Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: April 18, 2018 7:53 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, April 18, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 24 Results

Reports probes hydro price hikes

Ottawa Sun - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Elmira Aliakbari, Ashley Stedman And Kenneth Green

Ad Value: $1,710
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A9

Before something can be fixed, one must understand how it got broken. Researchers at the Fraser Institute have spent more than a decade looking at exactly that question regarding Ontario electricity markets. Here's what we ...

BlackburnNews.com - South Bruce Natural Gas Project Moves Forward

blackburnnews.com - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

Natural gas is coming to three Bruce County municipalities. EPCOR will be delivering the service to Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss. An official announcement of the project was made in Kincardine Tuesday afternoon at the Davidson ...

Hydro costs promote wiser use of energy

Sudbury Star - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Carole Lavallee

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Re: "Time to get rid of Wynne, Thibeault," April 15. Mr. Johnston is best to stick with facts rather than campaign sloganeering. In her current report Making Connections, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario clarifies how Ontario's ...

Canadian emissions creep lower in 2016 but doubts remain over hitting Paris targets | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
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Canada's latest greenhouse gas inventory report to the United Nations shows emissions are starting to trend downward, but not nearly at the rate needed to meet the country's international commitments under the Paris climate change accord.

Backward campaign now a referendum on Ford's vague platform

Toronto Star - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Byline: Thomas Walkom Toronto Star

Ad Value: $12,691
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A11

This year's Ontario election campaign is weird. It began as a referendum on Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne. It is fast becoming a referendum on Progressive Conservative would-be premier Doug Ford. In effect, Wynne and New Democratic ...

Ford wants private audit; Says province deserves answers on Wynne government's waste

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Ontario NDP bets on itself

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $8,312
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A14

Now that's an NDP election platform. The Ontario NDP, struggling to compete for voters with the poll-leading Progressive Conservatives, and threatened by the leftward drift of the Liberals, has made the risky decision to just go ahead ...

Poor policies largely to blame for Ontario's electricity prices: Fraser | Electrical Business

www.ebmag.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
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Poor energy policy choices—including Ontario's Green Energy Act—have increased electricity prices for residents, cost tens of thousands of manufacturing workers their jobs and produced only minimal health and environmental benefits, according ...

The motivating factors behind our pipeline crisis

Toronto Sun - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Byline: Lorne Gunter

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Reach: 171076 **Page:** A17

Canada is in the middle of a pipeline crisis because three of the four main actors in this drama need a pipeline but don't want one. Meanwhile, the fourth actor wants one but doesn't really need it. The three politicians in this circus - Alberta ...

Quebec's anti-pipeline talk belies its oil addiction

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard chose Tuesday to announce his goal of reducing oil consumption in the province's **transportation** sector by 40 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030. But coming just ...

Hey Canada, wanna buy a pipeline?

National Post - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jack M. Mintz

Ad Value: $8,456
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Desperate times require desperate measures. In the standoff between B.C. and Alberta over the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the federal government is caught in the middle, trying to salvage its approved project that is about to collapse and ...

"Last Word"

CTV NEWS CHANNEL - POWER PLAY WITH DON MARTIN - Thu Apr 12 2018, 5:00pm ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: DON MARTIN

DON MARTIN: Now it's time for the "Last Word". You need a double helix wrapping of Alberta DNA to appreciate the visceral anger raging against British

Columbia for its legally suspect Trans Mountain pipeline stalling tactics. After living there for ...

Pipelines versus reality

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Cathy Orlando,

Ad Value: $305
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

Re: Trudeau's in trouble in battle over pipeline The trouble over the Kinder Morgan pipeline is that some people refuse to face reality. Three weeks ago, all the auditor generals in Canada told us we were not going to meet our **climate** ...

‘Flawed from the get-go’: In pipeline feud, National Energy Board process questioned | The Star

www.thestar.com - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is “lying in the bed he made” in the national feud over Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the City of Burnaby’s lawyer says.

I should have been praying for pipelines

www.estevanmercury.ca - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

It was Sunday morning. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had just met with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and British Columbia Premier John Horgan, laying down the line for Horgan that this pipeline will be built.

Federal bill could stymie future pipelines - St. Albert Gazette

www.stalbertgazette.com - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The naughty-minded among us may have become momentarily excited on hearing a proposed piece of federal legislation named Bill C-69 would take into account the intersection of sex and gender.

