

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: April 17, 2018 8:47 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 42 Results



EPCOR to construct natural gas pipeline to Bruce County

Walkerton Herald-Times - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$220

Reach: 2059 Page: 1

SOUTHERN BRUCE COUNTY, ONT. - The **Ontario Energy Board** has chosen **EPCOR Utilities** to establish **natural gas** services for three communities in three southern Bruce County ...



Appeal of rejected Orillia Power/Hydro One deal possible: mayor | Simcoe.com

www.simcoe.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The city's legal bills related to a proposed sale of Orillia Power Distribution to Hydro One have hit \$1 million and will continue to climb if council appeals a decision by the Ontario Energy Board rejecting the deal, a councillor warns.



Que réserve l'avenir à la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario?

www.energyregulationquarterly.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Les derniers mois de 2017 ont donné lieu à de vives agitations concernant

l'orientation future et les objectifs de la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario (CEO).



NDP vows \$12-a-day child care; Promise is cornerstone pledge of party's platform, Change for the Better

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief With files from Laurie Monsebraaten

Ad Value: \$22,919

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

Andrea Horwath is promising affordable child care - free for families who earn \$40,000 or less and an average of \$12-a-day for most others - if the NDP wins the June election. That's the cornerstone pledge of the party's ambitious 97-page platform, ...



NDP platform promises change; Ontario party pledges spending on child care, health care

Samia Observer - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$1,131

Reach: 12173 Page: A5

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for low-income families and more funding for hospitals if they win the spring election, a move some experts saw as an attempt to regain ground the party has lost to the Liberals. The promises ...



NDP platform promises licensed child care, 'sanctuary province, ' hydro cuts | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

The NDP are promising province-wide licensed child care at an "average" of \$12 a day, starting with infant and toddler care in the second year of a mandate and pre-school in the third year.



Horwath finds her footing in progressive platform

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$15,721

Reach: 361323 Page: A1

This just in - Ontario's Tories have ceded first place to the opposition New Democrats. Not in polls, but platforms. With the June 7 election just weeks away, Andrea Horwath's NDP is first out of the gate with a fully-costed, 97-page catalogue of ...



NDP platform promises change; Ontario party pledges spending on child care, health care

The Timmins Daily Press - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$937
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A2

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for low-income families and more funding for hospitals if they win the spring election, a move some experts saw as an attempt to regain ground the party has lost to the Liberals. The promises ...



Ontario NDP can be proud of its platform; Winner or not, detailed plan is a wise move

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Chris Selley

Ad Value: \$12,476
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A6

The first section of the 2014 Ontario NDP campaign platform, which was rather prosaically titled "Andrea Horwath's Plan that Makes Sense," promised to "respect your tax dollars." That may remind you of someone and his brother. ...



Wynne has no choice but to get dirty

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: \$13,063
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A13

As if the world didn't have enough political nastiness already, Ontario's Liberals planned to open their re-election bid Monday with an ad campaign steeped in the sort of ugliness that has turned so much of politics into an honesty-free zone between ...



Ontario NDP pledge child care program, health-care spending in platform | CTV London News

london.ctvnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for families earning less than \$40,000 and a boost to hospital budgets if elected this spring, but say they would run multi-year deficits to pay for their plan.



Alectra board pay makes Mayor Bonnie Crombie one of highest paid mayors in Canada

Mississauga News - Mon Apr 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: \$2,343
Reach: 123300 **Page:** 1

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie's earnings from sitting on Alectra utility board raised her overall pay to \$243,117 in 2017. Crombie took home a stipend of \$48,615 from the utility board, including a \$22,663 honorarium and ...



Carbon pricing won't bring desired change; Fossil fuels or the future?, Letters, April 14

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value:\$6,034

Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Fossil **fuels** or the future?, Letters, April 14 Whereas I agree that humans have to do something about carbon emissions, along with all other forms of pollution, can we not be realistic about it? If we do not ship our bitumen for export ...



Well water issue heats up in Chatham-Kent; NDP calls health hazard investigation

Today's Farmer - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jeffrey Carter

Ad Value:\$918

Page: A7

As concerns in Chatham-Kent t over the safety of well water contaminated with black shale grows, the **Ontario** NDP party has taken up the cause of Water Wells First. "What I saw yesterday was outrageous," NDP leader Andrea Horvath said ...



Thousands remain without power in wake of weekend ice storm

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - **Utility** crews continued repairing severed **power** lines on Tuesday morning after a wild few days of rain, freezing rain, snow and strong **wind** across much of southern, central and eastern ...



Braving the spring freeze; Hydro outages for 44,000 customers, transit tie-ups, flooding all result from wicked weekend

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Julien Gignac Toronto Star

Ad Value:\$34,988

Reach: 361323 Page: GT1

When Caterina Gennaro's **power** flickered Sunday night during high velocity winds, she charged her devices and made a cup of tea - a wise choice because a half-hour later, at 9 p.m., she had no **electricity** at all. "Before I ...



Hydro Ottawa says over 22,000 customers without power, won't be restored until Tuesday morning - Ottawa | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Hydro Ottawa crews had their work cut out for them as an unseasonable ice storm made its way across the city early Monday morning.



Ice storm leaves dark homes, schools in wake; Electricity for some in region won't be restored until Tuesday, Hydro One says

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: \$613

Reach: 7920 Page: A3

Schools were closed and thousands of homes and businesses in the **London** area didn't have **power** Monday as the cleanup continued from a weekend storm that unleashed freezing rain and strong **wind** gusts. ...



T.O. In Recovery Mode; Trees down, power out, flights delayed

Toronto Sun - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Nicole Thompson And Peter Cameron

Ad Value: \$4,412

Reach: 171076 Page: A2

Toronto, along with much of southern and central **Ontario**, is recovering from an ice storm that resulted in **power** outages, cancelled flights and road collisions over the weekend. By late Monday afternoon, provincial ...



Thousands remain without power in Ontario in wake of weekend ice storm | CTV London News

london.ctvnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Utility crews continued repairing severed power lines on Tuesday morning after a wild few days of rain, freezing rain, snow and strong wind across much of southern, central and eastern Ontario.



Spring ice storm leaves over 100,000 without power across Southern Ontario | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Hundreds of thousands of Ontario residents are experiencing power outages as a result of an ice storm wreaking havoc across the lower half of the province.



Ice storm leaves dark homes, schools in wake; Electricity for some in region won't be restored until Tuesday, Hydro One says

Times-Journal (St.Thomas) - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: \$841

Reach: 8859 Page: A6

Schools were closed and thousands of homes and businesses in the **London** area didn't have **power** Monday as the cleanup continued from a weekend storm

that unleashed freezing rain and strong **wind** gusts. ...



We need 'ethical oil'; And like it or not, pipelines are part of the solution

Toronto Sun - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Markbonokoski

Ad Value: \$4,432

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A8

It is time to reopen the debate on the **Energy East** pipeline. Denis Coderre, the former Liberal cabinet minister whose ego made him feel like he was at the top of the heap of entitled progressives, is no longer the mayor of ...



New Law Could Restrict Fuel To B.C.; TRADE WAR Alberta's Bill 12 latest salvo in pipeline battle

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: \$7,908

Reach: 114846 **Page:** FP1 / Front

Alberta has granted sweeping new powers to its **energy** minister, including the ability to cut off all exports of oil, **natural gas** and refined **fuels**, as the province escalates its trade war with British ...



How the PM set his own pipeline trap

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Gwyn Morgan

Ad Value: \$9,971

Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Canada is endowed with the third-largest oil reserves in the world, but a lack of access to world markets means our oil is sold far below world prices. Each day, this "captive-market discount" hands a \$40-million gift to Americans. Adding insult to ...



Federal pipeline funding is a Band-Aid fix for a bigger problem

The Globe and Mail - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MARTHA HALL FINDLAY

Ad Value: \$19,437

Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

President and CEO of the Canada **West** Foundation The Kinder Morgan issue now drawing serious attention from the Prime Minister's office is about far more than a pipeline. The implications of the potential cancellation of the Trans ...



U.S-bound pipeline looks more likely; Trans Mountain in doubt

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ian Bickis

Ad Value: \$9,786

Reach: 159480 Page: FP1 / Front

After nearly a decade since the last major oil pipeline was built, and with existing ones brimming with crude, Canada's **energy** industry is wondering when and if any new lifelines to foreign markets will go into the ground. Those concerns ...



Fidelity Likes CP Rail for Crude Opportunity Amid Pipeline Spat - Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

A C\$6.9 billion (\$5.5 billion) Fidelity Investments fund is adding to its position in Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. as a pipeline spat increases the likelihood that energy companies will need rail to get their oil to market.



B.C. rejects Trudeau's claim it's been silent on Trans Mountain demands | National | chroniclejournal.com

www.chroniclejournal.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The British Columbia government is denying Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claim that it has been mum on how Ottawa should reinforce environmental protections — and offering as proof a detailed list of six demands it says were provided to the ...



First Nations Leaders Pledge to Block Pipeline Expansion - The Bullet

socialistproject.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

At the 2015 Paris COP 21 climate conference Justin Trudeau pledged his newly-elected government would help "to limit global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius as well as pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees."



Don't Take the Bait: Kinder Morgan Is Playing Canada | The Tyee

thetyee.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Here's a different take on Kinder Morgan's ultimatum and the so-called "constitutional crisis" it has sparked.



Government 's pipeline stance ignores rural B.C. - Trail Daily Times

www.trailtimes.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

After reading Katrine Conroy's view on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion ("NDP MLA weighs in on Kinder Morgan pipeline dispute," Trail Times April 12) there is a point or two that needs correcting.



BONOKOSKI: First Trans Mountain, then the resurrection of Energy East | Calgary Sun

calgarysun.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

It is time to reopen the debate on the Energy East pipeline.



New law would allow Alberta to restrict flow of oil and gas | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, April 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Alberta has granted sweeping new powers to its energy minister, including the ability to cut off all exports of oil, natural gas and refined fuels, as the province escalates its trade war with British Columbia.



'We have to go to carbon-free electricity': James Hansen on how world leaders can effectively take on climate change - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

In the 1970s, James Hansen was a NASA scientist working on a mission to study Venus when he became curious about the changing composition of Earth's atmosphere. By 1981, that curiosity led to some of the first scientific work to show the effect of ...



Federal funding for Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is a Band-Aid fix to a much bigger problem - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, April 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The Kinder Morgan issue now drawing serious attention from the Prime Minister's office is about far more than a pipeline. The implications of the potential cancellation of the Trans Mountain expansion project (TMX) are far larger and more ...



Toronto Hydro suffers severe damage, but crews make quick repairs after ice and windstorm hits

www.newswire.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Toronto Hydro's electrical grid was hammered by Mother Nature late Sunday evening and into Monday morning, but thanks to fast work by crews, the large majority of outages were restored within a matter of hours.



Taxing the rich, cutting hydro rates, cash for hospitals among Ontario NDP plans - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario's NDP want to hike taxes on the rich and large corporations in order to spend big on hospitals, child care and tuition.



