

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: May 7, 2018 8:25 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Ceiran Bishop; Christine Long; Corinne Carvalho; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: Morning Clippings Summary: Monday, May 7, 2018

Good Morning,

- The NDP candidates unveiled their platform for Northern Ontario over the weekend. The **OEB** is mentioned.
- The Globe and Mail has an OP ED by Jatin Nathwani, professor and Ontario Research Chair in public policy for Sustainable Energy, University of Waterloo about the AG's report. The **OEB** is mentioned.
- There are a number of articles previewing tonight's leaders debate.
- And, there is widespread coverage of the clean-up following Friday's deadly windstorm.

Timmins Press.com: Local NDP candidates unveil Northern platform

- The plan outlines six changes that focus on issues other parties have also claimed for their platforms.
- These include investing more dollars in hospitals and health care; improving transportation with northern highways winter maintenance by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) and bringing back Northlander passenger rail service; better job creation in the resources sector and continuing the \$1-billion investment for the Ring of Fire; energy affordability by cutting out price gouging at the gas pumps and a 30% cut for rural hydro and delivery costs; a promise to keep more Northern and rural schools open; and a true relationship with First Nations that includes resource revenue sharing.
- The party is also seeking to have Ontario gasoline prices regulated to the point that the **Ontario Energy Board** would monitor retail and wholesale prices on a weekly basis. Bisson put forward a private members bill to that effect in 2017, but it not pass in the legislature.

Globe and Mail: Ontario Auditor-General Bonnie Lysyk does disservice to public by getting it wrong on hydro costs

- Over the past decade, Ontario's investment commitments in the electricity sector are in the order of \$50-billion. What we now have is a power-system infrastructure that will serve Ontario for many years to come. Who should pay for these costs?
- One principled approach is to ensure that those who benefit pay. This principle puts a "ring fence" around the sector to ensure costs incurred for the needed investments are paid for by those who benefit from the delivered service, now and into the future. The cost of the "borrowed billions" are then recovered through the hydro rates.
- The alternative choice is to spread the costs over the entire tax base of the province. The negative consequences of the burden of electricity sector investments – if transferred to the government's debt obligations – can crowd out the government's capacity to address other priorities for investments in health, education, transport and other sectors.
- There is merit in keeping the burden of electricity system obligation within the sector and the costs to be recovered through the hydro rates. Notwithstanding the Auditor-General's assertion that all costs of regulated utility should show up on the province's balance sheet, the approach chosen by the government was to confine the costs within the sector. The impact of this choice resulted in

higher hydro rates.

- In response to public demand for relief, the government offered a 25-per-cent reduction in hydro rates but would stretch the repayment of the debt over a longer period. The repayment of the “mortgage” provides relief in the short term, but comes with an overall higher cost in the long term. Whether the additional cost of paying a debt over a longer period constitutes an undue burden on future ratepayers can be debated, but we must acknowledge that both children and adults will continue to benefit from the current investments into the future.
- If we stick to a principled approach to the recovery of the costs from the users of electricity, then the criticism by the Auditor-General’s office of a \$3-billion to \$4-billion cost differential on the regulated asset base is not germane. For example, Enbridge is a private-sector regulated utility that provides gas delivery to Ontario homes and industry. As part of its business operations, Enbridge incurs maintenance and investment costs and borrows on the capital markets as necessary. These costs are recovered through delivery charges on gas consumers but approved by the **Ontario Energy Board**.
- In a similar vein, when the regulated electricity sector agencies (Hydro One, OPG and IESO) borrow money on the capital markets – albeit at a higher financing cost in relation to government borrowing – to build and maintain regulated assets, where is the principled argument for assigning that cost to the broader tax base? That is precisely what the Auditor-General seems to propose.
- Ms. Lysyk’s conclusions are not convincing and fail to provide a compelling public-interest rationale for loading up the electricity system borrowing costs onto the province’s debt obligations. It is a dubious strategy that creates needless peril for the funding of important social infrastructure such as mass transit, schools and hospitals.

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Monday, May 7, 2018

Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 48 Results



Ontario's Auditor-General is wrong about hydro costs

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: JATIN NATHWANI

Ad Value: \$16,031

Reach: 309154 Page: B4

Professor and **Ontario** Research Chair in **public** policy for Sustainable **Energy** at the University of **Waterloo** Since 2005, billions of dollars have been borrowed to refurbish and upgrade Ontario's ...



Ford faces rocky ride in leaders debate

Ottawa Sun - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Adrienne Bat Ra

Ad Value: \$1,695

Reach: 45442 Page: A4

All Ontarians are about to receive a formal introduction to PC Party leader Doug Ford, and if enough of them like what they see and hear he may well be the next premier of **Ontario**. Monday evening's first of three debates for the main ...



Ford rips \$50M 'golden' payouts; U.S. energy execs to get cash packages in Hydro One deal

Ottawa Sun - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,890

Reach: 36297 Page: A10

Hydro One is prepared to pay out \$50 million in golden send-offs to U.S. executives of an American **energy** company it's purchasing, PC Leader Doug Ford says. The information was contained in a series of U.S. ...



The real test Ontarians should be applying to Ford on Monday

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$20,968

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

When he takes the stage on Monday for the first leaders' debate before Ontario's June election, Doug Ford may give the impression of being under sedation. He's been that way much of the time since winning the Progressive Conservative leadership in ...



On Hydro one, ford is an angry child; PC leader has proposed no solutions or reforms if he becomes premier

Ottawa Citizen - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$8,175

Reach: 114495 Page: A6

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro One** is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro One** fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday. ...



Decapitation of Hydro One

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Robert J. Macmillan

Ad Value: \$81

Reach: 10143 Page: A5

In the writing about Doug Ford's announcement he'll fire **Hydro One's** CEO and board. I've seen nothing about the reaction of private investors, who hold over 50

per cent of the utility's shares. Are they satisfied with their board and CEO? ...



Ford promises to bring back Northlander passenger train if Ontario turns to Tories; Conservative leader also promises further hydro rate cut as part of election campaign pledges during stop in North Bay

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-Mccharles

Ad Value: \$429

Reach: 2981 Page: A2

PC Leader Doug Ford reiterated his promise to bring back the Northlander train, reduce **hydro rates** by a further 12 per cent, eliminate the carbon tax and invest in education and health care, Thursday. Ford spent two hours at ...



Ford's political portent

Waterloo Region Record - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$788

Reach: 73852 Page: A11

Doug Ford says he 'hated' making appointments like Mike Harris Jr.'s - April 28 Hey, **Guelph** and **Kitchener**-Conestoga, welcome to Doug Ford's version of democracy. The would-be premier's contempt for due process and local ...



Bay St. skeptical of NDP pledge; Horwath promises to purchase Hydro One back, piece by piece

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$25,490

Reach: 500678 Page: A16

Andrea Horwath has pledged to buy back **Hydro One** bit-by-bit if she's elected premier June 7, but **Bay** Street watchers are warning that would be easier said than done. A cornerstone promise of the NDP leader's ...



New election ads take aim at Wynne; PCs highlight Ford rallies while New Democrats attempt to change game

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Ad Value: \$10,201

Reach: 500678 Page: A14

Doug Ford's first campaign ads are upbeat homages to his well-attended campaign rallies. The rookie Progressive Conservative began airing election ads Friday night. Against the backdrop of his optimistic campaign theme song "For The People," also ...



NDP plan to buy back Hydro One has Bay St. skeptical | The Star

www.thestar.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Andrea Horwath has pledged to buy back Hydro One bit-by-bit if she's elected premier June 7, but Bay Street watchers are warning that would be easier said than done.



Ontario votes and voltage: Election issues

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$16,614

Reach: 500678 Page: IN10

This is one of a series of editorials on issues facing **Ontario** voters. At the mere flick of a switch, the marvel of **electricity** is engaged to illuminate, warm, cool, boot up computers, ovens, refrigerators, vehicles and ...



Ontario Election 2018: Your guide to the Liberal, PC and NDP platforms

www.macleans.ca - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Election day in Ontario—June 7—is fast approaching, and voters face a stark choice in the three main candidates. Kathleen Wynne and the governing Liberals are campaigning on the record of their 15 years in office and a budget plan that calls for ...



Leaders display differing visions during NOMA visits - TBNWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The three candidates to be the next premier of Ontario all took their turn on stage during this week's Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association conference.



Local NDP candidates unveil Northern platform | Timmins Press

www.timminspress.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, May 5, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

Veteran Northern Ontario MPP Gilles Bisson believes this could be the year that his New Democratic Party might again become Ontario's party in power.



Safety, not salary; The security of Ontario's nuclear plants should be an election priority, not the salaries of top Hydro One execs

Owen Sound Sun Times - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Erika Simpson

Ad Value: \$1,217

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

Hydro One owns and manages Ontario's **electricity-transmission** facilities and it is the largest provider of local **electricity**. **Ontario** Progressive Conservative

Leader Doug Ford would ...



Show your support for Bruce

Owen Sound Sun Times - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: David Shier

Ad Value: \$345

Reach: 13483 Page: A4

As your readers may be aware, Bruce **Power** will appear before the **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) at the end of May to request a 10-year extension to its operating licence. At this **public** hearing, which ...



Resident worried about proposed plant

The Timmins Daily Press - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Emma Meldrum

Ad Value: \$828

Reach: 9196 Page: A1 / Front

A May 10 community consultation will give the **public** a chance to provide feedback on a proposal that would see a **natural gas** compression plant set up on Highway 101 East near Connaught Road. The meeting, scheduled ...



Powerful Windstorm in Ontario and Quebec

CTV - CTV NATIONAL NEWS - Sat May 5 2018, 11:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: SANDIE RINALDO

SANDIE RINALDO: Now, the flooding has been called a slow moving disaster. By contrast, the windstorm that whipped through **Ontario** and Quebec yesterday hit with lightning speed. A massive clean-up is now underway with roads littered with ...