EDITORIAL: It pays to look both ways when it comes to pipeline politics | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Justin Trudeau's pipeline summit — the weekend swoop of shuttle diplomacy to sort out the Trans Mountain Pipeline feud between B.C. and Alberta — was certainly a bust.

B.C.'s attorney general calls Alberta fuel-restriction bill a 'bluff' - CityNews Toronto

toronto.citynews.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
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British Columbia's attorney general says Alberta's proposed fuel restriction law is a politically motivated "bluff" that will result in an immediate lawsuit from his province and likely lawsuits from oil companies.

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As an oil-producing country, Canada is sure messed up - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
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"It is in this realm where Trudeau has by far the most to lose. Imagine the political implications for a Prime Minister who speaks the righteous language of Indigenous reconciliation—who has Haida art tattooed on his left bicep—overseeing ...

GUNTER: The motivating factors behind our pipeline crisis | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
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Canada is in the middle of a pipeline crisis because three of the four main actors in this drama need a pipeline but don't want one. Meanwhile, the fourth actor wants one but doesn't really need it.

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Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard chose Tuesday to announce his goal of reducing oil consumption in the province’s transportation sector by 40 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030.

Gwyn Morgan: Trudeau’s cynical politics caught him in his own Trans Mountain trap | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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Energy East is mentioned.

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.

Oil and water don’t mix. Nor do pipelines and climate protection | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The conflict around the construction of Kinder Morgan’s proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is much more than a spat between two provincial governments. It cannot be reduced to a battle of jurisdiction between Ottawa and Victoria either. ...

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Full Articles

Reports probes hydro price hikes

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Before something can be fixed, one must understand how it got broken. Researchers at the Fraser Institute have spent more than a decade looking at exactly that question regarding Ontario electricity markets. Here's what we found.

Ontario's power troubles began after the provincial government began phasingout coal power generation in 2005. But electricity prices really took off in 2009 when the government launched its Green Energy Act, which features a program to provide long-term guaranteed contracts to generators with renewable sources (wind, solar, etc.) at a fixed, abovemarket price.

To pay for those commitments, and to cover the cost of conservation programs in the act, Ontario levied a new surcharge on electricity called the "Global Adjustment (GA)."

Between 2008 and 2016, the GA grew more than 70%, causing a drastic increase in electricity prices. The high cost associated with aggressively promoting renewable sources is particularly troubling given the relatively small amount of electricity generated by these sources. In 2016, renewable sources generated less than 7% of electricity in Ontario while accounting for almost 30% of the GA.

The Ontario government tried to justify the coal phaseout with claims that it would yield large environmental and health benefits by reducing conventional air pollution (cutting greenhouse gas emissions was not the original rationale for the act). But subsequent research showed that shuttering these coal power plants had very little effect on air pollution. In fact, had the province simply continued with retrofits to the coal plants then underway, the environmental benefits of the shift to renewables could have been achieved at 10% of the cost.

Rising costs in Ontario are partly due to imbalances between supply and demand of electricity. Between 2005 and 2015, the province increased its renewable capacity to facilitate the coal phase-out. However, since renewable sources are not as reliable as traditional sources, the government contracted for more (and more expensive) natural gas capacity as a backup.

Meanwhile, the demand for electricity declined, partly due to rising electricity costs. The increase in the total installed capacity, coupled with lower electricity demand, has resulted in excess production being exported to other jurisdictions (including some U.S. states) at a significant loss.

So what's been the result of all this "green" policy? Ontario now has the fastestgrowing electricity costs in Canada and among the highest in North America. And those rising costs are hitting average Ontarians in the wallet. Between 2008 and 2016, Ontario's residential electricity costs increased by 71%, far outpacing the 34% average growth nationwide. Consequently, in 2016, Toronto residents paid $60 more per month than the average Canadian for electricity.

Ontario's skyrocketing electricity rates also hit the province's industrial sector. Between 2010 and 2016, large industrial users in Toronto and Ottawa experienced cost spikes of 53% and 46%, respectively, compared to a 14% average increase for the rest of Canada. In 2016, large industrial users in Toronto paid almost three times more than consumers in Montreal and Calgary and almost twice the prices paid by large consumers in Vancouver.