Trudeau ready to offer financial backing to Trans Mountain Pipeline | Finance | Business Chief Canada

canada.businesschief.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, April 16, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged financial support to Kinder Morgan to ensure that the construction of its Trans Mountain Pipeline project continues.



The Drilldown: Feds to take financial, legislative steps on Trans Mountain - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, April 16, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Sunday that he has instructed Bill Morneau to engage Kinder Morgan in "formal financial discussions" in an effort to get the Trans Mountain expansion built.



Will the vehicles of the future be powered by electricity or hydrogen? - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

They're both in their electric youth, relatively speaking, but the ultimate winner in the race between hydrogen and battery electric will likely be both.



Bruce Power signs \$1 million agreement to further Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) research

Shoreline Beacon - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$538

Reach: 3769 Page: A14

Bruce **Power**, MIRARCO Mining Innovation and Laurentian University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will enhance strategic research opportunities, including the long-term potential for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to generate ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



EPCOR to construct natural gas pipeline to Bruce County

Walkerton Herald-Times - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$220

Reach: 2059 Page: 1

SOUTHERN BRUCE COUNTY, ONT. - The **Ontario Energy Board** has chosen **EPCOR Utilities** to establish **natural gas** services for three communities in three southern Bruce County communities.

The Edmonton-based **corporation** has been working since 2015 to bring **natural gas service** to the area.

In September 2015, **EPCOR** signed a tentative franchise agreement with Arran-Elderslie, Kincardine and **Huron**-Kinloss for the project. **EPCOR** had asked the **OEB** to approve the agreement.

In 2016, Kincardine, **Huron**-Kinloss and Arran-Elderslie selected **EPCOR** as the preferred provider through a competitive process. On April 12, **OEB** awarded **EPCOR** the project.

According to a statement released by the three municipalities, **EPCOR** was chosen because it promised a lower total (10-year) revenue requirement as compared to **Union Gas**, and this was among the most important criteria.

"We are pleased with this announcement and have worked hard with the municipalities of Arran-Elderslie, Kincardine and **Huron**-Kinloss in recent years to bring **natural gas** to southern Bruce," said **EPCOR** president and CEO Stuart Lee, in a media release on April 13. "We are proud to be part of the southern Bruce **regional** community and look forward to being a contributing citizen," he said.

The next step is for **EPCOR** to apply to the **OEB** for leave to construct later this year. It will include the **rates** the company is proposing to charge customers for **natural gas**, the route for the pipeline and environmental for the work which **EPCOR** began last summer.

Public information sessions will begin soon and will continue over the construction period.

EPCOR expects construction to begin in the spring 2019 with first customers connecting late in the year, and all customers within the **service** area having access to **natural gas** by 2021.

Arran-Elderslie Mayor Paul Eagleson said he is relieved that finally the **OEB** has made a decision.

"It was over three and a half years that the three mayors went to the **OEB** hearings. It's been a long process for them to get to this decision," said Eagleson.

"I am very pleased that a decision has been made and the fact that **EPCOR** is the company that's been chosen, that's fine. It didn't matter to me which company. I just wanted one of them to get picked and get on with it," he said.

Egleson said he looks forward to the open houses and to working with **EPCOR**.

"Yes, it's here, **natural gas** is on the way," Eagleson said.

Meanwhile Infrastructure **Ontario** earlier this month announced that up to \$27.7 million has been approved for a **natural gas** pipeline to connect homes and businesses in Arran-Elderslie, Kincardine and **Huron**-Kinloss. That is expected to save up to \$20 million a year in **energy** costs across the region for local homeowners and businesses.

Another \$1.8 million was approved for Saugeen First Nation to connect residents of Chippewa Hill community.

EPCOR spokesperson Tim le Riche said it remains to be seen whether that added cash will lower the cost of the estimated \$80-million to \$100-million project or go toward lowering costs for new **natural gas** customers.

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Appeal of rejected Orillia Power/Hydro One deal possible: mayor | Simcoe.com

www.simcoe.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The city's legal bills related to a proposed sale of Orillia Power Distribution to Hydro One have hit \$1 million and will continue to climb if council appeals a decision by the Ontario Energy Board rejecting the deal, a councillor warns.

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Que réserve l'avenir à la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario?

www.energyregulationquarterly.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Les derniers mois de 2017 ont donné lieu à de vives agitations concernant l'orientation future et les objectifs de la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario (CEO).

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NDP vows \$12-a-day child care; Promise is cornerstone pledge of party's platform, Change for the Better

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief With files from Laurie Monsebraaten

Ad Value: \$22,919

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

Andrea Horwath is promising affordable child care - free for families who earn \$40,000 or less and an average of \$12-a-day for most others - if the NDP wins the June election.

That's the cornerstone pledge of the party's ambitious 97-page platform, Change for the Better, launched on Monday at **Toronto** Western Hospital.

"Our **plan** is not based on your little one's age; it's based on making sure everyone has child care they can afford," said Horwath, taking a shot at the Liberals' new free daycare **plan**, which is limited to preschoolers aged 2 1/2 years until junior kindergarten.

About 70 per cent of **Ontario** parents would either have free child care or pay an average of \$12 per day in a licensed not-for-profit daycare starting with toddlers late next year and preschoolers in 2020 - considerably lower than the \$100-daily-**rate**, now paid by some.

The NDP leader, who also vowed to increase by 50 per cent the number of child-care places in her first four-year mandate, said change is in the offing June 7 after almost

15 years of Liberal governance.

"Who will replace (Premier) Kathleen Wynne?" asked Horwath, cautioning against gambling on right-wing rookie Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford.

"Doug Ford's billions of dollars in cuts will hurt the very people who need help. He'll cut hospitals. He'll cut our children's schools. He'll cut transit, child care and so much more," she said.

"That's not change; that's going from bad to worse."

Horwath insisted an NDP government would be more fiscally responsible than Wynne's Liberals. In that vein, her administration would run a \$3.3-billion deficit this year - this is half the Liberals' \$6.7-billion shortfall - and, just as the Grits have forecast, remain in the red for five years before balancing the books.

The New Democrats' fiscal **plan**, signed off as "reasonable" by former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, is bolstered by higher taxes.

An NDP government would raise the corporate tax **rate** to

13 per cent from 11.5 per cent, close big business loopholes, and increase personal income tax on amounts earned more than \$220,000 by one percentage point and on earnings more than \$300,000 by two percentage points.

As well, a new 3-per-cent surcharge will be slapped on luxury cars and SUVs that cost more than \$90,000.

"We are going to protect middle- and lower-income families and make sure everyone has better services," Horwath said.

"To get it done, we will make sure the most profitable corporations and the wealthiest people start paying their **fair** share," she said, noting rich businessmen such as Ford will see their taxes rise.

"Let's ask those at the top to pay a bit more."

Along with means-tested child care, which would be free for low-income earners and an average of \$12 per day for others, the NDP is promising publicly funded

dental care for the one-third of Ontarians without workplace coverage.

While the Liberals have a free pharmacare program for seniors and those 24 and under for 4,400 medications, the NDP would cover all age groups, but only for 125 prescription drugs.

The New Democrats would hike hospital spending by

5.3 per cent annually and add 2,000 beds immediately.

On **electricity**, the NDP would buy back the majority stake of **Hydro** One that Wynne sold off, using dividends from the shares to bankroll that. But the party would cancel the Liberals' "**Fair Hydro Plan**," which has already cut bills by 25 per cent through a costly borrowing scheme.

The NDP believes its own proposals, including an end to **time-of-use** pricing, could cut **hydro** bills by 30 per cent, more than offsetting the end of the Liberal subsidy.

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NDP platform promises change; Ontario party pledges spending on child care, health care

Samia Observer - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$1,131

Reach: 12173 Page: A5

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for low-income families and more funding for hospitals if they win the spring election, a move some experts saw as an attempt to regain ground the party has lost to the Liberals.

The promises were contained in the party's fully costed election platform - called "Change for the Better" - released Monday by NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

"For too long, the people of **Ontario** have been forced to settle for less than what we know is possible," Horwath said. "We've been told to switch back and forth, from the Liberals to the Conservatives and back again. As though the only choice is between bad and worse. And look where it's gotten us."

The NDP child-care **plan** would be phased in over five years, would be free for households that earn \$40,000 or less, and would grow to include infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fees for parents earning more than \$40,000 would be based on ability to pay and the party says the average fee for families would be \$12 a day.

Hospitals would see funding boosted by 5.3 per cent - \$916 million - in the first year of an NDP government. It would maintain year-over-year increases at 5.3 per cent.

The party projects five consecutive deficits to pay for its promises, starting with a \$3.3 billion deficit in 2018-2019. The deficit would peak at just over \$5 billion in 2020-2021, and decrease to \$1.9 billion by 2022-2023.

Horwath said the decreasing deficits would help the province eventually get back to balance.

"It's a very clear trend to get back to balance," she said. "We think that that's an important thing. We don't want to trade off the balanced budget against the fundamental basics that Ontarians should be able to expect a government to be

able to provide."

The NDP platform was analysed by former federal parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, who says its costing of individual measures is "reasonable."

Horwath said the Tories would cut services while the Liberals would wait until problems sprung up to address them, but an NDP government would bring the change Ontarians want.

"People are fed up with politicians who offer nothing more than sound bites and decisions that just keep making life harder for themselves and their families," she said. "I am here today because it doesn't have to be this way."

The NDP would increase taxes on people earning more than \$220,000 by one percentage point, and those earning more than \$300,000 by two percentage points.

The party's platform also includes a number of previously announced promises including a pledge to return **Hydro One** to **public** ownership, to cut **hydro rates** by 30 per cent, and establish universal dental and pharmacare programs.

The party would also spend billions to increase **Ontario Works** and **Ontario** disability payments to recipients across the province over their mandate. And it would increase access to mental health care to 28,000 more **Ontario** residents by adding 2,200 new mental health workers over five years.

The platform further calls for the addition of 15,000 additional long-term care beds, with spending ramping up over five years from \$164 million to \$923 million.

The party would also add a 3 per cent surcharge on vehicles that cost more than \$90,000, which it expects will raise \$12 million a year. The NDP is also promising to cut auto insurance **rates** by 15 per cent, echoing a promise the Liberal government made in 2013 and has thus far failed to achieve.

Barry Kay, a political science professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, said the NDP platform is an attempt to break through a media landscape dominated by the Liberal government and the Tories who lead in the polls.

"More than anything the NDP just want to get noticed," Kay said. "The fact that the Liberals have pushed left out of desperation ... has very much encroached upon their territory."

Kay said while Horwath is still very popular - with her approval ratings consistently topping both the Liberal and Tory leaders - it hasn't translated to broadening the appeal of her party.

"If the NDP is going to catch fire it's going to be because the Liberals have done such damage to each other during the course of the campaign. ... They have to keep above the fray and not get too involved in gutter politics."