Ontario recovering from deadly windstorm; Thousands left without electricity as province begins 'lengthy cleanup' from severe weather that downed trees and power lines

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MOLLY HAYES

Ad Value: \$11,375

Reach: 309154 Page: A9

The cleanup process continues after a windstorm that has been blamed for the deaths of three people, and left hundreds of thousands of homes in the dark. As gusts reached more than 125 kilometres an hour in parts of Southern **Ontario** on ...



Toronto Hydro says close to 4,000 still without power following Friday windstorm - Toronto | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Toronto Hydro says 3,900 customers throughout Toronto are still without power two days after a windstorm hit southern Ontario.



Windstorm blamed for 3 deaths as crews work to restore power to thousands | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

A fierce windstorm that wreaked havoc across Ontario on Friday is being blamed for three deaths.



Hydro crews continue to restore power in Toronto after Friday's windstorm

www.680news.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Just over 1,000 customers remain without power nearly three days after a devastating wind storm cut a swath of destruction through the city.



Seventeen Ontario utilities join Hydro One's all hands on deck restoration response following

www.newswire.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Seventeen utilities have answered the call to help Hydro One restore power to the 60,000 customers that are still affected by Friday's devastating wind storm.



Powerful winds cause damage in Ontario and Quebec

THE NATIONAL - Sat May 5 2018, 6:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: JOHN TORY

AARTI **POLE** (HOST): Now meanwhile, a powerful **wind** storm hit parts of **Ontario** and Quebec yesterday, killing at least three people and knocking out **power** to hundreds of thousands. **Toronto** was ...



Hundreds of thousands without power

Toronto Sun - Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,971

Reach: 222184 Page: A12

Hundreds of thousands of people were still without **power** across Central Canada yesterday morning following a windstorm that downed trees and **power** lines and left two people dead. Environment Canada said **wind** gusted ...



Intense winds cause chaos, trees on fire, hydro wires on cars, windows broken

Newmarket Era - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$442

Reach: 57606 Page: 1

Motorists and first responders are dodging downed **power** lines, trees on fire and bumper to bumper traffic as high winds howl across the region. The most serious incident appears to be on Bayview Avenue, south of St. Johns

Sideroad, ...



High winds cause damage across Waterloo Region

Waterloo Region Record - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$3,411

Reach: 73852 Page: B1

High winds and thunderstorms blew across **Waterloo** Region on Friday afternoon, leaving behind local **power** outages that affected tens of thousands of people. Across the region, trees were toppled by extreme gusts of ...



Extreme wind, storms kill 1 while causing regional havoc; Severe weather leads to outages, flight delays, destruction to buildings

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Clare Rayment Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$27,222

Reach: 500678 Page: A8

A man died Friday night in **Milton** in an evening of chaos, as extreme winds and thunderstorms continued to affect **power** and **transportation** throughout **Toronto** and several parts of the GTA. Winds up to 110 ...



Wind blast, rain cause mayhem; Downed power lines create potentially dangerous situation

Windsor Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Dalson Chen

Ad Value: \$7,812

Reach: 58088 Page: A4

A sudden blast of **wind** and rain resulted in **power** outages across Windsor on Friday afternoon. At 2 p.m., **Enwin Utilities** was reporting problems in many areas of the city, including downtown, the ...



High winds in southern Ontario area leave 200,000 without power

THE NATIONAL - Fri May 4 2018, 9:00pm ET

Tone: **Negative**

VOICE OF UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN (RESIDENT): (**Toronto**) Oh, my God!
ANDREW CHANG (HOST): So while some parts of the country deal with flooding today, in southern **Ontario** including **Toronto** it was the **wind**. ...



Hydro One says 5,500 customers impacted by power outage in north Dufferin, Grey counties

Orangeville Banner - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$180

Reach: 23500 Page: 1

Hydro One is reporting that more than 5,550 customers in the **north** end of Dufferin County and Grey County have been impacted by a **power** outage. As of 2:30 p.m. on Friday (May 4), **Hydro** One's ...



Wind storm caused outages to more than 180,000 Hydro One customers

www.newswire.ca - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

A wind storm that started this afternoon has caused power outages to more than 180,000 Hydro One customers. It is expected this weather will continue throughout the evening, potentially causing further damage. Hydro One is mobilizing crews and where ...



Strong winds rip part of roof off downtown Bolton convenience store, knocks out power across Caledon

Caledon Enterprise - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$427

Reach: 15763 Page: 1

Caledon firefighters were in downtown Bolton at Queen Street and Highway 50 where strong winds tore part of a roof off a convenience store building, according to the Town of Caledon. The Town sent out a tweet Friday (May 4) around 7:30 p.m. ...



Wind storm downs hydro lines across Northumberland

Northumberland News - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$186

Reach: 22800 Page: 1

NORTHUMBERLAND -- A **wind** storm knocked down trees and **hydro** poles Friday night. **Wind** gusts of up to 90 km/h were expected for Northumberland in a warning from Environment Canada. **Hydro One** ...



More than 200,000 without power following disastrous Ontario wind storm

nationalpost.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - More than 200,000 people are still without **power** across southern and central **Ontario** on Saturday morning following a windstorm that downed trees and **power** lines and left two people dead. ...



Les vents forts ont provoqué plusieurs pannes: encore plus de 246 000 à 5h; Encore plus de 246 000 pannes de courant

La Presse Canadienne - Le fil radio - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

MONTREAL - Les forts vents qui ont soufflé sur le Québec au cours des dernières heures ont provoqué de nombreuses pannes d'électricité. A 5h samedi matin, plus de 246 000 clients étaient privés de courant, dont plus de 66 000 en ...



Oilpatch CEOs blame high costs, red tape for erosion of Canada's competitive edge | CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, May 7, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

CEOs of the largest oilpatch companies are stepping up to the podium this month for their annual address to shareholders and, one by one, they are painting a picture of how uncompetitive it is to operate in Canada and attract investment dollars.



Engage in the public debate, Fort St. John resource rally hears

www.alaskahighwaynews.ca · Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, May 6, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

Out of your seats and onto the streets — that was the message heard by a group of business and political leaders at a natural resource rally in Fort St. John Friday night.



WATCH: Albertans rally in Red Deer for Trans Mountain Pipeline - Red Deer Express

www.reddeerexpress.com · Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, May 5, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

A rally for Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer saw hundreds of Albertans come out and show their support for the embattled pipeline project.



Scheer blames Trans Mountain pipeline situation on lack of leadership in Ottawa - 660 NEWS

www.660news.com · Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, May 5, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer spoke in downtown Calgary on Friday at the Calgary Chamber lunch.



Scheer blames Trans Mountain pipeline situation on lack of leadership in Ottawa - 660 NEWS

www.660news.com · Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018
 Energy East is mentioned.

Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer spoke in downtown Calgary on Friday at the Calgary Chamber lunch.



Andrew Scheer warns against using public money for Trans Mountain | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer raised a red flag Friday over the potential use of taxpayers' dollars by the federal and Alberta governments to backstop the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline



Hicks on Biz: Is Big Oil slip-sliding away in Alberta? | Edmonton Sun

edmontonsun.com - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

There will be no dramatic cleaning out of Enbridge or TransCanada's Calgary corporate headquarters, no fleet of moving vans heading down the American I-25 highway in a near straight line from Calgary through Denver to Houston.



Is the dream of a First Nations-led pipeline a 'big joke'?; One Indigenous entrepreneur's plan to obtain consent from local bands has received support from many - but also opposition from some who are skeptical that the dream will crumble ahead of coming oil-tanker legislation, Brent Jang writes

The Globe and Mail - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Brent Jang

Ad Value: \$31,139

Reach: 372649 Page: A16

Indigenous entrepreneur Calvin Helin believes he has found the way to turn his pipeline dreams into reality: obtain consent first from certain First Nations and worry about the economics later. Amid the constitutional mess enveloping the Trans ...



Earth's CO2 levels reach historic high; Experts blame fossil fuels for rise in greenhouse gas causing global warming

Toronto Star - Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Doyle Rice USA Today

Ad Value: \$9,416

Reach: 315452 Page: A4

Carbon dioxide - the **gas** scientists say is most responsible for global warming - reached its highest level in recorded history last month, at 410 parts per million. This amount is the highest in at least the past 800,000 years, according ...



Taking aim at wind power

National Post - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$3,834

Reach: 185480 **Page:** A13

Re: Renewables: Still not cheap, Lawrence Solomon, April 27 As usual, Lawrence Solomon has skewered the reputation of renewables with the facts, which are that the rush to **renewable energy** in the form of **solar** ...



Carbon pricing effective

The Sault Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Elaine Blacklock M.D. Sudbury

Ad Value: \$364

Reach: 14083 **Page:** A8

Re: Trudeau must reveal carbon tax's true cost As a physician, I often engage in discussions with patients about the pros and cons of a treatment. Good medical decisions must be based on consideration of not only the possible negative effects of a ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Ontario's Auditor-General is wrong about hydro costs

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: JATIN NATHWANI

Ad Value: \$16,031

Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

Professor and **Ontario** Research Chair in **public** policy for Sustainable **Energy** at the University of **Waterloo**

Since 2005, billions of dollars have been borrowed to refurbish and upgrade **Ontario's electricity** infrastructure and achieve the goal of shutting down coal generation. The province's Auditor-General, Bonnie Lysyk, says the government is keeping the debt off the books through "bogus" accounting.