While some select large industrial consumers received rate reductions, they still paid higher rates compared to large electricity users in Quebec, Alberta and B.C.

The result? Thanks to rising costs and diminished competiveness, compared to multiple comparable American and Canadian jurisdictions, Ontario has seen the steepest decline in its manufacturing sector over the past decade. Astonishingly, Ontario's high electricity prices are responsible for approximately 75,000 job losses in the manufacturing sector from 2008 to 2015.

So, now that we know how things were broken, it's time to start fixing them. So far, the Wynne government has mostly employed sleight of hand to hide electricity costs from consumers and shift costs to future generations.

But given the critically important role affordable reliable energy plays in economic growth and prosperity, Queen's Park must get serious and pursue meaningful policy reforms aimed at lowering electricity costs for all Ontarians.

Aliakbari, Stedman and Green are researchers at The Fraser Institute

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BlackburnNews.com - South Bruce Natural Gas Project Moves Forward

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Hydro costs promote wiser use of energy

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Re: "Time to get rid of Wynne, Thibeault," April 15. Mr. Johnston is best to stick with facts rather than campaign sloganeering.

In her current report Making Connections, the Environmental Commissioner of **Ontario** clarifies how **Ontario**'s **electricity** system has changed in the last 13 years. In terms of **rates**, **Ontario**'s **electricity** **rates** have risen sharply since 2005. There are multiple reasons for this.

They dropped again following the introduction of the **Fair** **Hydro** **Plan**, partly because some **electricity** system costs are paid for through taxes, and some have been deferred until later. **Rates** are higher than in many **Canadian** and U.S. jurisdictions, but below several higher-cost **North** American locations, and most of Europe.

Average **Ontario** home **energy** costs are middle of the pack.

Why? This is due to higher-than-average use of low-cost **natural gas** for home heating, a trend that has steadily increased since 2006. It is important to note an important exception to this average: Ontarians dependent on **electric** resistance for home heating.

High **electricity** costs provide an incentive to reduce the use of **electricity**.

Carole Lavallee

Chelmsford

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Canadian emissions creep lower in 2016 but doubts remain over hitting Paris targets | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Canada's latest greenhouse gas inventory report to the United Nations shows emissions are starting to trend downward, but not nearly at the rate needed to meet the country's international commitments under the Paris climate change accord.

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Backward campaign now a referendum on Ford's vague platform

Toronto Star - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Byline: Thomas Walkom Toronto Star

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Reach: 361323 **Page:** A11

This year's Ontario election campaign is weird. It began as a referendum on Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne. It is fast becoming a referendum on Progressive Conservative would-be premier Doug Ford.

In effect, Wynne and New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath are vying with one another as to who can be the best anti-Ford.

Usually, incumbent governments run on their records and opposition parties run against them. But in this campaign, even Wynne is running against much of her own record.

She spent the last four years cutting back the growth in health-care spending so her government could balance the province's books. Now, she has effectively admitted that this was a massive mistake and is promising billions in new health-care spending and a return to fiscal deficits.

The old Kathleen Wynne privatized Hydro One, in part to reduce the size of government. The new Kathleen Wynne likes nothing better than big government. She has implemented limited pharmacare and is promising limited child care and denticare.

Initially, this was a strategy designed simply to attract left-leaning voters from the NDP. But with polls consistently showing Ford in the lead, it has morphed into a strategy aimed directly at the PC chief.

Wynne has accused Ford of wanting to take a bulldozer to the province.

"This election will come down to the clearest, starkest choice in this province's history," she told a business audience late last month. "It's a choice between care and cuts."

That sentiment was echoed by Horwath this week, who warned voters that simply replacing Wynne with Ford would be going "from bad to worse."

In their efforts to portray themselves as the best alternative to Ford, Wynne and Horwath are plowing much of the same ground.

Both promise some form of rudimentary denticare.

The NDP would introduce a limited version of universal pharmacare. The Liberals have already brought in full pharmacare for those under 25 and are promising to eliminate the drug co-payments and user fees now charged to seniors.

The NDP would bring in universal child care paid for, in part, by user fees geared to income. The Liberals, too, have a daycare plan. It would be free but would cover only those children 21/2 years and older - and then only until they reach junior kindergarten.