The Liberals said the NDP platform would use \$6.5 billion in money budgeted for health care, education and transit to buy back shares of **Hydro One**.

"**Ontario** Liberals had hoped the NDP would join us in campaigning against Doug Ford and on the side of care, instead of cuts," the party statement said.

The Tories, meanwhile, said their party was the only one offering voters a positive change.

The province heads to the polls June 7.

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NDP platform promises licensed child care, 'sanctuary province, ' hydro cuts | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com · Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The NDP are promising province-wide licensed child care at an "average" of \$12 a day, starting with infant and toddler care in the second year of a mandate and pre-school in the third year.

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Horwath finds her footing in progressive platform

Toronto Star · Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$15,721

Reach: 361323 Page: A1

This just in - **Ontario's** Tories have ceded first place to the opposition New Democrats.

Not in polls, but platforms.

With the June 7 election just weeks away, Andrea Horwath's NDP is first out of the gate with a fully-costed, 97-page catalogue of campaign promises if they form **Ontario's** next government. Or a shopping list, should the election produce a minority government that requires NDP support to prop it up.

Caring and sharing (as in taxing) top the list - cheaper child care (averaging \$12 a day, details to come); partial pharmacare for all ages; denticare for those who need it; and more health care spending; all bankrolled by higher taxes on the rich and corporations. Lower **hydro rates** also rank high.

If all this sounds familiar, it is - last month's Liberal budget was similar, but different. Premier Kathleen Wynne promised free child care for preschoolers, financed by even bigger deficit spending than the NDP, but the Liberals' final campaign platform remains a closely guarded secret.

In fact, **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives led the way on ideas last November when they unveiled The People's Guarantee, but their campaign policies are now in limbo. As soon as Doug Ford replaced Patrick Brown as party leader last month, he suspended the PC platform until further notice - leaving the field wide open for New Democrats to get a head start.

To their credit, the NDP is attempting to set the agenda. As they've been trying to do ever since Horwath's flawed 2014 campaign, which famously deviated from the party's ideals and let Wynne eat their lunch on the left.

Now, the NDP is back - back to their roots as a progressive force. And backed by a leader who increasingly looks like she's on a roll, even if she remains stuck in the polls.

It's about time, because Horwath is running out of time. This is her third provincial campaign, and nearly nine years after becoming leader she is now the political veteran facing off against a rookie Ford and a wounded Wynne.

It has been a slow climb, but judging by her highly charged speech to party supporters Monday - roused by the throbbing beat of "Young & Wild" (by the Strumbellas) - the NDP leader is finding her mojo.

With mojo comes the magic of campaign math, which can sometimes be an optical illusion. While Horwath may gain traction with soaring rhetoric, her platform remains slippery in spots - brimming with good ideas on caring, but burdened by a black hole on **hydro** promises that sound too good to be true. Like the Liberals with their ambitious budgetary spending, the New Democrats stress caring while downplaying paying for it.

Horwath's child care **plan** will cost \$12 per day on average (free for household incomes below \$40,000), but what if your family income exceeds, say, \$85,000? Can't say just yet, but we'll get back to you once we're in government.

How much less will **hydro** cost you? Trust us, we can do what no other party in **power** has ever done with hydroelectric **power** - reduce **hydro** costs (and therefore **rates**) by an unprecedented 30 per cent.

The NDP keeps blaming rising **hydro rates** on the Liberals' partial privatization of **Hydro One** - a logical **leap**, given that the **utility's transmission rates** remain independently regulated. In another **leap** (of faith), Horwath vows to buy back what Wynne sold for more than \$9 billion, and claims she can do it without costing taxpayers a penny: she'll merely repurpose what's left of the dividend stream from the government's remaining stake in **Hydro One** to buy the rest of it back.

Were it only so easy to buy companies using dividends. But the shell game gets worse, for those precious dividend streams are already accounted for in future budgetary spending, so if the money is repurposed to buy back **Hydro One**, a future NDP government would have to replace the lost funds to pay for ongoing budget items.

The **Hydro One** buyback may be Horwath's Achilles' heel as she tries to push an otherwise plausibly bold platform on child care. The NDP fiscal **plan** calls for a budget deficit of roughly half the \$6.7 billion projected in the Liberal budget in 2018-19, thanks to higher taxes on the rich and corporations - a party perennial, but **fair** enough.

May the best platform prevail in the coming campaign. That is, if campaign platforms matter anymore. They surely do for New Democrats, who were first off the mark Monday; and the Liberals have promised one soon (based on their spring budget). We'll see soon enough whether Ford's PCs - and voters - are content to rely on campaign populism as a substitute for substance.

Martin Regg Cohn is a columnist based in **Toronto** covering **Ontario** politics. Follow him on Twitter: @reggcohn

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NDP platform promises change; Ontario party pledges spending on child care, health care

The Timmins Daily Press - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$937

Reach: 9196 Page: A2

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for low-income families and more funding for hospitals if they win the spring election, a move some experts saw as an attempt to regain ground the party has lost to the Liberals.

The promises were contained in the party's fully costed election platform - called "Change for the Better" - released Monday by NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

"For too long, the people of **Ontario** have been forced to settle for less than what we know is possible," Horwath said. "We've been told to switch back and forth, from the Liberals to the Conservatives and back again. As though the only choice is between bad and worse. And look where it's gotten us."

The NDP child-care **plan** would be phased in over five years, would be free for households that earn \$40,000 or less, and would grow to include infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fees for parents earning more than \$40,000 would be based on ability to pay and the party says the average fee for families would be \$12 a day.

Hospitals would see funding boosted by 5.3 per cent - \$916 million - in the first year of an NDP government. It would maintain year-over-year increases at 5.3 per cent.

The party projects five consecutive deficits to pay for its promises, starting with a \$3.3 billion deficit in 2018-2019. The deficit would peak at just over \$5 billion in 2020-2021, and decrease to \$1.9 billion by 2022-2023.

Horwath said the decreasing deficits would help the province eventually get back to balance.

"It's a very clear trend to get back to balance," she said. "We think that that's an important thing. We don't want to trade off the balanced budget against the fundamental basics that Ontarians should be able to expect a government to be able to provide."

The NDP platform was analysed by former federal parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, who says its costing of individual measures is "reasonable."

Horwath said the Tories would cut services while the Liberals would wait until problems sprung up to address them, but an NDP government would bring the change Ontarians want.

"People are fed up with politicians who offer nothing more than sound bites and decisions that just keep making life harder for themselves and their families," she said. "I am here today because it doesn't have to be this way."

The NDP would increase taxes on people earning more than \$220,000 by one percentage point, and those earning more than \$300,000 by two percentage points.

The party's platform also includes a number of previously announced promises including a pledge to return **Hydro One** to **public** ownership, to cut **hydro rates** by 30 per cent, and establish universal dental and pharmacare programs.

The party would also spend billions to increase **Ontario Works** and **Ontario** disability payments to recipients across the province over their mandate. And it would increase access to mental health care to 28,000 more **Ontario** residents by adding 2,200 new mental health workers over five years.

The platform further calls for the addition of 15,000 additional long-term care beds, with spending ramping up over five years from \$164 million to \$923 million.

The party would also add a 3 per cent surcharge on vehicles that cost more than \$90,000, which it expects will raise \$12 million a year. The NDP is also promising to cut auto insurance **rates** by 15 per cent, echoing a promise the Liberal government made in 2013 and has thus far failed to achieve.

Barry Kay, a political science professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, said the NDP platform is an attempt to break through a media landscape dominated by the Liberal government and the Tories who lead in the polls.

"More than anything the NDP just want to get noticed," Kay said. "The fact that the Liberals have pushed left out of desperation ... has very much encroached upon their territory."

Kay said while Horwath is still very popular - with her approval ratings consistently topping both the Liberal and Tory leaders - it hasn't translated to broadening the appeal of her party.

"If the NDP is going to catch fire it's going to be because the Liberals have done such damage to each other during the course of the campaign. ... They have to keep above the fray and not get too involved in gutter politics."

The Liberals said the NDP platform would use \$6.5 billion in money budgeted for health care, education and transit to buy back shares of **Hydro One**.

"**Ontario** Liberals had hoped the NDP would join us in campaigning against Doug Ford and on the side of care, instead of cuts," the party statement said.

The Tories, meanwhile, said their party was the only one offering voters a positive change.

The province heads to the polls June 7.

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Ontario NDP can be proud of its platform; Winner or not, detailed plan is a wise move

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Chris Selley

Ad Value: \$12,476

Reach: 159480 Page: A6

The first section of the 2014 **Ontario** NDP campaign platform, which was rather prosaically titled "Andrea Horwath's **Plan** that Makes Sense," promised to "respect your tax dollars." That may remind you of someone and his brother. Among other things, Premier Horwath would have appointed a Minister of Savings and Accountability, who would have taken a hatchet to ministerial office budgets.

The **plan** was certainly recognizable as a socialdemocratic document - a \$100 annual average savings on **hydro** bills, interest-free **student** loans, increased dental coverage for low-income children - but it was obviously pitched to the middle, with its tax cut for small businesses and a balanced budget by 2017-18.

The post-Dalton Mc-Guinty Liberals seemed clapped out. Tory leader Tim Hudak wasn't up to beating them. Yet the New Democrats gained just a single point in the popular vote, and no seats. Kathleen Wynne, who campaigned brilliantly (if predictably) from the Liberal left, ate Horwath's lunch.

With the release of the NDP platform on Monday, it's safe to say Wynne won't outflank the NDP leader on the left again.

We knew about the universal dental care: a private/**public hybrid** that would allow the currently insured to keep their plans while forcing all employers, and the self-employed, to buy coverage from private providers or the government. We knew about the pharmacare **plan**: all-**public** coverage for the most commonly prescribed drugs. And we knew about the **hydro plan**: returning to **public** ownership and a 30 per cent cut in **rates**, somehow at no real cost to the treasury.

We now have an ambitious daycare **plan**: a 50 per cent increase in the number

of **public** licensed spots over five years, with tuition free for households making under \$40,000 and a median means-tested cost of \$12 per day for those making more. We have an ambitious health care **plan**: \$19 billion over 10 years for hospital expansion, and a 5.3 per cent annual increase in healthcare funding overall. Education: **Students** loans will be interest-free retroactively; in future, **student** loans will be grants. Affordable housing: 65,000 new units, just to start.

The platform is 100 pages.

It contains multitudes. And it's all going to be paid for, in part, with a tax hike on big corporations and the rich: an extra income tax point for those earning more than \$220,000, and two for those earning over \$300,000.

You'll be able to cancel your cellphone **contract** without penalty; **gasoline** prices will have "stability and transparency;" and an NDP government would declare war on the "pink tax," which is to say dry cleaners and hairdressers won't be able to charge women more than men for similar services (which is at least theoretically conceivable) and retailers won't be able to sell girls'toys and boys'toys for different prices (which is less so).

It's called a "pink tax" because studies have found, for example, that a tricycle costs more in pink than it does in black. Maybe buy your daughter the black tricycle? But no, an NDP government would be here to help, and to spend on helping. The party is flying a flag that's been in storage for some time.

