regions with heavily populated postal codes when the goal is to win **power**. The recently tabled budget committed $920-million over six years to one of two federal **regional** development bodies for **Ontario**. When this agency was established in 2009, it was given a time-limited budget. No more. It now has core funding like all the other federal **regional** agencies.

The minister is also responsible for an important line department - Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and several other agencies besides the six **regional** development agencies. It is difficult to imagine that he can have more than a passing interest in Atlantic Canada's economic circumstances and opportunities. This may well explain why the Atlantic Growth Strategy, unveiled with great fanfare a few months after the 2015 election, petered out before it even got off the ground.

Mr. Trudeau explained when he was in the region that he appointed an **Ontario** minister to head all the **regional** agencies "to reduce the kind of politics that have plagued **regional** development agencies." This is a bit too rich and paternalistic for Atlantic and Western Canadians to take.

One only has to remember Tony Clement, an **Ontario** minister who directed millions in federal government spending to host a G8 meeting in his riding, including $100,000 for a gazebo. This is hardly an isolated case.

It will be recalled that Mr. Trudeau, at one point, seriously contemplated taking away the one seat Atlantic Canada has on the Supreme Court. When tasked with replacing Thomas Cromwell from Nova Scotia on the court, Mr. Trudeau announced that the selection process would be open to "any qualified judge" from across the country. Atlantic Canadians believe that he would never do the same if it came to Quebec (the Constitution guarantees Quebec three seats) or **Ontario** and Western Canada (because here, the political cost would be too high).

The Prime Minister had a change of mind in the face of stiff opposition from Atlantic Canada and elsewhere including the official opposition in Parliament. In the end, Mr. Trudeau appointed Malcolm Rowe from Newfoundland and Labrador to the bench.

Many Atlantic Canadians remain unconvinced by **Ottawa**'s argument that the **Energy** East pipeline failed because of market conditions. **Ottawa** gave, at best, lukewarm support for the pipeline which was viewed by many in Western and Atlantic Canada as an important national unity project. They saw **Ottawa** changing the **rules** of the approval process on the fly, adding new requirements with some retroactively.

Mr. Trudeau told supporters of Energy East to accept the decision and avoid "stoking regional divisions." He said nothing to Montreal and Quebec politicians who labelled the decision "a great victory for Quebeckers." It made the point once again that when it comes to national unity, it is a one-way street.

The federal government's decision to tax passive income inside private corporations - however watered down from what was first envisaged - has wide implications for Atlantic Canada, more so than for other regions. As is well known, the bulk of the region's private sector consists of family businesses and private corporations. One can easily identify all publicly held corporations in Atlantic Canada.

Thirty-two seats seem modest in the grand scheme of Canadian politics where representation by population decides who holds power in Ottawa. The governing party should remember, however, that the day after the 2015 election, it only held a 29-seat majority.

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Jason Kenney taps into deep well of Western alienation

The Globe and Mail - Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: GARY MASON

Ad Value: $17,468
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A13

There's a story Jason Kenney enjoys telling on the rubber-chicken circuit in Alberta these days that is being particularly well-received.

It begins with the Leader of the United Conservative Party denouncing the federal government and politicians in Quebec for effectively sticking a dagger in the Energy East pipeline project, while continuing to accept tankers full of oil from unscrupulous foreign regimes whose industries are subject to little or no environmental oversight. And he uses the point to segue into an account of a cement plant in Quebec's Gaspe Peninsula that, a few years ago, received an exemption from environmental review.

This, despite the fact that it would spew nearly two million tonnes of CO_2 emissions a year into the atmosphere - vastly eclipsing the discharge levels of many oil sands operations in Fort McMurray. The plant received $400-million in provincial subsidies, Mr. Kenney tells his audience, a portion of which, he surmises, came from the $11-billion in equalization payments Quebec receives annually, the largest percentage of which is contributed by his province.

In other words, Alberta is helping to subsidize this plant, too! "And it gets better," the former federal Conservative cabinet minister says. "The guy who owns the cement plant is the chairman and largest shareholder of Bombardier." It is here the crowd often gasps and Mr. Kenney pauses for effect.

"I'm sorry," he says. "I can't make this up."

"Yes, Bombardier," he continues, "who we subsidize to produce planes that burn oil and produce CO_2 emissions which are not subject to regulation. Ladies and gentleman, this is becoming cloud cuckoo land." Mr. Kenney finishes by telling the assembled that, when he becomes premier, he will fight against this type of duplicity, fight against a federal government and provinces that take from Alberta with one hand, and whack it with the other.

Cue the standing ovation.

Mr. Kenney's story is mostly an accurate one. The plant he talks about was owned by Quebec's Beaudoin family, which is synonymous with Bombardier, but it was taken over by the **Canadian** pension fund Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec in 2016.