The Liberals have introduced a plan to lower electricity bills, in part by engaging in a financial sleight of hand. The NDP would eliminate the sleight of hand but reduce electricity bills, too, through methods that are not entirely explained and, in its just-released platform, not at all costed.

So far, the centrepiece of Ford's electricity plan is his promise to fire the head of Hydro One, on the grounds that he makes too much money. Because of contractual obligations, this would cost more than it saved. But unlike the NDP and Liberal hydro plans, it has the virtue of being easily understood.

Indeed, one of the difficulties the anti-Fords face is that the PC leader has been deliberately vague about what he might do. In particular, he has been coy about where his promised $6 billion in spending cuts will come from.

But when he does pronounce, he is clear - as in his promise this week to eliminate the provincial income tax for those making minimum wage.

This particular pledge may not be that meaningful. Once the usual deductions are taken into account, many low-wage workers are already exempt from paying income tax.

But politically, it is an inspired move. It signals that while Ford is opposed to raising the minimum wage, he is not opposed to minimum-wage workers.

It is also brutally simple.

And as his two rivals spar over which detailed and fully costed party platform is best able to take him on, it may prove disturbingly effective.

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Ford wants private audit; Says province deserves answers on Wynne government's waste

Ottawa Sun - Wed Apr 18 2018
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Byline: Antonella Artuso

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An Ontario Progressive Conservative government would bring in an outside auditor to determine if the Kathleen Wynne Liberals were cooking the books, Tory leader Doug Ford says.

During a swing through eastern Ontario Tuesday, Ford said the Liberals have been found in violation of ethical standards, noting the recent conviction and jail sentence handed to former chief of staff David Livingston for destroying public records.

"If Kathleen Wynne tried to pull these kinds of shady tricks in private life, then there would be a few more Liberals joining David (Livingston) in jail," Ford said.

"Ontario deserves answers about how big Kathleen Wynne's mess really is."

Livingston is appealing his conviction and sentence which flow out of the $1-billion cancelled gas plants scandal.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk has also found numerous examples of wasteful spending by the provincial Liberals, Ford said.

"It's time to find out who is getting rich off your tax dollars and how big Kathleen Wynne's deficit really is," Ford said in a statement.

Ontario has two fiscal watchdogs that provide oversight of government spending - the auditor general and the financial accountability officer.

Lysyk has criticized the Wynne government's accounting methods, and it's not been publicly revealed whether she will sign off on the pre-election books.

When asked about the cost, the Ford campaign said the current government spends millions of dollars on outside consultants and it intends to spend less.

The intention is to award the contract through an open and transparent tender process, the campaign said.

Andrea Ernesaks, a spokesman for Premier Kathleen Wynne, said Ford brought in outside auditors during his time on Toronto council at a cost of millions of dollars.

"After the audit, Mr. Ford was quick to start identifying areas to cut, using the external consultants as political cover," she said. "Doug Ford refuses to provide a costed platform, and he won't tell Ontarians what his plans are or where the cuts will be made. Now we know that he's going to hire a firm to find 4% in across-the-board cuts."

Former mayor Rob Ford, with brother Doug, campaigned on a promise to end the "Gravy Train" at City Hall, and commissioned a core service review that reported in 2011 on possible efficiencies and savings.
aartuso@postmedia.com

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Ontario NDP bets on itself

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $8,312
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A14

Now that's an NDP election platform.

The Ontario NDP, struggling to compete for voters with the poll-leading Progressive Conservatives, and threatened by the leftward drift of the Liberals, has made the risky decision to just go ahead and be itself.

Its platform, released Monday, is not some centrist document aimed at easing the minds of undecided voters. And it is not the weak tea of Premier Kathleen Wynne, who has spent the last two years doing her best impression of an NDP leader in an effort to protect her party's left flank.

No, this is full-on, unapologetic NDP. An Ontario government led by Andrea Horwath would spend billions on new or expanded social programs, most notably free dental care and pharmacare for all, and subsidized public daycare that would be free for families earning less that $40,000 per year.

Provincial university loans would be turned into non-repayable grants, and the government would forgive the interest on outstanding student debts.

An NDP government would also re-nationalize Hydro One, and fund 50 per cent of net municipal transit costs. The minimum wage would rise to $15 per hour and be indexed thereafter, and employers would be obliged to give employees three weeks of annual holiday, instead of two.