"For far too long, the people of **Ontario** have been forced to settle for less than what we know is possible. We've been told to switch back and forth, from the Liberals to the Conservatives and back again," Horwath told a partisan **crowd** at **Toronto** Western Hospital. "It absolutely does not have to be this way!" This makes sense, strategically, to a point.

Not settling costs money, but the Liberals have already committed to plunging back into the red: indeed, while the NDP platform projects deficits until 2022-23 and offers no timeline to return to balance, it's promising smaller average annual deficits than the Liberals. The Liberals'attacks on Ford thus far have been remarkably clunky - comparing him to Donald Trump, reminding us of already-well-known gaffes, a profoundly idiotic news release suggesting names for the PC campaign bus: "the Canini-bus"; "busted."

This is a government that's preparing to start retailing marijuana, and whose former leader's chief of staff is about to go to jail. It makes sense for the NDP to present themselves as the most credible alternative on the left, because they are.

Still, it must be said that many Ontarians seem rather fond of "settling."

For example, many of us are happy to boast to Americans about a health-care system that doesn't guarantee dental or drug coverage, that leaves people languishing in hallways and on waiting lists, and that produces mediocre outcomes compared to our peer countries.

The NDP promises to fix that, and most everything else, with wads of cash. I have to wonder if this platform isn't just a bit too NDP for the NDP's own good.

But timidity hasn't gotten Horwath anywhere yet, and I suspect she will strike many undecided voters as far more credible fronting this detailed platform than Ford will fronting his simplistic one, should it ever materialize.

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Wynne has no choice but to get dirty

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: \$13,063

Reach: 159480 Page: A13

As if the world didn't have enough political nastiness already, **Ontario's** Liberals planned to open their re-election bid Monday with an ad campaign steeped in the sort of ugliness that has turned so much of politics into an honesty-free zone between hardened partisans.

The ads, one of which was previewed Friday, predictably aim to portray Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford as the **Canadian** equivalent of Cro-Magnon man or Donald Trump, whichever you hold in lower regard. He will "give corporations high tax cuts" while seizing a recent minimum wage hike "right out of hardworking people's pockets."

He will "put restrictions on a woman's right to decide her own pregnancy." A Ford government would "fire 40,000 people, including teachers and nurses," and "won't make big business pay a cent to address **climate** change."

Just for the record, what Ford has actually said is that he'll reduce taxes for corporations in an attempt to make the province more attractive to investment (which creates jobs) and cancel a recent hike on wage-earners. He won't reverse the minimum wage rise, but would freeze a future increase. He has stated any number of times that his determination to find efficiencies won't entail job losses - "Let me be clear: No one is getting laid off," he pledged. He says he is personally pro-life but has no intention on getting into abortion politics. And he has promised to cancel the cap-and-trade system that has done little to reduce emissions.

The Liberal charges rely heavily on distortion. The suggestion of 40,000 job losses parrots Liberal-friendly sources who insist reduced spending can only come through massive job cuts. The abortion claim relates to Ford's willingness to let caucus members pursue legislation on matters of importance to them, and his remark that "kids can't even get their tonsils out without the approval of their parents," but that no similar consultation applies to abortion.

His opposition to **cap-and-trade** reflects the growing view that taxing carbon hasn't proven effective in the war against global warming, and has largely become a revenue grab for heavily-indebted governments. The PCs do not reject **climate** change, they simply believe the tax regime isn't helping.

The mud-throwing reflects a similar effort launched in the dying days of Paul Martin's federal government, when the Liberals prepared ads warning that Conservatives under Stephen Harper would put troops in the streets of **Toronto** and ban desperate women from obtaining abortions. The **Ontario** Liberals' willingness to fight dirty is not in question. Last week David Livingston, the former Liberal chief of staff, was sentenced to four months in jail for destroying evidence related to the billion-dollar **gas** plant scandal that continues to haunt the party. And while Liberal heavies were eventually acquitted in a bribery trial over a **Sudbury** byelection, revelations from the trial left a stain on Kathleen Wynne and one of her closest aides.

Given their low standing, however, the Liberals evidently feel they have little choice but to focus on Ford in hopes of reducing his reputation even below Wynne's. Other efforts to bolster their standing have fallen flat, most recently a budget laden with new spending promises, including free daycare, free prescription drugs, and **greater** spending on health and education, to be financed by \$20 billion in new borrowing despite a previous pledge to balance the budget.

As with the attack ads, the budget sought to convince Ontarians they have a stark choice, between a generous, caring government and a cold-hearted Tory alternative that would serve the rich while chopping treasured benefits. It appears to have fallen flat - one poll found 42 per cent of voters said the budget made them less likely to vote Liberal.

It's not like Ford hasn't provided plenty of material for criticism. His years on **Toronto** city council during his brother's chaotic mayoralty earned him a reputation as an aggressive and often bumptious figure willing to bully his way ahead when faced with opposition. His pledge to find \$6 billion in "efficiencies" comes marvellously free of detail. And he continues to trade heavily in bluster: on Friday he vowed to fire the CEO of the partially-privatized **power utility Hydro One**, a pledge that would do little if anything to reduce record-high **electricity** costs but appeals mightily to a **public** aggrieved at his \$6.2 million paycheck.

So there's material to burn for the Liberals and their attack dogs. The problem they face is the possibility the **public** has simply stopped listening. Wynne has been so unpopular for so long she admitted last week she'd considered resigning. Her government has been pouring money into precampaign spending initiatives for months - including the 30 per cent minimum wage hike, **contract** enhancements for teachers, debt-financed subsidies for **hydro** bills - without managing to lift its support off the floor. Last month's budget was viewed by many as a Hail Mary pass using the government's borrowing **power** in a desperate last-minute bid to fend off defeat.

If, as appears, it didn't work, the party is left with the barrage on Ford himself, accompanied by the hope he trips himself up with rash words or a Bozo moment on the election trail. It could well happen, given how often the Tories have rescued the Liberals in the past.

Meanwhile the airwaves will drip with dirt, much of it distorted or demonstrably untrue, as a flailing government does all it can to hold onto **power** at any cost.

Twitter.com/KellyMcParland

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Ontario NDP pledge child care program, health-care spending in platform | CTV London News

london.ctvnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario's New Democrats are promising free child care for families earning less than \$40,000 and a boost to hospital budgets if elected this spring, but say they would run multi-year deficits to pay for their plan.

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Alectra board pay makes Mayor Bonnie Crombie one of highest paid mayors in Canada

Mississauga News - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$2,343

Reach: 123300 Page: 1

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie's earnings from sitting on Alectra **utility** board raised her overall pay to \$243,117 in 2017.

Crombie took home a stipend of \$48,615 from the **utility** board, including a \$22,663 honorarium and \$25,950 meeting per diem. This is on top of her City of Mississauga and Region of Peel salaries of \$139,374 and \$55,130 respectively.

This makes her one of the top paid mayors in Canada, on par with Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, who earned \$248,783 last year.

Crombie said in addition to her duties as mayor, sitting on the Alectra Board is "a lot of extra work" and requires her participation at numerous meetings throughout the year.

"What concerns me is one of the things that happen with most large **energy** boards is once they get really big, they lose contact with the people who are actually being served. That was one of my concerns with Alectra," said Coun. Carolyn Parrish.

Alectra was created out of the merger between **Enersource**, **PowerStream**, Horizon **Utilities** and **Hydro** One Brampton.

Since its formation, meeting per diems have more than doubled from \$600 to \$1250 and total compensation levels have skyrocketed.

When Crombie was on the **Enersource** board in 2016, her annual earnings were \$22,605. One year later, after the merger had been finalized, she received nearly \$50,000.

"What I don't understand is the mayor getting paid (an honorarium) and getting per diems," noted Parrish, adding when it was the **Enersource** board, councillors received one or the other - not both.

"Alectra, as you know, is a very large, complex, **hybrid** organization ... The board decided on the remuneration in a setup based on best principles benchmarked against all other **public** sector **utility**-type boards," said Crombie.

Toronto Hydro, the largest municipal **electricity distribution** company in Canada, gives its board chair \$75,000, the same level of compensation as Alectra, a \$12,500 member retainer and \$1,000 per meeting.

"So the board has voted to pay itself that way?" Parrish rebutted. "I'm guessing that's how **utility** salaries climb to the stratosphere."

Prior to the Alectra merger, total compensation awarded to **Enersource** board members, including expenses, had increased from \$108,777 in 2011 to \$261,982 in 2016.

"Personally, I would like to see a **greater** breakdown of funds," said Coun. Karen Ras. "But at the end of the day, council isn't the decision-making authority over those costs and I think that's where the challenge lies."

Last year, councillors earned a salary of \$86,916 from the City of Mississauga, plus \$55,130 from the Region of Peel and a \$17,304 car allowance.

Crombie expensed \$84,406 in 2017, including \$30,711 for conferences and trade missions to India and Japan.

Not including the mayor, councillors expensed a total of \$265,000. The bulk of those expenses include phone bills, 407 ETR charges, fundraisers, community events, business meetings and membership dues.

Parrish was the top spender, expensing \$34,856, much of which went to supporting the Malton Business Improvement Area.

Ward 4 Coun. John Kovac expensed the least, charging taxpayers \$16,601, well below the average.

For a complete list of council expenses, visit www.mississauga.ca.

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Carbon pricing won't bring desired change; Fossil fuels or the future?, Letters, April 14

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$6,034

Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Fossil **fuels** or the future?, Letters, April 14

Whereas I agree that humans have to do something about carbon emissions, along with all other forms of pollution, can we not be realistic about it? If we do not ship our bitumen for export to countries that want it, they will simply buy the bitumen from someone else. And if we can't get the bitumen to our own (few) refineries, we will continue to buy ever more from someone else. Believing that carbon pricing will significantly change that behaviour when there are no viable alternatives at this point is wishful thinking. Urban dwellers, especially those in major cities, appear to be most guilty of this unrealistic approach. Easy to be holier-than-thou with short commuting distances and **public** transit systems. But residents of rural areas and small towns have little choice when it comes to operating our vehicles and heating our homes and businesses. With no access to **natural gas** (which of course is also a contributor to carbon emissions) and **electric** heating being costly and of dubious efficiency, oil becomes necessary. And until the industry can come out with mass production of **electric** vehicles that are capable of long distances between charges and improved fast-charging times, small town and rural residents have no choice but to operate **gasoline**-powered vehicles. Not to mention the huge expansion of the **power** grid that will be required.

In my opinion, diverting the always huge bureaucratic expense of implementing and operating a carbon pricing system toward research and development of viable **energy** alternatives. In the meantime, like it or not, we need our oil.

Duncan Craig, Gravenhurst

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Well water issue heats up in Chatham-Kent; NDP calls health hazard investigation

Today's Farmer - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jeffrey Carter

Ad Value: \$918

Page: A7

As concerns in Chatham-Kent over the safety of well water contaminated with black shale grows, the **Ontario** NDP party has taken up the cause of Water Wells First.