This is an unfortunate characterization, and it arises because the AG refuses to accept a principled approach to the accounting of investment costs incurred within the **electricity** sector. The Auditor-General's observation has become the primary source of fuel for an angry **public** reaction and a distorted political debate. The Auditor-General's office, playing into an attention-seeking device that casts the government and related agencies (**Hydro** One, **OPG** and **IESO**) as having "fiddled" the books, creates more heat than light and does not serve the **public** interest.

The details of the flows of revenues and incurred costs within the **electricity** sector among many players - generators, distributors, consumers small and large and financing institutions - are complex. But the big-picture view is relatively easy to grasp.

Over the past decade, **Ontario's** investment commitments in the **electricity** sector are in the order of \$50-billion.

What we now have is a **power**-system infrastructure that will serve **Ontario** for many years to come. Who should pay for these costs?

One principled approach is to ensure that those who benefit pay. This principle puts a "ring fence" around the sector to ensure costs incurred for the needed investments are paid for by those who benefit from the delivered **service**, now and into the future. The cost of the "borrowed billions" are then recovered through the **hydro rates**.

The alternative choice is to spread the costs over the entire tax base of the province. The negative consequences of the burden of **electricity** sector investments - if transferred to the government's debt obligations - can **crowd** out the government's capacity to address other priorities for investments in health, education, transport and other sectors.

There is merit in keeping the burden of **electricity** system obligation within the sector and the costs to be recovered through the **hydro rates**. Notwithstanding the Auditor-General's assertion that all costs of regulated **utility** should show up on the province's balance sheet, the approach chosen by the government was to confine the costs within the sector. The impact of this choice resulted in higher **hydro rates**.

In response to **public** demand for relief, the government offered a 25-per-cent reduction in **hydro rates** but would stretch the repayment of the debt over a longer period. The repayment of the "mortgage" provides relief in the short term, but comes with an overall higher cost in the long term. Whether the additional cost of paying a debt over a longer period constitutes an undue burden on future **ratepayers** can be debated, but we must acknowledge that both children and adults will continue to benefit from the current investments into the future.

If we stick to a principled approach to the recovery of the costs from the users of **electricity**, then the criticism by the Auditor-General's office of a \$3-billion to \$4-billion cost differential on the regulated asset base is not germane. For example, Enbridge is a private-sector regulated **utility** that provides **gas** delivery to **Ontario** homes and industry. As part of its business operations, Enbridge incurs maintenance and investment costs and borrows on the capital markets as necessary. These costs are recovered through delivery charges on **gas** consumers but approved by the **Ontario Energy Board**.

In a similar vein, when the regulated **electricity** sector agencies (**Hydro One**, **OPG** and **IESO**) borrow money on the capital markets - albeit at a higher financing cost in relation to government borrowing - to build and maintain regulated assets, where is the principled argument for assigning that cost to the broader tax base?

That is precisely what the Auditor-General seems to propose.

Ms. Lysyk's conclusions are not convincing and fail to provide a compelling **public**-interest rationale for loading up the **electricity** system borrowing costs onto the province's debt obligations. It is a dubious strategy that creates needless peril for the funding of important social infrastructure such as mass transit, schools and hospitals.

[Back to Top](#)



Ford faces rocky ride in leaders debate

Ottawa Sun - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Adrienne Bat Ra

Ad Value: \$1,695

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A4

All Ontarians are about to receive a formal introduction to PC Party leader Doug Ford, and if enough of them like what they see and hear he may well be the next premier of **Ontario**.

Monday evening's first of three debates for the main party leaders will serve as a debut of sorts for Ford. Though he's been crisscrossing the province meeting with his party's faithful, his performance in the debate will determine whether he can convince undecided voters, and even Liberal and NDP supporters, that he's not the caricature his opponents have made him out to be.

And for Ford, he has no margin of error in the debate. He will have to put up a near perfect score, as expectations for him are far higher than the other two leaders. In other words, this is Ford's to lose.

His two main opponents, NDP leader Andrea Horwath and Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne, are both seasoned, and effectual debaters.

Ford has not been in this position - ever - and the PC Party leadership "debates" hardly served as appropriate training ground for what will be hurled at him in tonight's battle hosted by City TV.

So what can we expect from the three leaders in what will undoubtedly be a defining moment before the June 7 election? Horwath, who has hardly been seen these last few months, is expected to tout her NDP's recently released platform and focus on her party's main priorities from investing in health care to putting **Hydro** One back into **public** hands.

Expect Horwath to also make a rigorous case against any type of privatization. But here's where it gets tricky for the NDP leader. Since Wynne's Liberals have tacked so far to the left - borrowing some of the NDP's ideas - by offering "free" (read: taxpayer funded) prescription drugs for youth and seniors, "free" daycare, "free" tuition and free unicorns, there is little room left for Horwath to differentiate her party from the Liberals.

The only possible argument she can make is the Liberals have governed for 15 years and have had plenty of time to make these changes, but have been asleep at the switch, only making For Wynne, who can hardly run on her Liberals' abysmal financial, scandal plagued, deficit hiding, politically corrupt record, she has little choice but to take direct aim at Ford with her "care not cuts" mantra.

The premier will not hesitate to drudge up the left's favourite boogeymen - Mike Harris, Stephen Harper and Donald Trump. She will be negative, but in her Premier Mom tone.

As for Ford, his task will be to make a convincing case as to why the Liberals are way passed their expiration date, and how the NDP experiment is an equally dangerous one, all the while maintaining a measured tone.

Ford will want to debate the Liberal record, while the other two will go personal against him.

He will be hit with the Green Belt mini controversy and more recently, having to dump leadership rival Tanya Granic Allan from the PC ranks, which was unquestionably the right decision.

And almost assuredly both Wynne and Horwath will repeat ad nauseam how Ford is only worried about the so-called "rich" people.

Though it's tempting to take the bait when you're attacked from all sides, Ford has to be cognizant he cannot be perceived as "mansplaining," sarcastic or unserious.

Very few people can pull all of this off, but Ford has been consistently disciplined

so far during the campaign. He also has the weight of four PC election losses on his shoulders, and no seat in the legislature.

As his late brother Rob would have said to him - "no pressure buddy!"
abatra@postmedia.com @AdrienneBatra

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Ford rips \$50M 'golden'payouts; U.S. energy execs to get cash packages in Hydro One deal

Ottawa Sun - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,890

Reach: 36297 Page: A10

Hydro One is prepared to pay out \$50 million in golden send-offs to U.S. executives of an American **energy** company it's purchasing, PC Leader Doug Ford says.

The information was contained in a series of U.S. securities filings by Avista Corp., Ford revealed yesterday.

"They agreed to give out millions of dollars of your money, Kathleen Wynne's politically corrupt **hydro** executives, gave out more than \$50 million in payouts in golden parachutes to U.S. **energy** executives paid for with your hard-earned money," Ford said.

"That's \$50 million in payouts going straight into the pockets of American **hydro** executives. Folks, this makes my blood boil when I hear stories like this because unlike Kathleen Wynne, I talk to real people every single day."

A majority stake in **Hydro** One was sold off by the Wynne government, but the province remains the largest single shareholder.

The privatized **Hydro** One signed a \$6.7 billion deal in 2017 to purchase Avista Corp., which serves more than 600,000 customers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

While the deal has not been finalized, Ford said that **Hydro** One has already authorized \$36 million in payouts to Avista's top five managers, and an additional \$14 million to another eight executives as a "golden parachute."

The PCs have already said that they would fire the "six-million -dollar" CEO of **Hydro** One, Mayo Schmidt, despite his own \$10.7 million golden parachute.

The Wynne government launched a **review** of executive compensation at **Hydro** One after Ford's widely reported complaints.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** called Ford's claims that **Ontario hydro** customers were on the hook for the U.S. payouts a lie.

"**Hydro** One customers have not paid one penny to U.S. **hydro** executives at Avista. Nor will they in the future," Thibeault said.

"Doug Ford doesn't seem to know what he's talking about, which is troubling from a self-described sound businessman. Either that or he's deliberately misleading people."

The purchase of Avista increases the value of **Hydro** One, and that includes the **Ontario** government's share, Thibeault said.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath referred to Ford's comments as "hollow bellowing." "The \$50-million golden parachute clause the privatized **Hydro One** gave to Avista executives is one of the reasons why the people of **Ontario**, including me, didn't want Kathleen Wynne to sell off **Hydro One**," Horwath said in a statement. "Mr. Ford will keep the privatization that caused **hydro** bills and executive salaries to shoot up in the first place. He will maintain the Liberal's damaging \$40 billion **hydro** borrowing scheme that will cause bills to soar by 70% after the election." aartuso@postmedia.com

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The real test Ontarians should be applying to Ford on Monday

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$20,968

Reach: 309154 Page: A8

When he takes the stage on Monday for the first leaders' debate before **Ontario's** June election, Doug Ford may give the impression of being under sedation.

He's been that way much of the time since winning the Progressive Conservative leadership in March and it's served him well.

Based on the reputation he developed while a **Toronto** city councillor, voters had cause to expect an undisciplined and vituperative behaviour; what he has mostly proven is that he's someone capable of holding his worst temperamental impulses in check.

If Mr. Ford can smile his way through the debate the way he has many other **public** appearances so far — a stiffer test if Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and the NDP's Andrea Horwath try to get under his skin — he will take another step toward refuting some of the most obvious concerns about him as a potential premier.

He might achieve likewise with opponents' attempts to present him as too right-wing. In his municipal days, Mr. Ford was known for voting against almost every expenditure, no matter how innocuous or socially beneficial.

Now, despite claiming he will find many billions of dollars in savings, he is less willing to advocate for spending or job cuts than some other recent PC leaders.

But that sort of logical inconsistency points to the test voters should be applying to Mr. Ford, with the campaign set to officially begin Wednesday.

Forget whether he'd be too mean a premier. The bigger question is whether he knows what kind of premier he wants to be at all — and whether he threatens to plunge **Ontario** into chaos not by design, but lack thereof.