In doing all this and much more, the NDP would run deficits rising to $5.1-billion in 2020, but reduce the shortfall in the years after. To increase revenues, it would raise taxes on the rich (by one percentage point on earnings over

$220,000 and by two points on earnings over $300,000) and increase the corporate tax **rate** to 13 per cent, up from 11.5.

Even if businesses benefit from healthier workers who have affordable daycare, this is not a platform for **Bay** Street, or for this page. It would hurt **Ontario**'s competitiveness and continue its spiral into deeper debt.

But it is true to what the NDP stands for. In an election featuring a scandal-ridden governing party that is spending billions of borrowed dollars on new programs in a blatant effort to save itself, and a PC Party that was taken over in a moment of crisis by a populist sloganeer, Ms. Horwath is gambling that there is merit in sticking to your principles.

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Poor policies largely to blame for Ontario's electricity prices: Fraser | Electrical Business

www.ebmag.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
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Poor energy policy choices—including Ontario's Green Energy Act—have increased electricity prices for residents, cost tens of thousands of manufacturing workers their jobs and produced only minimal health and environmental benefits, according to a new collection of essays published by the Fraser Institute.

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The motivating factors behind our pipeline crisis

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Canada is in the middle of a pipeline crisis because three of the four main actors in this drama need a pipeline but don't want one. Meanwhile, the fourth actor wants one but doesn't really need it.

The three politicians in this circus - Alberta NDP Premier Rachel Notley, Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and B.C. NDP Premier John Horgan - are all "greenies" and would rather Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain expansion not be built for environmental reasons.

Yet for one reason or another, all three of them need Trans Mountain (even though Horgan won't admit his need publicly yet).

Notley and Trudeau want Trans Mountain the least. They have drunk the "green" Kool-Aid and truly think our atmosphere is going to hell in a pipeline. They are committed to the notion that Canada can (and should) end the use of fossil **fuels**.

The only reason Notley and Trudeau are now defending Trans Mountain is that both need it for fiscal and political reasons.

Notley clings to the hope that if she can get a pipeline well underway before next spring's provincial election, she will be able to convince enough Alberta voters to stop hating her government enough that her NDP can sneak a second term.

She also knows there is no way Alberta's budget will ever be balanced again without the revenues associated with at least one pipeline. All the **wind** turbines and **solar** farms in the country can't replace the revenues from oil and **gas**.

Moreover, Notley bet the house on "social licence" - the theory that if Alberta self-inflicted enough economic pain in the name of the environment, other provinces and eco-protestors would welcome our pipelines.

Of course, social licence hasn't worked because it was never going to work.

For instance, Notley was so confident in her airy-fairy theory that she gave Quebec a veto over **Energy** East: Don't like our **climate plan**? Don't take our pipeline! So, of course, because the Quebec government never wanted the pipeline for political reasons, they were only too happy to help kill **Energy** East by insisting the eco **plan** didn't go far enough.

So now, for political and budgetary reasons, Notley absolutely must produce a completed Trans Mountain.

Like Notley, Trudeau needs pipeline revenues to rebalance his government's budget.

And since Trudeau and his government created environmental **rules** that made it impossible for other pipelines to go ahead - such as **Northern** Gateway and **Energy** East - Trudeau's pipeline eggs are now all in Kinder Morgan's basket, too.

Ironically, of the three, Horgan is perhaps the most pro-development (or maybe that should be the least anti-development). Still, he is forced to be the most vocal opponent because the British Columbians most likely to vote NDP are also those most against Kinder Morgan. More importantly, his governing coalition is being held in **power** by three Green MLAs who would likely abandon him and force an election if he allowed Trans Mountain.

But consider this: The Horgan government needs resource revenues, too. And it knows B.C. voters like LNG (liquified **natural gas**). So when it is ready for another election, the B.C. NDP will likely approve LNG, triggering the Greens to bring the government down.

And that brings us to why Horgan could end up needing Trans Mountain as much as Notley and Trudeau. The feds could withhold federal approval of LNG until Horgan permits a pipeline to be built across B.C. And since Trans Mountain is the only pipeline still out there ... Kinder Morgan, of course, is the one player that truly wants Trans Mountain. But it has signalled it may no longer need it and will walk away. Which is why two of the actors who need the pipeline for political reasons are talking about buying Trans Mountain They'll use our tax dollars to enhance their political fortunes. lgunter@postmedia.com @sunlornegunter

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Quebec's anti-pipeline talk belies its oil addiction

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Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard chose Tuesday to announce his goal of reducing oil consumption in the province's **transportation** sector by 40 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030. But coming just after his **Canadian** Affairs Minister JeanMarc Fournier lambasted **Ottawa** for pulling rank over British Columbia on the Trans Mountain pipeline, it looked like just another virtue-signalling assertion by Quebec on the environment file.