"What I saw yesterday was outrageous," NDP leader Andrea Horvath said after meeting with affected Chatham-Kent families on April 4.

"These families deserve for their government to take this seriously - Kathleen Wynne needs to direct her ministry of health to complete a health hazard investigation at the contaminated wells immediately."

Water Wells First is a citizen's organization composed of impacted well owner and their concerned neighbours. Members believe wells have been impacted by **wind turbine** construction and operation in their area.

The Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change (MOECC) has insisted the shale-contaminated water is safe, referencing Dr. David Colby, the Chatham-Kent Medical Officer of Health: "Turbid water is certainly unappealing but ... in the absence of bacterial contamination there is no health hazard from undissolved particles in water."

However, that statement is being questioned by members of Water Wells First and Dr. Joel Gagnon at the University of Windsor.

Gagnon is looking at the well situation in Chatham-Kent as a research project and educational opportunity for his **students**.

"Bottom line is if we want to know if toxic metals will be released by the Kettle Point shale due to food preparation and/or ingestion, the Kettle Point shale would need to be studied due to the unique character of the shale," he said.

"No one has actually done a study to assess the potential for the Kettle Point black shale to release metals."

He said there is a possibility that any heavy metals attached to shale particles could be released and absorbed by the human body during the digestive process when the particles are exposed to acidic conditions.

Gagnon cited published research papers to emphasize his point. While they were not specific to Kettle Point black shale, they do indicate there may be reason for concern.

Regardless of the potential health hazard, Gagnon sees the levels of turbidity he's seen as being a concern in themselves.

"That in my mind is the bigger challenge. You can use the water because it's full of sediment."

Water Wells First held a press conference on April 10 where Warren Simmons, who works as a chef in **Toronto**, cooked with water drawn from Dave Lusk's well. Simmons, and three chefs who submitted statements, concluded that they would not prepare food using water containing black shale particles.

Jakubec said there's potential concern for well owners in the area even if their water appears clear. Evaluations conducted for Water Wells First show the most of the shale particles in affected wells are too small to be visible by the human eye.

In the absence of support from the MOECC, Jakubec said Water Wells First has begun its own health hazard investigation, with support from the University of Windsor.

The group has also spent in excess of \$400,000 to record changes to well water in the area following pile-driving operations for the construction of **wind** turbines. According to a report from a Michigan laboratory, black shale turbidity levels have increased exponentially. In one well, levels were 14,000 times higher following pile driving operations than before.

The MOECC has relied on reports from the principle developers of the **North Kent Wind** project, Samsung **Renewable Energy** and Pattern Development, to show that water wells in the area could have not been impacted by pile-driving or **turbine** operation. These include reports by the consulting firm Golder Associates which measured surface vibrations within the project area.

Those findings, however, may be flawed, according to Maurice Dusseault, chairman of the Geological Engineering Program at the University of **Waterloo**.

"I believe there is a reasonable cause to believe pile-driving is leading to the disturbance (of wells)," he said.

The best way to demonstrate whether or not wells have been impacted is to collect water quality data prior to **turbine** construction, following pile-driving operations and after the turbines have been commissioned. The resulting information, arranged in graph form, would present a convincing argument in the event of hearing or legal action, Dusseault said.

A civil suit has been contemplated by Water Wells First, Jakubec said. Regardless of whether the provincial government decides at some future point to take the concerns of well owners seriously, that could proceed, he said.

The aquifer where wells have been impacted is about 50 to 70 feet below the soil surface, just above the black shale which is known to contain a range of heavy metals. During the construction of the **North Kent Wind** project, a series of steel piles were driven through the aquifer into the bedrock to anchor each of the turbines.

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Thousands remain without power in wake of weekend ice storm

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - **Utility** crews continued repairing severed **power** lines on Tuesday morning after a wild few days of rain, freezing rain, snow and strong **wind** across much of southern, central and eastern **Ontario**.

The province's largest **utility**, **Hydro One**, was reporting around 40,000 homes and businesses without **electricity** - down from a high of about 300,000 in the early stages of the storm.

Just over 2,000 **Hydro Ottawa** customers remained in the dark - down from about 75,000 - and **Toronto Hydro** was reporting a few hundred outages by Tuesday morning. **Hydro Quebec** was dealing with almost 19,000 outages in Montreal and surrounding areas.

The blast of winter weather also impacted the boys of summer, when a chunk of ice falling from the CN Tower poked a hole in the SkyDome roof and cancelling a game between the **Toronto** Blue Jays and Kansas City Royals.

They were scheduled to play a doubleheader on Tuesday.

Police said an area around the tower would remain roped off until Tuesday morning.

Toronto's Pearson International Airport said they expected higher than normal volumes as they recover from the storm. Travellers were advised to check their flight status before heading to the airport.

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Braving the spring freeze; Hydro outages for 44,000 customers, transit tie-ups, flooding all result from wicked weekend

Toronto Star - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Julien Gignac Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$34,988
Reach: 361323 Page: GT1

When Caterina Gennaro's **power** flickered Sunday night during high velocity winds, she charged her devices and made a cup of tea - a wise choice because a half-hour later, at 9 p.m., she had no **electricity** at all.

"Before I finished that cup of tea, there was a bang and then I looked out my window and I saw a tree on fire," said Gennaro, an author who lives near the Queensway and Windermere Ave., adding it appeared to be a large branch, not a full tree.

Emergency responders arrived shortly after to put out the fire, she said, but she was still without **power**. Using the light from her iPad, she placed a jug of vinegar on top, creating a makeshift lamp.

"It was pretty cold," Gennaro added. "I basically put on layers and layers of clothing. I slept in a hoody and pants. I had three blankets, plus my winter coat on top of me, so I stayed pretty warm throughout the night, but as soon as I poked my head out, it was freezing."

A **Toronto Hydro** spokesperson said 44,000 customers experienced **power** outages from 6 p.m. on Sunday until 3 a.m. on Monday.

By Monday afternoon, that figure was down to 8,300 customers, said Tori **Gass**, clarifying customers means meters, not people. **Toronto Hydro** are targeting smaller outages scattered around the city, meaning that reconnecting **power** will be a slower process, **Gass** said.

The freak storm was relentless in **Toronto** over the weekend and into Monday, affecting most facets of daily life.

Numerous delays were reported on the TTC and GO Transit Monday morning, with a section of Line 1 down for almost three and a half hours. **Ontario** Provincial Police reported "numerous reports" of flooding on **Greater Toronto** Area highways.

The mix of snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, rain and powerful winds made driving treacherous, with OPP reporting more than 1,450 non-fatal crashes over the two days.

Toronto Fire said they experienced a higher than normal call volume, with calls up 437 per cent during the midnight to 8 a.m. period. Since the beginning of the storm, **Toronto** Fire Crews responded 3,222 times to 1,330 separate incidents over the weekend, as of Monday afternoon, and 311 **Toronto** received 3,115 calls for assistance with tree damage, **hydro** and updates on community activities or classes - an increase of 273 per cent over the previous week. Of those calls, 534 were solely tree-related. A full tree cleanup is expected to be finished Wednesday.

Dr. Chris McKillop's **power** went out in her home near Eglinton Ave. W. and Dufferin St. around 7 p.m. on Sunday, but she was prepared for it with battery-powered lanterns and wireless chargers for her devices. It was an on-again-off-again affair, with **power** intermittently returning, she said.

"Unfortunately I left my bedroom lights on without knowing, so at 2:30 in the morning they came back on," she said. "I opened the whisky, have (sic) the ice cream that's melting in the fridge, get some chocolate and make the best of it."

A preliminary summary by Environment Canada of the dramatic weather the storm produced since early Saturday said the city had ice pellets beating down upon it for 18 total hours by Sunday night. Added to that was 10 hours of rain and six additional hours of freezing rain. They said the total water equivalent measured at Pearson Airport was 71.6 mm, and that the icy slush was as deep

as 12 cm in parts of the city.

In the struggle to clear the roads and make them safe, 6,940 tonnes of salt had been used as of early Monday.

On Monday afternoon, as the temperature rose, the city was dealing with the effects of the thaw. Authorities warned commuters to be cautious of potentially hazardous roads and highways, and homeowners were encouraged to clear drainage basins to prevent potential flooding.

At Pearson Airport, where more than 600 flights were cancelled Sunday - approximately 35 per cent of all flights that day, according to a spokesperson - authorities had cancelled 125 flights on Monday, with the airport adjusting for heavy passenger overload and backlog of baggage and flights to be rescheduled after the weekend madness.

Ice blocks dropping off roofs were also of concern, leading to the closure of the CN Tower and the cancellation of Monday night's Blue Jays' game at the Rogers Centre, as well as a section of Yonge St. near College. St.

Toronto MPP Mike Colle barely evaded a chunk of ice Monday morning that fell from the top of Queen's Park, he said. He estimated it to be about six feet by three feet, roughly as tall as him.

"I'm carefully coming to work, and I'm about to enter the side door of Queen's Park and even before I can take a breath, there, a big slab of ice comes off the side of the building and woof, bang, right in front of me," he said. "If I had not stopped for an orange light at Spadina and Harbord, I don't know what would have happened to me this morning. I think my guardian angel was with me."

Environment Canada's rainfall warning for the city of **Toronto** has finally come to an end. The weather agency reported that rain was expected to taper off over the course of the day. They say the heaviest precipitation is moving east of the city, but we could see rainfall amounts from 20 mm to 30 mm by the time it's over, making flooding a concern.

With files from Alexandra Jones and Brennan Doherty

Ice storm's damaging force

Dog escapes large falling branch, GT6

More photos of the storm, GT2, GT3, GT5

Storm fear: Swept into despair. Timson, E1

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Hydro Ottawa says over 22,000 customers without power, won't be restored until Tuesday morning - Ottawa | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca · Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro Ottawa crews had their work cut out for them as an unseasonable ice storm made its way across the city early Monday morning.

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Ice storm leaves dark homes, schools in wake; Electricity for some in region won't be restored until Tuesday, Hydro One says

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: \$613

Reach: 7920 Page: A3

Schools were closed and thousands of homes and businesses in the **London** area didn't have **power** Monday as the cleanup continued from a weekend storm that unleashed freezing rain and strong **wind** gusts.

Hydro One estimated more than 20,000 customers in the region were without **power**, some of whom will have to wait until Tuesday evening for **electricity** to be restored.

Most of **London** was spared from **power** outages, but some communities in southwestern **Ontario** lost multiple **utility** poles along single lines. and though **Hydro** One responded with more than 1,400 employees across the province, efforts at restoration were slowed by the continuing bad weather that grounded helicopters that would otherwise fly in replacement poles.

"Multiple poles are down (in some southwestern **Ontario** communities)," **Hydro** One spokesperson Nancy Clark said Monday.