It was obvious when Mr. Ford entered this winter's sprint of a leadership campaign to replace Patrick Brown that he knew little about provincial governance. Debating other candidates, he spoke in vague slogans, or fell back on boasting about his purported municipal record. To the limited extent he spoke specifically about provincial policy, it was mostly adopting simplified positions — against carbon pricing, against **Ontario's** updated sexeducation curriculum — on issues that resonate with the PC base.

He now has more policy, mostly tax cuts or rebates — for corporations, minimum-wage earners, parents' child-care costs. He has also adopted Mr. Brown's promise of a big increase in mentalhealth spending.

But he remains most in his comfort zone when speaking emotively rather than substantively. His biggest applause lines are about firing the chief executive of **Hydro** One — a good way to tap into anger about **energy** prices, without explaining effective remedies. He has yet to show much inclination to go deeper even on issues where he does potentially have something more meaningful to offer.

None of this is out of keeping with what one hears about Mr. Ford from those who have interacted with him. He is known for having very limited interest in policy briefings; he wants to go with his gut.

If it seems obvious those impulses would be resolutely rightwing, it's not that simple. People who know him also describe someone surprisingly eager to be liked, who could have trouble making tough decisions with winners and losers. (It was one thing to cast lonely protest votes while on Council, and it's another to potentially be the most powerful person in the province.) There is also some suggestion that he is susceptible to changing his mind depending on who spoke to him last.

All this may explain situations like last week's, when he said he would open the province's Greenbelt to development, then took the opposite position a day later.

And it points to potential for confusion in the early days of a PC government, especially because the Tories do not appear to have adopted the sort of process that could smooth an inexperienced candidate's entry to office.

If Mr. Ford were running on a detailed platform, even one he spoke about only in generalities, it could provide a useful road map of policies to implement. Instead, the PCs have broken with the recent practice of all major parties in **Ontario** by declining to release a fully costed **plan**, opting for only a few specific planks.

Less obvious but more disconcerting is that, as of the end of last week at least, Mr. Ford had yet to appoint a transition team — a unit that, typically headed by a reasonably non-partisan veteran of government, begins before election day to work with bureaucrats and others in identifying pressing policy and personnel decisions and options. By contrast, such work was already starting on Mr. Brown's behalf when he was ousted in January.

This is not the most fertile ground for Mr. Ford's opponents.

It's more appealing to accuse him of being mean than to criticize him on preparedness. For voters who believe government is disconnected from everyday realities, his lack of inside knowledge may be part of his anti-elite appeal. But a new premier stumbles into office and makes ill-informed decisions that come back to bite him later, or is so overwhelmed by his choices that he's paralyzed, Ontarians won't have much less cause to feel angry than they do now.

Monday's debate, focused primarily on **Toronto**-area issues with which Mr. Ford should have some expertise, is his best chance so far to set to rest such concerns.

Anyone worried about his qualifications beyond keeping his temper in check should be watching to see if he is willing and able to defy expectations on substance, the way he has on style.

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On Hydro one, ford is an angry child; PC leader has proposed no solutions or reforms if he becomes premier

Ottawa Citizen - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$8,175

Reach: 114495 **Page:** A6

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro** One is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro** One fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday.

Rage at the provincial **electricity transmission** company is Ford's No. 1 election issue, repeated so often that it's now performed in a sort of code.

"The \$6-million man and his cronies signed off on massive payouts for U.S. executives," Ford said. "They agreed to give out millions of dollars of your money, Kathleen Wynne's politically corrupt **hydro** executives gave out more than \$50 million in payouts in golden parachutes to U.S. **hydro** executives, with your hard-earned money, going straight into the pockets of American **hydro** executives."

I know, I know, it's a real soup.

Stick with me.

The "\$6-million man" is Mayo Schmidt, the chief executive of **Hydro** One. The Liberals under Wynne hired him in 2015 to run the place as they sold a majority stake in the company to private investors. Ford objects to Schmidt's pay package and promises to fire him and the board of directors if Ford wins the impending election. Stories with villains are way more exciting than real life as a grown-up.

The U.S. **hydro** executives come in because **Hydro** One is buying Avista Corp., an **electricity** and **natural-gas** company in Washington, with operations in neighbouring states. It's a \$4.4-billion deal. Avista turns an annual profit of around \$100 million as it is and **Hydro** One believes the two can save money by sharing back-office expenses.

Part of the agreement, approved by Avista's shareholders last fall and contained in standard U.S. securities filings, is that if **Hydro** One gets rid of Avista's top 13 people within three years of the merger, they'll be entitled to a collective \$50 million in payouts. It's a combination of severances, cashing in stock options and health insurance. The payout applies if they're turfed because of the merger, demoted or made so miserable they quit.

The biggest hypothetical payout, nearly \$19 million, would go to Avista chief executive Scott Morris. But in announcing the merger last year, **Hydro** One said Morris will stay on. The next biggest package, \$6.6 million, could go to chief financial officer Mark Thies. The numbers go down from there.

The five top people at Avista, accounting for \$36 million of the \$50 million, had these "change in control" clauses in their contracts long before **Hydro** One showed up. They're in Avista filings going back at least a decade. These clauses, which are common, are to keep senior employees from sabotaging deals that are expected to be good for shareholders (including you and me, in this case) because they might be bad for the people in the corner offices.

The deal also includes \$3.2 million in retention bonuses meant to get the same people to stay. The idea is that Avista will mostly carry on as it has, just as a subsidiary.

"**Hydro** One and Avista will maintain existing brands, headquarters and employee bases," **Hydro** One's presentation to its investors said when it

announced the deal. "Hydro One will benefit from the team assembled by Scott of well-respected industry leaders who have delivered consistent shareholder value."

"Folks, this makes my blood boil when I hear stories like this," Ford said. "This is a symbol of everything that is wrong in Kathleen Wynne's Ontario. At the end of the day, only one person, only one person is truly responsible for this mess. To Kathleen Wynne, I say this: your days as premier are numbered. We're going to take back our province and we're going to clean up this mess you have created."

He didn't say how. He proposed no reforms or solutions he might apply if he becomes premier other than repeating his promise to fire the Hydro One board. He demonstrated his anger and then walked away.

If all this is gross, it's because corporate capitalism is gross, which is a really weird position for a conservative to take. Especially a wealthy business owner like Ford. It comes with implications. First, and most obviously, Hydro One shouldn't be private and engaged in the corporate world this way. Electricity is a public good, not transmitted or delivered in a competitive market, and it belongs under public control. The Liberals should never have sold a majority share of Hydro One. It was a bad decision and created a company that doesn't know how to be.

If the Tories proposed buying Hydro One back and reorganizing it as a government agency, that would make sense. They aren't proposing that. (The New Democrats are.)

Second, even if it stays as it is, arguably Hydro One shouldn't be in the acquisitions business. If the Ontario government wouldn't go out and buy a foreign company, maybe a corporation that only exists to fulfil a government function shouldn't, either.

Ford's also not proposing to limit Hydro One's ambitions.

Third, maybe it's wrong for people to be paid millions of dollars to run corporations, even very profitable ones. Ford could demand controls on senior executives' pay. That's not a free-market position but lots of people would agree.

He's not saying that. He's not in favour of higher minimum wages at the bottom, so it's unlikely he's in favour of limiting top people's salaries. There are things Ford could do. They'd be hard. Complaining about things you don't like is so, so much easier. dreevely@postmedia.com twitter.com/davidreevely

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Decapitation of Hydro One

The Stratford Herald

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Robert J. Macmillan

Ad Value: \$81

Reach: 10143 Page: A5

In the writing about Doug Ford's announcement he'll fire Hydro One's CEO and board. I've seen nothing about the reaction of private investors, who hold over 50 per cent of the utility's shares. Are they satisfied with their board and CEO? How'll they react to corporate decapitation without a plan to replace the head? Are we assuming private shareholders would passively accept such a decision? What'll be the effect of a flight of capital from Hydro One, if investors sell their shares because they fear such a decision will cripple the company? Where'll customers be then?

Robert J. MacMillan

Brantford

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NORTHERN DAILY NEWS

Ford promises to bring back Northlander passenger train if Ontario turns to Tories; Conservative leader also promises further hydro rate cut as part of election campaign pledges during stop in North Bay

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles

Ad Value: \$429

Reach: 2981 **Page:** A2

PC Leader Doug Ford reiterated his promise to bring back the Northlander train, reduce **hydro rates** by a further 12 per cent, eliminate the carbon tax and invest in education and health care, Thursday.

Ford spent two hours at The Grande Event **Centre** in **North Bay** Thursday morning for a meet and greet. He took the opportunity to remind the more than 200 Progressive Conservative supporters why his team needs to take over at Queen's Park.

"I have never seen in all of my years in politics the frustration," he said. "Nothing makes me happier than when I hear from people who said they've been a lifelong Liberal or NDP supporter but they're voting for me because they believe in my team."

Ford who arrived at The Grande at about 8:30 a.m. with his **public** relations team and an army of security personnel greeted supporters before taking the stage.

Outside along Main Street a group of protesters gathered on the sidewalk across from the venue where Ford was speaking.

They held placards that said "a leader should inspire hope," "respect the **North** we are not just votes" and "leaders are kind."

Ford didn't waste any time attacking Premier Kathleen Wynne and the provincial Liberals.

"**Ontario** has a shameful record and is now the most indebted region in the entire world. The debt has reached \$334 billion," he said.

"Our **plan** is responsible and modest. There will be no more games. We're bringing an outside auditor in. They will go line item by line item and we're going to find out who is getting rich on the backs of each and everyone in here."

Ford said he has a message for Ontarians.