There is basically no likelihood that the target set by Mr. Couillard on Tuesday could be met without slapping punitive taxes on the gas-guzzling SUVs and trucks that Quebeckers have been buying in ever greater proportion in recent years. But the Liberal Premier has already rejected any such measure. In his own forestry-dependent Roberval riding, Mr. Couillard noted recently that "those people get around in pickups." Indeed, almost 60 per cent of the record 469,000 new vehicles sold in Quebec in 2017 were in the light-truck category that includes sports utility vehicles and pick-ups. That is up from about 40 per cent of the 419,000 new vehicles sold in the province in 2013.

The number of personal vehicles in the province has grown at three times the rate of the population since 1990 and electric cars still amount to a rounding error among the nearly five million vehicles on Quebec's roads.

Of course, this is an election year in Quebec, so politicians of all stripes are falling all over themselves to 1) insist Quebec alone should be able to decide the fate of energy and infrastructure projects in the province; and 2) establish their green credentials.

For the opposition Parti Quebecois, this means insisting Quebec become an independent country to prevent Ottawa from imposing its will on the province.

For Mr. Couillard's federalist Liberals, it means demanding that Ottawa transfer full authority to Quebec for approving pipelines and ports on its territory.

Still, pro-independence or not, no party has a credible plan for weaning Quebec off oil. Indeed, the province's overall consumption of the commodity once known as black gold, but now mostly denounced for its role in global warming, has been growing. And almost all of it arrives by pipeline or tanker to supply the province's two refineries.

For the nearly two decades until 2016, almost all of the oil Quebec consumed came from overseas producers. In 2010, imported crude accounted for 85 per cent of the oil used in the province, and less than 1 per cent of foreign oil came from the United States.

Domestic oil from Atlantic Canada made up 15 per cent of consumption. Algeria, a North African nation hardly known as a model of democracy, was the main source of oil used in Quebec for several years running.

Everything changed last year with the reversal of Enbridge's 9B pipeline. Not only did oil imports drop 26 per cent from 2016 as the pipeline reversal allowed Alberta oil to flow to Montreal, but the United States displaced Algeria as the main source of foreign oil, accounting for two-thirds of the 158,000 barrels a day the province imported in 2017, according to National Energy Board statistics.

"With the reversal of Line 9 and more rail capacity, Quebec refineries now process some western Canadian crude oil and are less exposed to international crude oil market fluctuations," the NEB said in a report last week. "U.S. imports have grown with the reversal of Line 9B." While Quebec's refineries do not disclose the sources of the oil they use, most of it now consists of conventional light crude from Alberta and shale oil from the United States. But Line 9B alone, with a capacity of 300,000 b/d, cannot supply Quebec with all of the oil it needs. The rest comes directly by oil tanker or via the 45,000-b/d Portland-Montreal pipeline that ships Eastern Canadian and foreign oil to Montreal from the port of Portland in Maine.

Most of the oil that would have been shipped through the now cancelled Energy East pipeline would have been destined for the port of Saint John in New Brunswick. But the defunct TransCanada project could also have transported Alberta oil to Suncor's Montreal refinery and Valero's Saint-Romuald, Que., facility and allowed the province to eliminate its use of foreign crude entirely.

That's not to say it would have happened. Refineries typically choose the cheapest crude available. And while Western Canadian oil currently sells at a discount to foreign crude, making it attractive to Quebec refineries, the whole point of building pipelines to tidewater is to reduce if not eliminate that differential by easing transportation bottlenecks and making Alberta less dependent on the U.S. market.

Still, despite Mr. Couillard's ambitious goals, Quebec will still be using a lot of oil in 2030.

Would he rather the province get it from Algeria or Alberta?

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Hey Canada, wanna buy a pipeline?