Hydro One expected to restore **power** Monday to most of its customers, including many of the 15,000 customers in **Huron** County who lost **power**, but some customers at the end of smaller lines faced outages expected to last until about 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Hydro One expected and planned for the combination of ice, snow and **wind** that snapped tree limbs and **utility** poles alike, Clark said, arranging for extra crews and lining up other **utilities** to help.

Other areas hit hard by **power** outages in the **London** region included Aylmer, Beachville and Strathroy.

Repair work was also slowed because **Ontario Hydro** had to prepare to help eastern **Ontario** communities that were expected to be hit by the wintery storm later in the day Monday, Clark said.

"Crews have been working around the clock to restore **power** to our customers. We know that **electricity** is a lifeline for many families in the winter - especially for those who depend on **electric** heat. It's all hands on deck until every last **customer** has their **power** back," Greg Kiraly, the **utility's** chief operating officer, said Sunday.

Among those losing **power** were two dozen **Thames** Valley and **London** District Catholic schools, including Pierre Elliott Trudeau French immersion school in **St. Thomas** and Strathroy and New Sarum **public** schools. Buses were also cancelled to many schools in the **London** region.

The same storm also played havoc on area waterways.

Strong winds caused major flooding in Eriau, a community on the shores of Lake **Erie** southeast of Chatham. Whipped by the winds, waves breached a breakwall, causing homes and cottages to flood.

"If you look at this system coming up from the south, it's like a water machine coming up," Teresa Hollingsworth, corporate services manager for the Upper **Thames River** Conservation Authority, said.

Southwestern **Ontario** was pounded with a half a month's rainfall in just three days.

Snow and showers are possible on Tuesday to Thursday, Environment Canada says, with the sun expected to return Friday.

Hydro One customers looking for information on **power** outages can call 1-800-434-1235, download the free **Hydro** One **power** outage app or visit www.HydroOne.com/stormcenter.

Customers can also register to receive personal text or email alerts about **power** outages at HydroOne.com/MyAccount.

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T.O. In Recovery Mode; Trees down, power out, flights delayed

Toronto Sun - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Nicole Thompson And Peter Cameron

Ad Value: \$4,412

Reach: 171076 Page: A2

Toronto, along with much of southern and central **Ontario**, is recovering from an ice storm that resulted in **power** outages, cancelled flights and road collisions over the weekend.

By late Monday afternoon, provincial **power utility Hydro** One said crews had restored **power** to more than 300,000 customers across much of the province.

Hydro One said crews were still working to reconnect another 82,000 customers affected by approximately 700 outages.

Toronto Hydro said the number of customers in the dark had shrunk to about 1,500 late Monday afternoon from about 40,000. In most cases, crews were dealing with **power** lines and poles downed by high winds or ice-coated trees that snapped during the storm.

The mix of snow, freezing rain, ice pellets, rain and powerful winds that battered the region Saturday and Sunday had made driving treacherous, with provincial police reporting more than 1,600 non-fatal crashes on the highways surrounding **Toronto** over the two days. Hwy. 400, south of Barrie, which had been closed in both directions after a collision involving two trucks took out the highway divider, was reopened to traffic Monday afternoon.

The poor conditions also prompted bus and school cancellations in parts of the province Monday, with schools in Hamilton, **Halton** and Peel regions closed for the day and buses cancelled in various other districts.

After pummeling **Ontario** over the weekend, the storm slowly moved east.

In **Ottawa**, which was under a freezing rain warning, all entrances to the **Centre** Block on Parliament Hill were closed because of falling ice.

Air travellers were advised to check the status of their flights before heading out Monday, with delays and cancellations reported at airports in **Ontario** and Quebec.

Some universities and colleges also cancelled exams due to the weather, and with heavy rain continuing overnight there were concerns about localized flooding.

In **Toronto**, officials said the clearing of some streets was delayed as crews concentrated on clearing catch basins in an effort to prevent flooding as temperatures rise.

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Thousands remain without power in Ontario in wake of weekend ice storm | CTV London News

london.ctvnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Utility crews continued repairing severed power lines on Tuesday morning after a wild few days of rain, freezing rain, snow and strong wind across much of southern, central and eastern Ontario.

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Spring ice storm leaves over 100,000 without power across Southern Ontario | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Hundreds of thousands of Ontario residents are experiencing power outages as a result of an ice storm wreaking havoc across the lower half of the province.

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Ice storm leaves dark homes, schools in wake; Electricity for some in region won't be restored until Tuesday, Hydro One says

Times-Journal (St.Thomas) - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: \$841

Reach: 8859 Page: A6

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We need 'ethical oil'; And like it or not, pipelines are part of the solution

Toronto Sun - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Markbonokoski

Ad Value: \$4,432

Reach: 171076 Page: A8

It is time to reopen the debate on the **Energy** East pipeline.

Denis Coderre, the former Liberal cabinet minister whose ego made him feel like he was at the top of the heap of entitled progressives, is no longer the mayor of Montreal.

He got bounced in the 2017 election by one-term councillor Valerie Plante.

So, he's out of the picture. Remember Coderre? Well, to refresh your memory

with an unrefreshing flashback, he was the man who thought it hunky-dory to dump 4.9-billion litres of raw sewage into the **St. Lawrence River** a few years back so Montreal could repair a 30-kilometre stretch of its toilet tubing. Yes, that guy.

Denis Le Merde. He turned the **St. Lawrence** into a septic tank.

Anyhow, while our wanderlust prime minister, Justin Trudeau, was hunkered down in **Ottawa** Sunday with Alberta's NDP Premier Rachel Notley and her not-so-friendly NDP counterpart in British Columbia, John Horgan, to find a way to get oilsands bitumen to tidewater on the **west coast** via Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the dirtiest and priciest oil in the world continues to arrive at Canada's East **Coast**.

Those Irving Oil refineries have no other choice, of course, if they expect to keep up with a demand for which there is no alternative.

If folks want to fire up their half-tonnes or even their **hybrids**, haul their goods to market, get food into grocery stores, heat their homes in places where **natural gas** is not available and global warming has not yet turned Tuktoyaktuk into the tropics, as well as get their kids to hockey practice, et cetera, et cetera, green **energy** is not going to do it.

Gasoline and diesel fuel will do all those aforementioned tasks, and they will be doing this for decades to come.

We are not even close yet to an alternative to fossil **fuels**.

We are dependent on oil. Years ago, a man rarely mentioned anymore in mainstream media (Ezra Levant), got a lot of mileage out of pitching the thought of so-called "ethical oil" when he had a show on the nowdefunct Sun News television.

"Ethical oil" is described as not coming from countries where human rights are trampled, where terrorism is sponsored, where democracy doesn't exist, where women are chattels, where gays are persecuted and murdered, and where executions without trials are **public** entertainment.

So, based on all the above, I would rather have the "ethical oil" of much-cheaper oilsands bitumen being refined to fire up my aging Jeep than the expensive crude that comes via ocean tankers from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Nigeria and whatever other hellish source it comes from.

I would rather see my **gas** money going to support the rest of my fellow **Canadian** taxpayers than feed the coffers of terrorist and butchers like ISIS, the Taliban, al-Qaida, Boko Haram - (name your terror group.)

And then there is this. If TransCanada had not been thwarted at every turn by the Trudeau Liberals, leaving it to give up on the **Energy** East pipeline, the chance of another Lac Megantic would diminish to the point of non-existence.

Unlike rail cars, pipelines do not move and do not blow up.

To the 47 who perished in Lac Megantic in 2013 when their small Quebec town became an inferno after a runaway fuel train derailed and exploded, it would have made a world of difference.

Do not dismiss the final cries they made.

Politicians need to stop putting the personal politics of self-servitude first, and finally do what is right for our nation's economy and its future financial security.

The turning point is now. markbonokoski@gmail.com @MarkBonokoski

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New Law Could Restrict Fuel To B.C.; TRADE WAR Alberta's Bill 12 latest salvo in pipeline battle

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: \$7,908

Reach: 114846 Page: FP1 / Front

Alberta has granted sweeping new powers to its **energy** minister, including the ability to cut off all exports of oil, **natural gas** and refined **fuels**, as the province escalates its trade war with British Columbia.

Introduced Monday, Bill 12 or Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act, is aimed at the B.C. government, which has obstructed the construction of Kinder Morgan Inc.'s \$7.4-billion Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to the **West Coast**. But the new powers go far beyond restricting oil flowing through the Trans Mountain system.

When in force, the law would require companies to obtain a licence from the minister to send crude oil, **natural gas** or refined **fuels** such as **gasoline** out of the province in any direction and on any form of **transportation**, including pipelines, railway cars or trucks.

"The powers in this legislation are not powers that Alberta wants to use, but we will do so if it means longterm benefit for the industry, for Alberta, and for Canada," Alberta **Energy** Minister Marg McCuaig-Boyd said.

Currently, only **natural gas** producers need an export licence from the Alberta **Energy Regulator** to send their **gas** out of province, but Monday's law will extend that requirement to oil and refined fuel producers and give license-granting authority to the **energy** minister.

The law is broad enough that the minister can choose whether to cut off all outgoing petroleum products or single out specific pipelines or companies by issuing a requirement for those sending oil or **gas** or diesel to B.C. to apply for a licence, which the minister could then deny.

Companies that break the law would pay up to \$10 million per day and individuals exporting without a licence would be hit with fines of up to \$1 million per day.

"We are confident that it will withstand legal challenge," Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said of the law, while acknowledging there would likely be a legal challenge. She said Section 92 of the Constitution gives provinces **power** over their natural resources.

Before it is challenged, however, the law provides a key option to strategically inflate **gasoline** prices in B.C. without hurting Albertan oil producers.

Notley said the province was considering restricting shipments of refined products through the existing Trans Mountain pipeline, so that only diluted bitumen flowed to Burnaby, B.C. via pipeline. Currently the pipeline transports both crude oil and refined **fuels**. This would force **gasoline**, diesel and jet fuel shipments to move to B.C. on railway cars, escalating costs for B.C. drivers, while allowing Albertan oil producers to export their product.

Currently, Alberta ships 44,000 barrels of **gasoline** and diesel to B.C. through the Trans Mountain pipeline every day, a little more than half of the total 80,000 bpd of refined products shipped to B.C.

Notley said the government met with oil companies on Friday to ensure there would be "no surprises" as the province seeks to punish B.C. for its opposition to the Trans Mountain project but minimize the collateral damage to its own industry.

"They're a bit nervous about it, but they also know that we're at a turning point," Notley said of the **energy** industry, which is keen to send more of their product to Asian markets through **West Coast** ports as other export pipelines are full.

Canadian oil producers have been seeking access to markets outside of the U.S. for years, but have seen multiple oil export pipeline projects - such as Enbridge Inc.'s **Northern** Gateway and TransCanada Corp.'s **Energy** East pipelines - be rejected or cancelled.

"While regrettable, this legislation is necessary in the circumstances to continue applying pressure to British Columbia," said Gary Leach, president of the Explorers and Producers Association of Canada. "We're supportive from the perspective that we need this pipeline impasse resolved."

He said he expects the province will use a "deft hand" to try to minimize the collateral damage to the local **energy** industry.