"Help is on it's way," he said, to a round of applause and cheers. "But, most importantly, we're going to start listening. On June 7 we're going to blaze a new trail. We're going to make a difference. Policies have to be beneficial for each and every single person in **Ontario**."

Ford said **Ontario** used to be the engine of Canada "and now we're a have-not province. We don't have a stable government at this point. Change is on its way on the morning of June 8."

Ford said his top priority will be to lower taxes for every single person.

"The backroom deals are done.

For the political insiders, the party's over with the taxpayers' money. We're going to start putting money back in your pockets," he said.

"People are sick and tired.

Every time they stick their hand in their pocket they have Premier Kathleen Wynne in one side and in the other pocket Prime Minister Justin Trudeau."

Ford said bringing back the Northlander will be a top priority.

He credited Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli for pushing the issue.

"Putting the train back on the track is a top priority. We're going to make it affordable for people to get on the train, whether it is for medical appointments or recreational reasons."

Fedeli said it was the Liberals that devastated **Northern Ontario** by cancelling the Northlander and the NDP supported that decision.

He said the Liberals shut down the terminal at Union Station and got rid of the railway cars.

"You'll see in our costing that we have designated \$30 million for the purchase of cars and a \$15 million annual subsidy."

Fedeli assured reporters that it will be sustainable.

"It's important that we have **transportation** in the **North**."

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Ford's political portent

Waterloo Region Record - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$788

Reach: 73852 **Page:** A11

Doug Ford says he 'hated' making appointments like Mike Harris Jr.'s - April 28

Hey, **Guelph** and **Kitchener**-Conestoga, welcome to Doug Ford's version of democracy.

The would-be premier's contempt for due process and local autonomy may well be a foreshadowing of his scorched-earth approach to governing the province.

Many of us have vivid memories of the wrecking ball wielded by the first Mike Harris, and the lasting damage his policies caused to our health-care and education systems. His government dismantled our provincial highways department, sold off the 407 to a foreign conglomerate, broke up **Ontario Hydro**, and downloaded services to counties, regions and municipalities without adequate funding to properly maintain them.

Aside from the many invigorating and scenic marches on Queen's Park, I have no fond memories of those years, and have no desire to repeat them.

One Mike Harris was one too many.

Ron Getz

Guelph

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Bay St. skeptical of NDP pledge; Horwath promises to purchase Hydro One back, piece by piece

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$25,490

Reach: 500678 Page: A16

Andrea Horwath has pledged to buy back **Hydro One** bit-by-bit if she's elected premier June 7, but **Bay Street** watchers are warning that would be easier said than done.

A cornerstone promise of the NDP leader's campaign is to reduce **electricity** prices by returning the former Crown **utility** to full **public** ownership, reversing a partial privatization by Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government that raised \$9 billion to pay down debt and build infrastructure.

But with almost 313 million shares now in private hands, currently valued at \$20.45 on the **Toronto** Stock Exchange, that's a steep price tag of \$6.4 billion to tackle with just \$248.5 million in annual dividends that Horwath would use as her initial stake.

At that **rate**, completing the deal could take two decades, not the eight years the NDP is telling voters, stock market experts say. That raises questions about the feasibility of the scheme, let alone the odds of New Democrats being in **power** long enough to get it done.

"The practicalities of it are pretty daunting," said veteran lawyer Paul Harricks, leader of the **energy** sector group at Gowling WLG.

Horwath's time frame works out only if **Hydro One** shares collapse, falling to \$6 or \$7, added Ambrus Kecskes, an associate professor of finance at York University's Schulich School of Business.

"I'm not even sure why they would stick their necks out with such rudimentary arithmetic," Kecskes said.

While **Bay Streeters** say investors would demand a premium of 20 to 30 per cent on the share price, the New Democrats' **plan** factors in just 10 per cent.

"The strategy is a bad strategy," said Peter Dey, chairman of investment dealer Paradigm Capital Inc., noting the extra expense of a long-term buyback would be in the \$2 billion to \$3 billion range.

At the current stock price - not including a likely premium, or fees to investment dealers - government dividends in the first year could bankroll a buyback of 12.1 million shares, or barely 4 per cent, at the start of a creeping takeover.

But New Democrats are undeterred after first floating the concept in the winter of 2017, when only 30 per cent of the **Hydro One** shares had been sold, compared with the 52.6 per cent in private hands now.

"That still doesn't change our plans ... It's our expectation to use the money, the profits, from **Hydro One** to pay for the repurchase," said the NDP's **energy** critic, **Toronto-Danforth** MPP Peter Tabuns.

Pressed on the NDP assumptions, Tabuns added that "there may be circumstances that assert themselves, but for the moment I don't think the changes are fundamental enough for us to re-shape that **plan**."

The NDP election platform boasts the party can reduce **electricity** bills by 30 per cent, in part by returning **Hydro** One to "**public** hands" so it can "serve the **public** interest again" without a built-in profit margin for shareholders.

"Privately owned **utilities** are more expensive and don't provide better **service**," said senior economist Sheila Block of the **Canadian Centre** for Policy Alternatives.

Tabuns dismissed talk of shareholders demanding larger premiums to sell their stock as "speculative."

"The value of the shares has been dropping in the last while," he said.

When a major player such as the **Ontario** government declares its intent to acquire shares, however, shareholders take notice and smell the money, experts say.

Fully 67 per cent of **Hydro** One's shares are held by institutional investors such as mutual funds and pension funds.

"Once the market knows that you're buying, that's going to keep a floor price under the share price. That's going to keep the price up," Harricks said.

The closer the government gets to the end of the purchase phase, the more "holdout" shareholders are going to demand, Dey said.

"We know the province wants to get 100 per cent so people will go into the market expecting that they will have to be paid a premium to be taken out."

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, whose government cut **hydro rates** 25 per cent through longer-term borrowing to finance improvements in the **electricity** system, labelled the NDP **plan** a "pie in the sky."

He said there are no guarantees it would reduce **electricity** bills, but would divert millions of dollars in **Hydro** One dividends that are currently going into the government's general revenues, leaving a shortfall.

The fact the New Democrats apparently did not consult investment industry professionals to help shape the promise "just shows they don't have any business acumen," Thibeault added.

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New election ads take aim at Wynne; PCs highlight Ford rallies while New Democrats attempt to change game

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Ad Value: \$10,201

Reach: 500678 **Page:** A14

Doug Ford's first campaign ads are upbeat homages to his well-attended campaign rallies.

The rookie Progressive Conservative began airing election ads Friday night.

Against the backdrop of his optimistic campaign theme song "For The People," also the title of the Tories' forthcoming platform, Ford is shown in the two ads pumping up the **crowd** at a rally in March.

"It's about turning this province around and getting it back on track," he thunders to applause.

As footage of Ford meeting a wide cross section of voters appears on screen, a female announcer then says: "Doug Ford is here for the people of **Ontario** - to clean up the **hydro** mess, to bring jobs back, to end hallway health care, to put money back in your pocket and to restore accountability in government."

The scene then cuts back to the rally and Ford booming: "Relief is on its way."

A second, similar ad depicts Ford and his wife, Karla, getting ready to take the stage at the March "unity rally" at the **Toronto** Congress **Centre** after he won the PC leadership.

"I have one very simple message to Kathleen Wynne: The party with the taxpayers' money is over," he says.

The Tory ads were prepared in house and party officials, speaking on background in order to discuss strategy for the June 7 election, say they want to highlight "a mostly forward-looking message."

"It's very much a 'change' election - people are ready to move on," said one high-ranking insider, noting the expiry date on the almost 15-year-old Liberal government has passed.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's initial wave of election advertising, prepared by Now Communications, takes a different tone.

The first spot features a man and a woman in a gymnasium on the wrong end of a dodgeball game.

As they get walloped by Liberal red rubber balls, the words "hallway medicine," "sky-high **hydro** bills," "rising costs" appear and the female announcer says: "For so long, Kathleen Wynne's Liberals have been hitting us from every direction."

Then a massive Tory blue ball thumps the man and the announcer says, "And Doug Ford's Conservatives will make it even worse," as the words "privatization, cuts, chaos" flash across the screen.

"But the good news is that you don't have to play by their **rules** any more," she says as an NDP orange ball rolls gently out toward the players.

"On June 7, change the game - vote for someone on your side," the announcer says, as the female dodgeball player grabs the orange ball and throws a Steph Curry-style three-pointer into a basketball net.

A second ad showcases Horwath chatting with voters.

Two weeks ago, the Liberals launched a \$1-million blitz aimed squarely at "the real Doug Ford."

The Liberal spots, which do not mention Wynne, were done by Bensimon Byrne and feature ominous music as a female narrator reminds viewers of some of Ford's more outrageous statements over the years.

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NDP plan to buy back Hydro One has Bay St. skeptical | The Star

www.thestar.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Andrea Horwath has pledged to buy back Hydro One bit-by-bit if she's elected

premier June 7, but Bay Street watchers are warning that would be easier said than done.

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Ontario votes and voltage; Election issues

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$16,614

Reach: 500678 Page: IN10

This is one of a series of editorials on issues facing **Ontario** voters.

At the mere flick of a switch, the marvel of **electricity** is engaged to illuminate, warm, cool, boot up computers, ovens, refrigerators, vehicles and factories, to enable modern life.

For governments charged with supplying that **power**, the apparent simplicity of it all belies what is among the most complex - and politically volatile - of responsibilities.

Ontario's power system is "the largest, most complex engineered system under the direction of decision-makers at Queen's Park," the province's Society of Professional Engineers has said.

And as former **Ontario** premiers Ernie Eves and Dalton McGuinty (among others) can attest, it is in that system that political tombstones are frequently found.

Energy planning is a huge **public**-policy challenge. **Power** installations take years to **plan**, decades to build and cost billions of dollars. Yet every **power plan** is based on estimates, projections, educated guesses.