The factory did not get a $400million subsidy, but did benefit from a $250-million government loan and received another $100million from the province for an equity share in the operation as well as $100-million from the provincial pension **plan** for a stake.

Still, the yarn serves as an illustration of the double standard that exists in this country when it comes to Alberta generally, and its oil in particular.

Like many politicians, Mr. Kenney doesn't let facts get in the way of a good tale, especially if it helps him make a broader point.

And if it helps undermine a Liberal government in **Ottawa** that he loathes, all the better. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is not a popular man in Alberta these days, with approval numbers lower than those suffered by his father after introducing the disastrous National **Energy** Program in the early 1980s.

Mr. Kenney is tapping into that sentiment. Albertans feel betrayed by **Ottawa**. Even if the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion goes through, Mr. Trudeau won't get much credit for it now.

People hate the carbon tax and blame him for it as much as NDP Premier Rachel Notley. They see special **rules** for Quebec when it comes to the environment and associate that fact with the federal Liberals as well.

"In the past year, I have heard more expressions of support for Western or Alberta separatism than I've heard in my whole life," Mr. Kenney recently told me in an interview in his office.

"It's a reflection of deep frustration from people who think: We helped the federation pay the bills, we've played by the **rules**, we haven't really complained about it, and yet we're getting royally screwed here."

Alberta is still more than a year away from going to the polls. If an election were held today, it would be the United Conservatives in a landslide. It would take a miracle for the NDP to pull off another win, but we've seen these upsets before.

At the moment, more likely is a new Alberta under Mr. Kenney.

It would not only mean a shakeup for the province, but the country, too. One of the most experienced and effective politicians in Canada is loaded for bear and is serving notice Alberta is tired of being treated as a detested cash cow.

"The hypocrisy in this country is driving a level of alienation here I haven't seen in my whole life," he said. "People are angry, and they should be."

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Cap, Then Trade

Ottawa Sun - Mon Apr 2 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Fred Lawson

Ad Value: $85
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

I have now decided to become a proponent of **cap-and-trade**. Put a cap on government spending, and trade Kathleen Wynne for a player to be named later.

FRED LAWSON HAMILTON

(As politics jokes go, that's pretty good.)

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Clearview wind project challengers should be paid back: Wilson

Wasaga Sun - Tue Mar 27 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $74
Reach: 8042 **Page:** 1

Simcoe-Grey's Member of Provincial Parliament wants to see the province reimburse area residents and municipalities in their fight against a **wind turbine** project.

Jim Wilson questioned **energy** minister **Glenn Thibeault** on the amount of money spent by residents and municipalities - approximately $1.6 million - to appeal the **renewable energy application** awarded to WPD Canada for the Fairview **Wind** project.

Last August, the Environmental **Review** Tribunal revoked the approval, but decided in February it would not award costs to the appellants.

In the Legislature, Wilson told the government it should change to the **Green Energy Act** to allow citizens and communities to have legal costs reimbursed if they successfully stop a project.

"Citizen groups worked hard to stop this project and have since made an attempt to have their legal costs awarded by the tribunal," Wilson told Thibeault. "The **Green Energy Act** won't allow these groups and individuals to get their money back. Will the minister change the legislation to allow the tribunal to award costs?"

Thibeault responded by reviewing the **public** consultation process followed by the **Independent Electricity** System Operator for approving **Green Energy Act** projects - a response Wilson said was both unsatisfactory and completely ignored the issue the MPP was raising.

"He did a pretty good job of skirting around it," Wilson told Simcoe.com.

Wilson said the tribunal's ruling not to award costs was correct.

"The tribunal is following the **rules**, it's just that the **rules** are wonky," he said. "People have a right to be angry at the political side, because (that's the side) that's put us through this."

However, Wilson stopped short of suggesting a Progressive Conservative government would reimburse the costs for residents and municipalities to fight similar projects should the Tories form a government after the June 7 provincial election.

"If it's in the billions of dollars, the answer would probably be no; I'm not sure there would be the stomach there to correct the Liberal's problems, especially if it wasn't something in (a member's) riding," he said. "It's a mess. It's one of the biggest boondoggles I've seen here in the last 30 years, and no one has apologized."

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Rift emerges in oilpatch as gas producers seek their own champion | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com · Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

Splinter groups are emerging in the oilpatch as the interests of Canadian natural gas producers and the rest of the industry start to diverge.

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What's wrong here? - Letters - Castanet.net

www.castanet.net · Fri Mar 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

I have to give my head a shake when I see on the news the pipeline protestors in Burnaby and what they are doing. While it is good that they are able to express their views, they should have a good look at themselves.

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Mary Ellen Beninger
Ontario Energy Board
Media Relations Specialist
Consumer & Corporate Communications