Many in the **energy** industry are concerned the Trans Mountain expansion is facing an uncertain fate after Steve Kean, CEO of Kinder Morgan, said last week the company would suspend all non-essential spending on the project until **Ottawa** intervenes to provide a clear direction on how the project will be built without further delays.

Kean also gave an end-of-May deadline for resolving the situation.

Both Notley and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have announced they will provide Kinder Morgan with financial assurances to offset potential losses from B.C.'s continued opposition in a move that has stirred up controversy on both sides of the debate.

"The larger issue is the crisis in confidence that investors cannot rely on the rule of law in Canada for investment of their capital, especially if the government must resort to taking a financial position in the project to ensure it proceeds," Petroleum Services Association of Canada president Tom Whalen said in a release Monday.

Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan, who has consistently opposed the pipeline, said plans for "investing in the project with taxpayer dollars to mitigate Kinder Morgan's risk" are "entirely unacceptable."

Notley, Trudeau and B.C.

Premier John Horgan met in **Ottawa** on Sunday in an attempt to resolve the dispute without success.

Horgan said Sunday he's looking to address "gaps" in the environmental protection **plan** for the **West Coast** and that he will continue with his government's **plan** to test whether it can restrict the import of diluted bitumen in a court reference case.

Financial Post gmorgan@nationalpost.com

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How the PM set his own pipeline trap

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Gwyn Morgan

Ad Value: \$9,971

Reach: 159480 Page: FP9

Canada is endowed with the third-largest oil reserves in the world, but a lack of access to world markets means our oil is sold far below world prices. Each day, this "captive-market discount" hands a \$40-million gift to Americans. Adding insult to injury, the discount also drives tens of billions of dollars in **Canadian** investments to American oilfields.

Now, after seven years and billions of dollars spent by proponents of three oilexport pipelines, hopes for revival of Canada's oil industry has come down to one extremely troubled project: the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. How could this possibly have happened? The answer lies in politically motivated decisions that progressively narrowed those three proposals to what was always the most fraught project. Here is a precis of what I'll call "the saga of the three pipelines."

Enbridge filed regulatory applications for a **Northern** Gateway pipeline to ship Alberta oil to the **North**-Pacific port of Kitimat in 2010. The Harper government's cabinet approved the project in 2014 after a thorough and intense **review** by the National **Energy** Board (NEB). However, in September 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau cancelled the project. "The Great Bear Rainforest is no place for a pipeline," said Trudeau. It mattered not that the so-called "Great Bear Rainforest" hadn't even been given that name until after the regulatory **review** (in 2016, it was still called the Central and **North Coast** Forest).

Some First Nation bands were pleased, but not those most affected by the loss of employment and financial benefits. Just weeks ago, the Lax Kw'alaams, representing nine First Nations tribes, filed a lawsuit claiming that the Great Bear Rainforest prohibition against development on their traditional lands shouldn't have been implemented without their consent. The tragic irony is that **Northern** Gateway could have been built by 2019. And it would have created jobs and economic benefits in a part of the province that desperately needs it, unlike Vancouver.

In 2014, TransCanada filed regulatory applications for the **Energy** East pipeline project to move Alberta oil to refineries in Montreal and New Brunswick, while providing vital access to Atlantic tidewater. The project would have replaced the hundreds of foreign-flagged oil tankers that sail up the **St. Lawrence** each year carrying half a million barrels per day to Montreal, and would use existing pipelines formerly carrying **natural gas**. The project had all the hallmarks of a win-win nation builder. But, in the face of strident opposition from politically influential Quebec, the Trudeau government imposed an "upstream emissions test" on **Energy** East, blatantly ignoring the emissions emanating from foreign oil suppliers and those hundreds of tankers carrying their oil. The government then required a restart of the entire NEB regulatory hearing process with newly appointed board members. Realizing that the Quebec votes were more important to the Trudeau government than their project, TransCanada abandoned the project after spending \$1 billion.

The Trudeau government's cynical and politically motivated elimination of **Northern** Gateway and **Energy** East left the Trans Mountain expansion as the lone route left to getting Alberta oil to tidewater. But it should have been perfectly clear that the project would face vastly more strident opposition than the other two projects.

Trudeau himself provided justification for that opposition during the federal election campaign. He had attacked the NEB as lacking "**public** trust" (a **regulator** that had served Liberal and Conservative governments with distinction

for decades), the same words that Trans Mountain opponents, including protesters chaining themselves to construction sites, now use to support their claims that NEB approval of the project was flawed.

After investing \$1 billion, Kinder Morgan suspended construction and set a firm deadline for project cancellation unless the conditions for completion are in place. Over the nine months since B.C.'s NDP government - controlled by the Green Party, thanks to a powersharing deal - vowed to use "all the tools in the tool box" to stop the Trans Mountain expansion, the prime minister and members of his cabinet have repeatedly stated the project "will be built." But no action was taken to make that happen. Now the saga of the three pipelines has exploded into a national emergency. The stakes are no longer just a crucial route to tidewater, but also a test of **Ottawa's** constitutional jurisdiction over nationally important projects, a destructive breakdown in relations between two provinces and very possibly a national unity crisis.

Having made the unfathomable decision to fly to South America and Europe as this crisis escalated, the PM eventually realized he must return to **Ottawa** to sit down with the premiers of Alberta and B.C. He arrived with the air of a white knight come to save the day, but it was already clear that there was no chance of changing B.C.'s avowed opposition. In reality, it was B.C. Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver, not Premier John Horgan, who should have been invited to the meeting with Trudeau and Notley since the very survival of B.C.'s NDP government is in his hands.

Now we await announcement of what actions the Trudeau government will take. Taxpayers should watch their wallets, as both the federal and Alberta governments are considering funding the \$7.4-billion project. That would be a lamentable but unsurprising chapter in a saga in which politics killed the first two pipelines. The killers will force us all to pay for their mistakes.

Gwyn Morgan is the retired founding CEO of EnCana Corp.

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Federal pipeline funding is a Band-Aid fix for a bigger problem

The Globe and Mail - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MARTHA HALL FINDLAY

Ad Value: \$19,437

Reach: 309154 Page: B4

President and CEO of the Canada **West** Foundation

The Kinder Morgan issue now drawing serious attention from the Prime Minister's office is about far more than a pipeline. The implications of the potential cancellation of the Trans Mountain expansion project (TMX) are far larger and more far-reaching than for one pipe, for the company Kinder Morgan or for the province of British Columbia or the province of Alberta. The implications are enormous for the country.

The cumulative effect of major project failures - **Northern** Gateway, **Energy** East, Petronas's cancellation of the Pacific NorthWest LNG megaproject - after billions of dollars spent, huge time and human resources wasted, is, as many commentators are now stressing, terrible for Canada's investment **climate**.

That many of these failures are seen as being due to political whims, and **rules** that change every time a government changes, is devastating. For a country dependent on investment, failure of TMX on top of these other failures would send a disastrous message about how competitive or attractive a place for investment Canada is.

However, a promise of financial support from the federal government is not the answer.

Sure, it might help keep Kinder Morgan building for now - which is important because we need the pipeline capacity and access to the ocean. Our oil sector, after all, provides jobs and economic prosperity for all Canadians.

But what does it do for the larger foreign-investment problem?

It only reinforces everyone's worry; it's an acknowledgment that we can't get anything built here. The **Canadian** government denied **Northern** Gateway - after years of time and money spent and concerted efforts to meet the many conditions imposed on the project to address Indigenous and environmental issues.

The **Canadian** government encouraged the cancellation of the TransCanada **Energy** East project by moving the regulatory goalposts midstream - the last straw of many regulatory hurdles - again, after significant investment in time and money.

Offering financial help to Kinder Morgan will not calm the fears of other potential investors.

Such reactive behaviour, under political pressure, will only show Canada to be a place where we don't know what we're doing.

The shareholders of Kinder Morgan are justifiably worried about their money because this project has already taken far more time and treasure than anyone anticipated.

But of Kinder Morgan's two requirements to be met before May 31, the first is that they be assured that the project will be built. This is key. Only the second is "protection" for their shareholders.

If the first part of the ultimatum is met - assurance that the project will be built - then the shareholders will be kept whole, solving the second requirement.

So why are we also offering **Canadian** taxpayer funding, or potential funding by loan guarantees?

We didn't give the proponents compensation when Canada denied the previously approved **Northern** Gateway. We didn't offer financial help to get **Energy** East built. And where was the **Canadian** government when Petronas decided to pull out of their LNG project? Money to "help" Kinder Morgan's shareholders is a short-term Band-Aid answer to a much more fundamental problem that we are not addressing.

Key, either way, is assurance that TMX will happen. The big question is: How?

Some argue that the federal declaratory **power** under Section 92(10)(c) of the Constitution is redundant, because TMX crosses provinces and is already recognized as a federal undertaking.

But British Columbia Premier John Horgan isn't letting that stop him. Some issues have shared constitutional jurisdiction, such as the environment, which is where Mr. Horgan is now hanging his hat (after a legal opinion reinforcing that he didn't have the constitutional jurisdiction to stop the project outright).

But we do have a precedent that may be useful: The federal government's declaratory **power** was enshrined in the Atomic **Energy** Control Act (now the Nuclear Safety and Control Act), and was upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada in 1993. The clause (as it was at the time) said that "All works and undertakings constructed (a) for the production, use and **application** of **nuclear**

energy; (b) for research or investigation with respect to **nuclear energy**; and (c) for the production, refining or treatment of nuclear substances are, and each of them is declared to be, works or a work for the general advantage of Canada." The Supreme Court held that this meant that federal, not **Ontario** provincial labour **rules** would apply to the project in question.

Labour relations can be just as sensitive a federal/provincial subject as education, health care and, yes, the environment.

Armed with that Supreme Court decision, a majority government and Opposition Conservatives who want this pipeline built, here is an idea: Propose rush legislation - say, the "**Energy Transportation Act**," which enshrines that the **transportation** of **energy** across provinces is "for the general advantage of Canada." Make clear that where there may be overlapping jurisdictions on some issues (such as the environment, labour relations), federal jurisdiction governs.

This may not prevent Mr. Horgan from threatening continued blockages, but those threats would be much less effective with a clearer legal landscape.

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U.S.-bound pipeline looks more likely; Trans Mountain in doubt

National Post - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ian Bickis

Ad Value: \$9,786

Reach: 159480 Page: FP1 / Front

After nearly a decade since the last major oil pipeline was built, and with existing ones brimming with crude, Canada's **energy** industry is wondering when and if any new lifelines to foreign markets will go into the ground. Those concerns were heightened last week after Kinder Morgan effectively put its Trans Mountain expansion project on hold until it can be assured British Columbia won't continue trying to block the pipeline.

At a crucial meeting in **Ottawa** on the weekend with the premiers of Alberta and B.C., Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was going to dispatch his finance minister to find a financial arrangement with pipeline builder Kinder Morgan to overcome investor jitters.