How much **energy** will be needed? Will the economy be robust or lethargic? What new technologies might appear to increase or reduce demand? Will populations increase by a lot, a little or at all?

All of which is to say **Ontario** voters considering the **power** plans of campaigning politicians in the coming weeks should beware those promising the dramatic quick-fixes, be it the summary firings and wholesale uprooting of **wind** turbines proposed by PC Leader Doug Ford, or the renationalizing of **hydro transmission** systems promised by Andrea Horwath's NDP.

Those proposals might provide some momentary emotional satisfaction. But they constitute neither a **plan** nor even a savings, given contractual consequences or associated costs. They are effective as ideological signalling, to be sure. But Ontarians deserve credible **energy** alternatives and less of the politically-inspired action of the sort responsible for the current government's biggest fiasco.

All parties should borrow a maxim from medicine and undertake, as a first principle, to do no harm. Because, put simply, **energy** is complicated.

Ontario has a **hybrid** system, 61-per-cent nuclear, 24-per-cent **hydro**, nine-per-cent **natural gas** and oil, six-per-cent **wind** and **solar**. It has a market-driven and a regulated marketplace, with a vast ecosystem of licensed distributors, equipment suppliers, contractors, engineers, marketers and retailers.

Beyond question, **rates** rose in recent years to levels painful to some households and costly to business and employment. One report said **electricity** prices in **Ontario** increased at almost four times the annual **rate** of inflation from 2008 to 2015.

It's worth recalling, however, that the biggest driver of those rising **rates** was the more than \$35 billion invested since 2003 in rebuilding the failing **electricity** system the current Liberal government inherited from its Progressive Conservative predecessor, which declined to grasp that nettle.

Rates rose due to closing coal plants, the single biggest reduction in carbon emissions in **North** America, if not the world. They rose because **Ontario** spent on nuclear, **wind**, **hydro** and **solar** supply, subsidized conservation and innovation, began the weaning from carbon that the future will require. And they rose, to be sure, because of the cost of cancelling **gas** plants.

Last year, the Liberal government intervened, belatedly by the premier's own admission, to lower **hydro** bills.

Ontario rebated its portion of the **HST**. It transferred the cost of **hydro** subsidies for the poor, rural and remote residents from **hydro** bills to the general tax base. And it spread the amortization period for billions of dollars in improvements to the system over a longer term.

Those measures have seen **electricity rates** fall almost 25 per cent on the average monthly household bill.

With cleaner **energy** and the investment in supply, **Ontario** does not face the blackouts and brownouts of the fairly recent past and southern **Ontario** enjoys vastly more pleasant summer days.

The new problem is too much **electricity** and its sale to neighbouring jurisdictions at less than the cost of production.

If history is a guide, **electricity rates** will be perennially contentious in provincial politics. And they will continue to rise.

The province's Long-Term **Energy Plan** released last year estimated that, on average, **consumer** and industrial **electricity rates** will increase in line with inflation over the next four years, then increase about five per cent annually from 2021 to 2027.

The question to be faced is, who will foot the bill?

Will consumers pay now or leave it to future generations? If willing to pick up the cheque now, how can the burden be more fairly distributed?

The **Canadian Centre** for Policy Alternatives has suggested a fairer way to spread the costs and savings.

The government's across-the-board **rebate** gives the biggest savings to the richest, most **energy**-consuming households. Better, the **centre** said, a system geared to consumption and income.

Other sound prescriptions are equally undramatic.

For instance, Adam White, president and CEO at Powerconsumer Inc., has said an **independent**, transparent **review** of proposed expenditures might help avoid cost disasters, but his advice to aspiring **Ontario** leaders is more rational than rash.

"Don't ram things down people's throats."

"Do make the right choice easy, safe and cheap as possible."

White sensibly observed that "generations of Ontarians have skin in" this debate.

Those generations will expect something better than an **energy** system shaped by vindictiveness, posturing or tantrum.

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Ontario Election 2018: Your guide to the Liberal, PC and NDP platforms

www.macleans.ca - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Election day in Ontario—June 7—is fast approaching, and voters face a stark choice in the three main candidates. Kathleen Wynne and the governing Liberals are campaigning on the record of their 15 years in office and a budget plan that calls for a massive expansion of government spending and deficits.

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Leaders display differing visions during NOMA visits - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The three candidates to be the next premier of Ontario all took their turn on stage during this week's Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association conference.

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Local NDP candidates unveil Northern platform | Timmins Press

www.timminspress.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Veteran Northern Ontario MPP Gilles Bisson believes this could be the year that his New Democratic Party might again become Ontario's party in power.

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THE SUN TIMES

Safety, not salary; The security of Ontario's nuclear plants should be an election priority, not the salaries of top Hydro One execs

Owen Sound Sun Times - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Erika Simpson

Ad Value: \$1,217

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

Hydro One owns and manages **Ontario's electricity-transmission** facilities and it is the largest provider of local **electricity**.

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford would like voters to believe firing its chief executive would lead to lower **electricity** bills.

But CEO Mayo Schmidt's annual salary of \$6 million is justifiably competitive, says Katherine Wynne.

And, according to **Hydro** One: "The board believes the compensation paid to Mr. Schmidt and other senior executives is appropriate for their roles in overseeing an enterprise with \$25 billion of assets, annual revenue of almost \$6 billion and a strategy to expand our capabilities."

What might happen to those costs if a serious nuclear accident, similar to what took place in Fukushima, Japan, were to happen at **Hydro One's** Pickering Nuclear Generating Station? A new report released by the **Ontario** Clean Air Alliance in March and written by Dr. Ian Fairlie, a radiation expert from the U.K., calculates the immense costs for **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)**, which is 100 per cent owned by the province of **Ontario** and was established as part of **Hydro One's restructuring** in 1999 as a commercial company.

Pickering is surrounded by more people than any other nuclear station in **North America**; 2.2 million people live within 30 kilometres of the plant. According to the OCAA report, more than 650,000 people and 154,000 homes would have to be evacuated for 30 to 100 years in the **Greater Toronto Area**.

All of Pickering and parts of Aurora, Markham, **Newmarket**, Scarborough and Richmond Hill would need evacuation.

Low-level fallout would reach from **west of London** to the southwestern corner of Algonquin Park. Contaminated areas, including "no-go zones" would encompass major highways, including highways 401, 407 and 404, and major rail lines, like the CN, CP and Go Transit rails.

A Fukushima-type disaster at Pickering could lead to 26,000 cancer diagnoses, half of which would be fatal.

In 2014, the **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission ordered that potassium iodide (KI) pills be distributed to all Canadians living or working within 10 km of a nuclear facility. The mass mailing of KI tablets by the Durham **Regional** Health Department and **Ontario Power Generation** in 2015 resulted in more than 200,000 homes and businesses near the plants receiving kits containing the pills and brochures explaining how and when to use them. People living within 50 kilometres of the facilities still may order the tablets from www.prepabetobesafe.ca.

However, these pills would only protect against one type of cancer, thyroid tumours, and radiation is known to cause many types of cancers.

In the event of a major leak or accident, residents living in the path of the expected plume of radioactive **gases** would be asked to swallow the tablets and evacuate the relevant areas as quickly as possible. If this isn't possible, the provincial emergency authority recommends people stay indoors and await instructions via TV and radio.

The OCAA report on the risks of a radioactive release at Pickering also suggests \$125 billion in lost home values. Home insurance policies would not protect homeowners in the case of a nuclear accident, and private insurers do not offer coverage for nuclear accidents. However, **OPG's** liability is capped at \$1 billion, leaving most property losses unrecoverable.

At 47 years, Pickering is a very old facility. The aging plant's licence expires Aug. 31, unless extended by the **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission for another 10 years, and CNSC has never rejected an **application** for renewal. From 2018 until 2023 the plant would operate as usual, then be closed for good, and from 2024 to 2028, decommissioned.

The ancient facility runs on 1960s and '70s technology but **OPG** claims it has invested more than \$200 million on maintenance and repairs since 2010. In 2016, it took the plant out of **service** to conduct maintenance at a cost of \$75 million.

Could an accident happen before 2028? There is some seismic activity in the **Toronto** area.

The plant remains vulnerable to a severe accident, freak weather event, plane

crash, or cyberattack.

For example, Russia conducted a cyberattack on Estonia's parliament, banks, ministries, newspapers and broadcasters in 2007. The United States and Israel also developed the Stuxnet computer virus in 2007 in order to thwart the Iranian nuclear enterprise. And although neither country has admitted its involvement, the virus unexpectedly and aggressively spread around the world, in the course of which it attacked American computer **networks** and infrastructure.

Moreover, the biggest **North** Korean cyberattack to date, a ransomware attack in May 2017, brought down hundreds of thousands of computers across dozens of countries.

While an earthquake and tsunami in Lake **Ontario** are thought unlikely, human-caused accidents, cyberwarfare, computer failures and ransomware are burgeoning possibilities.

The province would have little room to respond to an accident, disaster or shock. This March, two credit-rating agencies, Moody's and DBRS, stopped short of downgrading **Ontario**'s debt.

Ontario was the world's most indebted sub-sovereign borrower in 2015, with twice the debt of California, the biggest U.S. state.

Pickering provides about 14 per cent of **Ontario**'s **electricity** but experts at OCAA point out Pickering's **electricity** could easily be replaced with **hydro electricity** supplied from Quebec. There would be enormous cost savings because approximately two-thirds of **Hydro** Quebec's **electricity** exports are sold at an average price of only three cents a kilowatt-hour.