National Post - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jack M. Mintz

Ad Value: $8,456
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Desperate times require desperate measures. In the standoff between B.C. and Alberta over the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the federal government is caught in the middle, trying to salvage its approved project that is about to collapse and avoid a major regional conflict. The federal Liberals are so desperate to save this pipeline from being scuttled by B.C. politics that they're offering to financially backstop the project. Unfortunately, that might not be the solution they think it is.

Their desperation escalated after Kinder Morgan levelled an ultimatum earlier this month: It would need, by May 31, political certainty that its project can go ahead or it will pull out. Some have called that blackmail, but that's not fair: endless regulatory red tape has already driven Trans Mountain's costs up to $7.4 billion from $6.8 billion. Further delays and costs would only further compromise the economic viability of the project, while making it harder to sign up shippers. Kinder Morgan has already spent over $1 billion to prepare its application, negotiate agreements with multiple First Nations and clear land. The next step is buying and installing the pipe, which will cost billions of dollars. The company can't make that commitment while Canada plays its Mickey Mouse politics.

After neglecting the issues for too long, the federal government now promises to assert its constitutional power over the project. As legal scholar Dwight Newman notes, the federal government could pass legislation that clearly asserts the paramountcy of its constitutional power, rendering any provincial laws inoperable when a conflict arises. Using this strategy will prove even more important now that B.C. is threatening to also limit the transport of Alberta's bitumen by rail, which also challenges federal powers.

Ottawa's idea to backstop the project by compensating Kinder Morgan for any losses is considerably more controversial. That would ostensibly provide insurance to Kinder Morgan for costs it had incurred in constructing the pipeline should it be unable to proceed due to legal or political obstacles. But if the federal government can succeed in establishing its paramountcy, the backstop will not be necessary. And there are significant risks if Kinder Morgan decides to pull out and triggers a compensation deal.

The first is developing the conditions for a compensation payout. A fall in Asian demand for oil could be enough to render the project no longer profitable if it means shippers think it's more profitable to send their oil to the Gulf Coast by pipeline and rail. Kinder Morgan could still argue that political and regulatory delays were its main rationale for cancelling, but the federal government might disagree.

Even if compensation conditions were well laid out, what costs would be eligible? What direct costs would be included that Kinder Morgan couldn't just pile on at will? What about indirect costs such as general administrative and financing expenses incurred by the parent company? Will the tax effects be included, since such costs would have been deductible as an expense (and compensation would not be taxable)? Second, providing the backstop means that Kinder Morgan's incentive to pull out of the expansion project at every new challenge only increases. And since **Ottawa**'s guarantee means the B.C. government would not face a lawsuit by playing unfairly with Kinder Morgan, the backstop means Premier John Horgan will have an incentive to be even more obstructionist if it benefits him politically. That is, unless the federal government says it will claw back payments to B.C. - such as for infrastructure or immigration transfers - to recover costs, something it should be clear about from the start to make sure the risks don't all rest with federal taxpayers.

With luck, all this brinkmanship will convince Horgan to sacrifice his **power**-sharing deal with Andrew Weaver's Green Party and operate as a minority government - or call an election. But even if Alberta gets this pipeline, what about the future? Will the federal government be offering backstops for any interprovincial **energy** transport project that runs into provincial opposition - whether pipelines, **electrical wires**, rail shipments, or ocean tankers? Of course, that question assumes that **energy** project proponents would still consider investing in Canada. New federal **rules** have made this country a far less certain investment **climate** for building projects. Rising taxes have pushed up production costs, sending investment dollars south to the U.S. And **regional** conflict is more intense than it has been since the heights of Quebec separatism. Even if the Trans Mountain expansion proceeds, we remain a sad, conflicted country, still holding ourselves back from achieving our great potential.

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Pipelines versus reality

The Beacon Herald

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Cathy Orlando,

Ad Value: $305
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

Re: Trudeau's in trouble in battle over pipeline The trouble over the Kinder Morgan pipeline is that some people refuse to face reality.

Three weeks ago, all the auditor generals in Canada told us we were not going to meet our **climate** targets.

Regarding the social license to build the Kinder Morgan pipeline as mentioned in Andrew McDougall's opinion piece, it is a wonder to me that some people think there can be a social license for any new fossil fuel infrastructure in Canada when our **climate** targets are not going to be met.