But as Trans Mountain's fate was put in jeopardy after the B.C. NDP's election win, pipelines heading south to the U.S. have been propped up by the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, who has tied himself closely to the oil and **gas** industry.

Both TransCanada's Keystone XL - which will run from Hardisty, Alta., to Steele City, N.B. - and Enbridge's Line 3 - which links Hardisty to Superior, WI - should avoid the political pitfalls that have sunk **Energy** East and **Northern** Gateway and have put Trans Mountain in doubt, said Zachary Rogers, research analyst at Wood Mackenzie.

"While there certainly is risk, and nothing is 100 per cent certain ... Line 3 and Keystone XL are likely to proceed," Rogers said in an interview.

Energy East, which would have delivered bitumen from the oilpatch to Eastern Canada, was cancelled by TransCanada Corp. in October 2017 after strong opposition from municipalities and Indigenous groups.

Northern Gateway would have sent bitumen from Bruderheim, Alta., to Kitimat, B.C., for **transportation** to Asian markets.

It too faced strong opposition, and was rejected by Trudeau in 2016.

Trump's issuing of a presidential permit for Keystone XL revived a pipeline that had become a galvanizing symbol in the battle against **climate** change and the **carbon footprint** of oilsands production that ultimately led then-President Barack Obama to deem the project as not in America's best interest in 2015.

But with state approval in Nebraska following Trump's permission, Rogers now ranks the 830,000 barrel a day pipeline as the most likely to go forward.

"There are some difficulties obviously, on the regulatory front, but Keystone XL has largely cleared its last major regulatory hurdle at the end of last year," he said.

Those difficulties include landowner permissions and local permitting, as well as court challenges in Nebraska from some of the many groups still opposed to it, but overall the regulators involved look to be on board, said Rogers.

"The Supreme Court of Nebraska and the State Legislature and the Nebraska **Public Service** Commission have all repeatedly been in support of the project. So we view the regulatory risk on Keystone XL as relatively low compared to Trans Mountain."

Meanwhile, Enbridge's Line 3 project, which aims to replace its aging pipe with a more robust new one, has run into its own opposition as environmental and Indigenous groups look to stop any pipelines that would allow or encourage more oilsands growth.

Replacing Line 3 would allow the company to restore the original 760,000 barrel a day capacity, adding about 375,000 barrels of shipping capacity because of current pressure restrictions on the line.

The regulatory process for the line has taken longer than expected as regulators in Minnesota take a closer look at the project's necessity and safety details, but the company should have a final decision from the state in June.

The progress on pipelines to the U.S. is encouraging, but producers need access to new markets and predictability in building projects after several failed attempts, said **Canadian Energy** Pipeline Association president Chris Bloomer.

"We really are at a crossroads as to how we go forward as a country ... What we're looking for from the federal government is leadership, concrete direction as to where this is going."

He said the U.S. administration has a clear vision on pipelines and the **energy** sector, and that the series of failed pipelines has hurt investment in Canada.

"We've had the investment fleeing the **energy** sector in Canada for quite a while, given the uncertainty and the regulatory process. Since **Energy** East and the **Northern** Gateway pipeline, that's been an ongoing situation, but maybe the situation with regards to the Kinder Morgan situation has kind of put an exclamation point on that," said Bloomer.

However, U.S. pipelines are not without their foes, as the massive protests against **Energy** Transfer Partners' Dakota Access pipeline demonstrated in 2016.

Already groups like the Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion and others who oppose the industry have said they're preparing to hinder development of the pipelines heading to U.S. markets.

Greenpeace campaigner Keith Stewart said both pipelines can expect continued resistance on all fronts, on both sides of the border.

"Kinder Morgan is not alone in facing a sea of troubles, as all three pipelines are facing stiff resistance on the ground and in the courts.

"This is because there's simply no role for these kinds of new fossil fuel megaprojects that lock us into a high-carbon, highrisk economic model if we are serious about dealing with our **climate** crisis or respecting Indigenous rights."

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Fidelity Likes CP Rail for Crude Opportunity Amid Pipeline Spat - Bloomberg

www.bloomberg.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A C\$6.9 billion (\$5.5 billion) Fidelity Investments fund is adding to its position in Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. as a pipeline spat increases the likelihood that energy companies will need rail to get their oil to market.

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B.C. rejects Trudeau's claim it's been silent on Trans Mountain demands | National | chroniclejournal.com

www.chroniclejournal.com - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The British Columbia government is denying Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claim that it has been mum on how Ottawa should reinforce environmental protections — and offering as proof a detailed list of six demands it says were provided to the federal government in February.

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First Nations Leaders Pledge to Block Pipeline Expansion - The Bullet

socialistproject.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

At the 2015 Paris COP 21 climate conference Justin Trudeau pledged his newly-elected government would help "to limit global average temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius as well as pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees."

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Don't Take the Bait: Kinder Morgan Is Playing Canada | The Tyee

thetyee.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Here's a different take on Kinder Morgan's ultimatum and the so-called "constitutional crisis" it has sparked.

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Government 's pipeline stance ignores rural B.C. - Trail Daily Times

www.trailtimes.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

After reading Katrine Conroy's view on the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion ("NDP MLA weighs in on Kinder Morgan pipeline dispute," Trail Times April 12) there is a point or two that needs correcting.

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BONOKOSKI: First Trans Mountain, then the resurrection of Energy East | Calgary Sun

calgarysun.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

It is time to reopen the debate on the Energy East pipeline.

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New law would allow Alberta to restrict flow of oil and gas | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Alberta has granted sweeping new powers to its energy minister, including the ability to cut off all exports of oil, natural gas and refined fuels, as the province escalates its trade war with British Columbia.

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'We have to go to carbon-free electricity': James Hansen on how world leaders can effectively take on climate change - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

In the 1970s, James Hansen was a NASA scientist working on a mission to study Venus when he became curious about the changing composition of Earth's atmosphere. By 1981, that curiosity led to some of the first scientific work to show the effect of carbon emissions on climate.

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Federal funding for Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is a Band-Aid fix to a much bigger problem - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The Kinder Morgan issue now drawing serious attention from the Prime Minister's office is about far more than a pipeline. The implications of the potential cancellation of the Trans Mountain expansion project (TMX) are far larger and more far-reaching than for one pipe, for the company Kinder Morgan or for the province of British Columbia or the province of Alberta.

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Toronto Hydro suffers severe damage, but crews make quick repairs after ice and windstorm hits

www.newswire.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Toronto Hydro's electrical grid was hammered by Mother Nature late Sunday evening and into Monday morning, but thanks to fast work by crews, the large majority of outages were restored within a matter of hours.

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Taxing the rich, cutting hydro rates, cash for hospitals among Ontario NDP plans - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario's NDP want to hike taxes on the rich and large corporations in order to spend big on hospitals, child care and tuition.

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Trudeau ready to offer financial backing to Trans Mountain Pipeline | Finance | Business Chief Canada

canada.businesschief.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged financial support to Kinder Morgan to ensure that the construction of its Trans Mountain Pipeline project continues.

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The Drilldown: Feds to take financial, legislative steps on Trans Mountain - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Sunday that he has instructed Bill Morneau to engage Kinder Morgan in "formal financial discussions" in an effort to get the Trans Mountain expansion built.

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Will the vehicles of the future be powered by electricity or hydrogen? - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

They're both in their electric youth, relatively speaking, but the ultimate winner in the race between hydrogen and battery electric will likely be both.

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Bruce Power signs \$1 million agreement to further Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) research

Shoreline Beacon - Tue Apr 17 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$538

Reach: 3769 Page: A14

Bruce **Power**, MIRARCO Mining Innovation and Laurentian University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will enhance strategic research opportunities, including the long-term potential for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to generate clean, low-cost and reliable **electricity** in rural/remote regions.

The five-year, \$1 million research agreement will create an Industrial Chair position at MIRARCO Mining Innovation, which will further highlight opportunities in sustainable and clean **energy** solutions in **Ontario's north**, bringing an enhanced perspective to the university's current research.

MIRARCO Mining Innovations is currently working with Laurentian on sustainable **energy** solutions in mining and remote communities.

"The chair position will allow MIRARCO to further explore the use of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) **application** to remote mining operations," said Vic Pakalnis, P.Eng., President/CEO MIRARCO Mining Innovation and the Associate Vice-President of Laurentian Mining Innovation and Technology.

"By welcoming Bruce **Power** into the fold, it will support increased research mining safety and align further research with Laurentian Mining Innovation and Technology, allowing for dedicated time to foster research excellence. **Northern Ontario** will benefit from this strategic investment by the capacity to recruit a chair of high calibre, who is internationally renowned in the field of sustainable **energy** solutions."

Mike Rencheck, Bruce **Power's** President and CEO, said the company has great interest in the developing field of SMRs and is participating in the Natural Resources Canada efforts to create an 'SMR roadmap' for deployment of new, longterm, clean **energy** supply options.

These clean, low-cost, innovative nuclear technologies could play a role in safely powering the most remote **northern** communities that don't have adequate **electrical** grid infrastructure, he added.

"Right now, some of the most remote **northern** communities are serviced by diesel generators and other unsustainable methods that could be replaced by Small Modular Reactors, or other low-carbon **energy** sources," Rencheck said. "Bruce **Power** wants to be at the forefront of nuclear **power's** future, and, by joining forces with the sustainable **energy** research community, we can help to guide and focus their efforts as SMRs become a viable option for these communities."

This collaboration is a continuation of the work Bruce **Power** has already been doing in the area, when it committed \$5 million in funding in 2016 to the **Northern Ontario** School of Medicine (NOSM) to conduct health research, specifically in relation to radiation and the environment, Rencheck added.

Glenn Thibeault, **Minister of Energy** and MPP for **Sudbury**, said this is a tremendous opportunity for MIR-ARCO Mining Innovation, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary on April 6.

"**Ontario** has been and continues to be a leader when it comes to clean and sustainable **energy**," said the **Minister of Energy** and MPP for **Sudbury**. "Investing in research for sustainable and low-carbon **energy** sources right here in **Sudbury**, is a key part of our commitment to securing a clean **energy** future in remote **Northern Ontario** communities."

Marc Serre, MP for Nickel Belt, said he appreciates Bruce **Power**'s continued investment in research in **northern Ontario**.

"Bruce **Power** provides 30 per cent of **Ontario's electricity** while generating zero carbon emissions," MP Serre said. "Unfortunately, some of our most remote **northern** communities do not have the **electricity** grid infrastructure to take advantage of low-carbon **energy**, and instead rely on diesel to **power** their lives. By advancing research and investing in **Ontario's north**, we can continue to decarbonize **Ontario's electricity** system."

Paul Lefebvre, Member of Parliament for **Sudbury**, said this collaboration will benefit the people and economy of **Northern Ontario**.

"This cooperation agreement is an important step for **Northern Ontario** as we work together to tackle the challenges of **climate** change and take a leadership role in the low-carbon economy," MP Lefebvre said. "It will help ensure our industries remain at the forefront of innovation and sustainability."

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