In October 2016, **Ontario** concluded an agreement with **Hydro** Quebec to purchase two billion kWh of water **power** a year at a price of five cents a kWh for seven years; **Hydro** Quebec is now generating **wind power** at an average cost of 6.3 cents a kWh. If **Ontario** voters want to save money on their **electricity** bills, it would be cost effective to co-operate with Quebec.

No matter what, nuclear waste from the decommissioned Pickering and Darlington plants will need to be disposed of somewhere, at great cost. Perhaps the low-level and intermediate-level waste will be buried under the Bruce station, the largest operating nuclear station in the world.

OPG is proposing the construction of a deep geologic repository in limestone caverns 1.2 km from the shores of Lake **Huron**.

Estimates are it will cost between \$1.5 billion and \$13 billion to construct a site to bury all **Ontario**'s decommissioned waste from its 20 nuclear reactors, adding to the rising cost of **Ontario**'s nuclear **electricity**.

Taken altogether, the costs, safety and security of the province's nuclear plants should be a top election issue for any party or government. Erika Simpson is an associate professor of international relations at Western University and the vice-president of the **Canadian** Peace Research Association.

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Show your support for Bruce

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: David Shier

Ad Value: \$345

Reach: 13483 Page: A4

As your readers may be aware, Bruce **Power** will appear before the **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) at the end of May to request a 10-year extension to its operating licence.

At this **public** hearing, which will be held May 28-31 in Kincardine, dozens of people and organizations - myself included - will become 'intervenor's and speak in support of Bruce **Power**. I will do so because the company has repeatedly proven to be committed to the safety of its workers, the **public** and the environment, while providing a necessary resource to the province.

Bruce **Power** has also proven to be a good corporate partner, financially supporting numerous Indigenous initiatives, educational opportunities, community events, nonprofit organizations, and environmental programs.

The fact Bruce **Power** does all this while safely providing low-cost **electricity** to a third of the province is why the **Canadian** Nuclear Workers Council, along with other industry organizations, unions and supporters, came together to start an online petition at www.supportbrucepower.com. We encourage the **public** to show its support for Bruce **Power**'s licence renewal by joining us in signing this petition.

It was now 20 years ago when the former **Ontario Hydro** shut down the four reactors at Bruce A, and yet many of us can vividly recall the devastation it caused the communities along the Lake **Huron** shoreline. Families were uprooted, many never to return. Jobs weren't replaced. Small businesses failed while our largest employer floundered. Houses were sold for pennies on the dollar.

It was a trying time for the people of Bruce and Grey Counties, but we persevered and were eventually rejuvenated by Bruce **Power** - first through the refurbishment of Bruce A, and now the Life-Extension Program, which will allow the site to operate until 2064.

We are now in a period of economic prosperity, thanks to Bruce **Power**, and it is only getting better as other nuclear suppliers are setting up shop locally, providing a further influx of investment into our local economy.

First though, Bruce **Power** needs its 10-year operating licence approved by the CNSC. Please consider doing your part in strengthening the future of our area by signing the petition at www.supportbrucepower.com, share with your friends and family on social media, and encourage them to sign it as well.

Respectfully,

David Shier National Director, **Canadian** Nuclear Workers Council

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Resident worried about proposed plant

The Timmins Daily Press - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Emma Meldrum

Ad Value: \$828

Reach: 9196 Page: A1 / Front

A May 10 community consultation will give the **public** a chance to provide feedback on a proposal that would see a **natural gas** compression plant set up on Highway 101 East near Connaught Road.

The meeting, scheduled for 4 p.m. in Council chambers, will cover the proposed zoning by-law, which would see a parcel of land directly **north** of the highway rezoned for use by Certarus.

That company, which has locations in the U.S. British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, has highlighted **Ontario** as an area for **regional** expansion.

Lydia Lehoux lives directly across from the proposed **natural gas** compression site. She's worried about the negative effects the project could have - like increased sound.

"There's going to be somewhat of a wooded area between us, but the sound will travel," said Lehoux. "The sound of it is like a jet engine."

She also pointed to the marsh situated next to the proposed Certarus site, noting the area is home to eagles, ospreys, herons, ducks and moose. Frederick House **River** is **west** of the site as well.

Lehoux is also worried about the increased traffic, adding she's aware of at least four accidents in front of her home, where she's lived for four years.

The Connaught resident has been looking into the project since receiving notice in the mail, and plans to attend the May 10 meeting, or send a written submission if work causes her absence.

She's encouraging other residents to attend, too, if only for more information.

The Daily Press requested an interview with Certarus staff to ask about the scope of the project, job creation numbers, the possible effects of the plant, the steps taken to mitigate these effects, and what stage the project is at.

Certarus instead issued a statement, printed here in full: "Certarus is a **Canadian** bulk compressed **natural gas** (CNG) company providing fuel to industrial customers. We are currently working through an **application** process with the City of Timmins for a proposed site location.

As part of this process we will be seeking feedback from local residents and land owners this month through **public** consultation. Certarus will be holding an information session on the proposed development during this time and a date will be communicated once confirmed. We encourage all residents to attend and be part of the consultation process so we can respond to questions and inquiries openly and effectively."

In an email to the city's manager of planning Cindy Welsh, Certarus VP Rod Saville explained that the property they selected was the only one available for purchase that was large enough to accommodate their needs, close to a **Union Gas** riser capable of handling their demand, and with access to a good **transportation** route.

Councillor Pat Bamford, who represents Ward 4, was also approached for comment by The Daily Press. He wrote in an email that he needs more details about the project before he can make a statement. Bamford, who is a member of the Timmins Economic Development **Corporation**, said that organization has been working with Certarus to bring the project to this area.

Cindy Welsh, manager of planning with the City of Timmins, said she couldn't say what her recommendation about the proposed zoning by-law would be since **public** consultations haven't happened yet.

"All of the feedback that's received at the **public** meeting is presented to council in a staff report," said Welsh, who added that issues raised at the meeting are addressed by staff if they're from a land use planning perspective.

Lehoux said she's all for economic development - but the location of the Certarus plant is concerning to both herself and the neighbours she's spoken with.

"I'm definitely concerned about the impact that it's going to have on myself and my neighbours. I'm concerned about the impact that it's going to have on our environment. These properties not only affect us, but they affect the tourism industry, they affect our natural resources.

"It's really a question of **public** safety, **public** health, and also our interests as homeowners."

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Ontario recovering from deadly windstorm; Thousands left without electricity as province begins 'lengthy cleanup' from severe weather that downed trees and power lines

The Globe and Mail - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MOLLY HAYES

Ad Value: \$11,375

Reach: 309154 Page: A9

The cleanup process continues after a windstorm that has been blamed for the deaths of three people, and left hundreds of thousands of homes in the dark.

As gusts reached more than 125 kilometres an hour in parts of Southern **Ontario** on Friday, Environment Canada issued a severe weather warning.

"It's not unheard of," operational meteorologist Steven Flisfeder said of the **wind**. "But it's certainly not something we see every week."

In **Milton**, Ont., a tree came down on two arborists Friday afternoon as they worked, striking them. The older of the two, a 28-year-old man, died at the scene.

His 18-year-old colleague was rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced dead on Saturday.

"They were working on tree servicing, and as they were doing that, the **wind** picked up and a tree fell on the two individuals," Staff Sergeant Jeff Foster with **Halton Regional** Police said.

The Ministry of Labour is investigating, he said.

In Hamilton, a man in his 50s was killed Friday evening after he tried to clear a downed **power** line from a roadway downtown and was electrocuted.

With many **power** outages still being reported across the region, police have cautioned people to contact emergency crews if they come across any downed **wires**, and not to try to move the **wires** themselves.

As of Sunday afternoon, **utilities** in **Ontario** and Quebec said they were making progress in efforts to reconnect hundreds of thousands of people blacked out by the storm.

Ontario's Hydro One reported Sunday morning that approximately 100,000 customers remained in the dark, down from a peak of more than 200,000. It said **utilities** from across the province had been called in to assist.

Toronto Hydro crews were still working to reconnect some 4,200 customers. The city's **forestry** crews continue to respond to calls related to damage caused by Friday's **wind** storm and said they are still assessing the extent of the damage.

It will be a "lengthy cleanup," Mr. Flisfeder said.

He said the region was hit with two separate weather systems Friday, including a line of thunderstorms that crossed around 3 or 4 p.m. The **wind** peaked as a cold front moved through the area a couple hours later.

"That's when the strongest winds hit," he said.

Peel **regional** police said a tree came frighteningly close to striking a school bus in Mississauga.

Police said 72 children between the ages of 7 and 10 were on the bus at the time, but there were no reports of injuries.

Pearson International Airport suspended operations for about two hours because of the extreme winds. The airport lifted its "ground stop" by about 8 p.m. on Friday.

WITH FILES FROM THE **CANADIAN** PRESS

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Toronto Hydro says close to 4,000 still without power following Friday windstorm - Toronto | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Toronto Hydro says 3,900 customers throughout Toronto are still without power two days after a windstorm hit southern Ontario.

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Windstorm blamed for 3 deaths as crews work to restore power to thousands | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A fierce windstorm that wreaked havoc across Ontario on Friday is being blamed for three deaths.

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Hydro crews continue to restore power in Toronto after Friday's windstorm

www.680news.com - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Just over 1,000 customers remain without power nearly three days after a devastating wind storm cut a swath of destruction through the city.

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Seventeen Ontario utilities join Hydro One's all hands on deck restoration response following

www.newswire.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Seventeen utilities have answered the call to help Hydro One restore power to the 60,000 customers that are still affected by Friday's devastating wind storm.

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Hundreds of thousands without power

Toronto Sun - Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$2,971

Reach: 222184 Page: A12

Hundreds of thousands of people were still without **power** across Central Canada yesterday morning following a windstorm that downed trees and **power** lines and left two people dead.