And seriously, there is no business case in the Kinder Morgan pipeline. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port and very large crude carriers are game changers. There is a race to bring fossil **fuels** to oil refineries before the world switches to low-carbon **energy** and Canada has just lost that race.

As well, a January 2018 study by the Parkland Institute estimates that **Canadian** Natural Resources Limited (CNRL), Suncor **Energy**, Cenovus **Energy**, Imperial Oil and Husky **Energy** in Alberta are sitting on an almost two-trillion dollars of liability. "Alberta's oil sands industry is a carbon bubble-a petroleum-oriented economy that has a high risk of instability, crisis, and even collapse," the report states.

And now Premier Notley and Prime Minister Trudeau are indicating they are going to financially support the pipeline? So much for the Liberal Party's 2015 election promise to end fossil-fuel subsidies.

What possibly could be happening that is causing such foolish decision making? Honestly, do Canadians really want to subsidize a Texan pipeline? Fossil-fuel subsidies are artificially incentivizing companies to sink costs into infrastructure with dubious prospects. The costs of orphaned wells, tailing ponds, **climate** disruptions, and other externalities will be borne by future taxpayers long after fossil **fuels** have ceased to generate wealth. **Climate** change is also a game changer.

For now, keep the bitumen moving to port by trains. If bitumen is solid, it is not flammable nor explosive and it cannot spill. The only thing that makes it dangerous is when it is mixed with a dilatant to flow through pipelines.

There is a sustainable way forward for our **energy** industry. A new study by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network shows that rather than building more pipelines, Canada should be building long-distance **transmission** lines to carry our zero-carbon **electricity** to U.S. markets.

Now is the time for Canada face reality, co-operate, and not enable Texas oilmen in their fossil-fuel recklessness. Cathy Orlando, International Outreach Manager Citizens'

Climate Lobby Canada

Sudbury, Ont.

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‘Flawed from the get-go’: In pipeline feud, National Energy Board process questioned | The Star

www.thestar.com - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is “lying in the bed he made” in the national feud over Kinder Morgan’s Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, the City of Burnaby’s lawyer says.

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I should have been praying for pipelines

www.estevanmercury.ca - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

It was Sunday morning. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had just met with Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and British Columbia Premier John Horgan, laying down the line for Horgan that this pipeline will be built.

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Federal bill could stymie future pipelines - St. Albert Gazette

www.stalbertgazette.com - Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

The naughty-minded among us may have become momentarily excited on hearing a proposed piece of federal legislation named Bill C-69 would take into account the intersection of sex and gender.

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EDITORIAL: It pays to look both ways when it comes to pipeline politics | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca · Wed Apr 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

Justin Trudeau's pipeline summit — the weekend swoop of shuttle diplomacy to sort out the Trans Mountain Pipeline feud between B.C. and Alberta — was certainly a bust.

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B.C.'s attorney general calls Alberta fuel-restriction bill a 'bluff' - CityNews Toronto

toronto.citynews.ca · Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

British Columbia's attorney general says Alberta's proposed fuel restriction law is a politically motivated "bluff" that will result in an immediate lawsuit from his province and likely lawsuits from oil companies.

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As an oil-producing country, Canada is sure messed up - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca · Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

"It is in this realm where Trudeau has by far the most to lose. Imagine the political implications for a Prime Minister who speaks the righteous language of Indigenous reconciliation—who has Haida art tattooed on his left bicep—overseeing Oka-like clashes between First Nations protesters and police and/or the army."

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GUNTER: The motivating factors behind our pipeline crisis | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com · Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

Canada is in the middle of a pipeline crisis because three of the four main actors in this drama need a pipeline but don’t want one. Meanwhile, the fourth actor wants one but doesn’t really need it.

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Quebec's anti-pipeline talk belies its oil addiction - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard chose Tuesday to announce his goal of reducing oil consumption in the province’s transportation sector by 40 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030.

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Gwyn Morgan: Trudeau’s cynical politics caught him in his own Trans Mountain trap | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

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.

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Oil and water don’t mix. Nor do pipelines and climate protection | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Tue Apr 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

The conflict around the construction of Kinder Morgan’s proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is much more than a spat between two provincial governments. It cannot be reduced to a battle of jurisdiction between Ottawa and Victoria either. Witnessing this struggle from Québec, we are reminded of the acrimonious debates that surrounded TransCanada’s proposed Energy East pipeline.

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