Environment Canada said **wind** gusted close to 120 km/h Friday in the wake of a cold front that moved across **Ontario** and Quebec.

Hydro One, **Ontario's** largest **power utility**, was reporting more than 200,000 customers affected by outages yesterday morning, though the number dropped to 175,000 by early afternoon.

Toronto Hydro said another 23,000 were without **power** in the city - down from a peak of 68,000.

The city's **utility** noted yesterday that outages could last for an extended period of time, noting that this was the third major storm to pummel the region in the spring season.

"We're in a significant emergency state and are dealing with the after-effects of a major windstorm," **Toronto Hydro** tweeted.

"Damage is severe and some outages will be lengthy."

In Quebec, more than 135,000 people were still without **power** yesterday.

Hydro Quebec asked customers for patience as its crews worked to clear the downed trees and branches that damaged its grid in several areas of the province.

Southern Quebec The most affected region was the Monteregie in southern Quebec, where 53,000 people were still in the dark as of 8 a.m.

In Montreal, downed branches blocked several roads but the **utility** said no major damage was reported.

But most of the damage came on Friday, when police **west** of **Toronto** said two people died as a result of the winds.

Halton Regional Police said a tree fell on two men who were "working on tree servicing" on Friday afternoon in **Milton**, killing one and injuring the other.

And in Hamilton, police said a man who had been trying to clear downed **power** lines was found "in contact with live **wires**" on a road and died soon after emergency services arrived on Friday evening.

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Intense winds cause chaos, trees on fire, hydro wires on cars, windows broken

Newmarket Era - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$442

Reach: 57606 Page: 1

Motorists and first responders are dodging downed **power** lines, trees on fire and bumper to bumper traffic as high winds howl across the region.

The most serious incident appears to be on Bayview Avenue, south of St. Johns Sideroad, where eight **hydro** poles have fallen, one on a Honda CRV with reports of people being trapped inside.

Trees are on fire and explosions have been heard near 10934 Warden Ave. Trees are also on fire at McCowan Road south of Bloomington Road.

Lanes are closed at 15th Sideroad and Bloomington, for fallen trees. The windows at Shoppers Drugmart on Yonge Street in **Newmarket** have been broken and there has been damage to the rail crossing at Davis Drive and Green Lane, police added.

Leslie Street between Stouffville Road and Bethesda Side Road is temporarily closed as a tree has fallen across the road. Drivers are asked to avoid the area.

York **Regional** Police Staff Sgt. Dave Mitchell said motorists are being asked not to leave their vehicles if they are stuck in traffic, as it is not safe to leave them.

Environment Canada has issued a **wind** warning that remains in effect for **northern** York Region.

Newmarket and Georgina are expected to see strong winds, as well as **northern** Durham Region in Uxbridge and Beaverton.

The agency says strong winds may cause damages as **wind** gusts will reach speeds of 110 kilometres per hour. The winds are a response to a cold front moving through the region.

Alectra **Utilities** says its expecting higher volumes in its phone lines, with a total of 20,000 customers across the **Greater Toronto** Area without **power** as of 5 p.m. An earlier **power** outage in Vaughan affected 5,000 residents.

The high winds are expected to weaken later this evening.

Damage to buildings, like roof shingles and windows, may occur. Strong winds can toss loose objects and break tree branches. Be cautious while driving with windy road conditions.

Environment Canada issues **wind** warnings when it expects a significant risk of damaging winds.

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High winds cause damage across Waterloo Region

Waterloo Region Record - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$3,411

Reach: 73852 Page: B1

High winds and thunderstorms blew across **Waterloo** Region on Friday afternoon, leaving behind local **power** outages that affected tens of thousands of people.

Across the region, trees were toppled by extreme gusts of **wind** between 80 and 100 kilometres per hour. City streets came to a crawl as **power** for traffic lights was cut, and at some intersections the lights crashed to the street below or were badly bent and damaged.

The Weather Network even reported the low possibility of a tornado in the province.

Energy Plus reported outages affecting thousands of homes and properties in Cambridge, Ayr, Roseville and **Brantford** after a weather warning ended for the area at about 3:50 p.m.

The outage map on the **utility**'s website showed at one point 2,747 homes were affected in Hespeler, but by about 6:45 p.m. only about 150 were still without **power**. Another 3,722 were affected in Galt in the early afternoon, but by around 6:30 p.m. that number had climbed to about 5,437. Around Roseville, 414 homes were hit by a **power** outage. In Ayr, 2,152 were affected.

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro's online outage map showed approximately 10,000 costumers were without **power** in **Kitchener** at around 6:45 p.m. Friday evening, mostly in the areas of Stanley Park, Eastwood, Bridgeport and Kingsdale. About 1,000 more in **Wilmot** were powerless, mostly between Baden and Petersburg, along with 685 near Sportsworld Crossing.

A spokesperson from the **utility** could not be reached for comment, but a recorded phone message indicated crews were "actively working to restore **power** as quickly as possible, but we expect it will take many hours due to the extent of damage we have experienced."

Waterloo North Hydro showed 3,229 customers without **power** in the area around Fischer-Hallman Road South, Erb Street **West** and University Avenue **West**.

Another 313 customers in Maryhill were without **power**. Upwards of 5,000 households in the **west** end of **Waterloo** and into Wellesley Township were without **power** as well.

At the peak of the storm, about 12,000 customers were without **power**, said Kiel Edge, corporate communications specialist with the **utility**. He couldn't say if the storm's strength caught them by surprise, but added, "we're always prepared."

A **customer**-owned **pole** line failed in Elmira where 235 were briefly without **power** after the storm. **Power** to 177 homes near Hawkesville was quickly restored after a brief outage.

Most affected areas across the region were expected to see **power** restored within a few hours.

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Extreme wind, storms kill 1 while causing regional havoc; Severe weather leads to outages, flight delays, destruction to buildings

Toronto Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Clare Rayment Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$27,222

Reach: 500678 Page: A8

A man died Friday night in **Milton** in an evening of chaos, as extreme winds and thunderstorms continued to affect **power** and **transportation** throughout **Toronto** and several parts of the GTA.

Winds up to 110 km/h caused a tree to fall on two men, one 28 and one 18, who were clearing trees near 20 Side Rd. and 4th Line in the **Halton Hills** area, **Halton** police said.

The 28-year-old was pronounced dead on the scene. The 18-year-old was rushed to Hamilton General Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The severe weather put the GTA at a standstill Friday evening. **Toronto** police temporarily closed High Park because of the extreme winds. **Toronto** Pearson Airport temporarily suspended all flights due to the weather.

Many posted videos online of cranes wildly spinning in the **wind**.

A **Toronto Hydro** spokesperson said more than 160,000 people experienced **power** outages, mainly because trees had brought down **hydro** poles and **wires**. They advised the **public** to be mindful of fallen **wires** and to report any **wires** and damages to 911 and **Toronto Hydro**.

Alectra tweeted that it had close to 100,000 customers without **power** due to downed **power** lines and poles.

Hydro One reported **power** outages for more than 126,000 customers throughout **Ontario** due to both winds and thunderstorms. Crews were being mobilized all over **Toronto** and the GTA, with additional crews responding to the hardest hit areas.

The OPP closed the **Burlington** Skyway bridge in both directions because of the winds.

Metrolinx spokesperson Vanessa Barrasa said the entire train network was severely affected.

"There are **power** outages throughout our entire network," Barrasa said. "There are trees blocking lines and many of the crossings aren't working, so the trains can't switch tracks. The UP Express is completely halted."

Barrasa said Metrolinx was working with the TTC and **regional** emergency services to try to fix the situation, but it was not known when train services would be up and running fully again.

Anne Marie Aikins, another Metrolinx spokesperson, tweeted that a UP Express glass panel at Pearson was smashed. GO Train delays were up to 90 minutes, with multiple cancellations.

In Richmond Hill, reports showed eight **hydro** poles down on Bayview Ave., south of St. Johns Sideroad, according to the Richmond Hill Liberal.

In Hamilton, police blocked pedestrian access to a sidewalk on a main downtown thoroughfare after a large chunk of siding ripped off the side of a building. Several poles and **wires** were down, as well as construction hoarding.

Just after 4 p.m., a man was struck by a metal awning blown off a convenience store at Bloor and Dovercourt by high winds.

Michael Ianni said he was walking out of the store with his friend when they heard a loud noise and saw the awning start to fall. They moved to avoid it but saw it fall on the man behind them, Ianni said.

Paramedics said they responded to a call at that location just after 4 p.m. and transported a man in his 30s, who sustained minor injuries, to a local hospital.

With files from the Richmond

Hill Liberal and the Hamilton Spectator

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Wind blast, rain cause mayhem; Downed power lines create potentially dangerous situation

Windsor Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Dalsen Chen

Ad Value: \$7,812

Reach: 58088 Page: A4

A sudden blast of **wind** and rain resulted in **power** outages across Windsor on Friday afternoon.

At 2 p.m., **Enwin Utilities** was reporting problems in many areas of the city, including downtown, the university area, South Cameron, South Central, Walkerville, Pillette Village and Grand Marais East.

Hydro One was reporting 3,499 customers in **Essex** County were without **power** and would remain so until 11 p.m.

At one point in the afternoon, **Enwin**'s outage map showed 29 active outages in downtown Windsor alone - affecting everything from residences to traffic lights.

But Walkerville was where the most people were affected, with more than 3,500 **Enwin** customers impacted by outages, as of 1:50 p.m.

Downed **power** lines created potentially dangerous situations throughout the city.

On **Ottawa** Street at Marentette Avenue, and in the 1100 block of Mercer Street, Windsor police had to block the area from all vehicular and pedestrian traffic after falling trees knocked down live **wires**.

In South Windsor, the winds were powerful enough to uproot a large tree in the 700 block of Bartlet Drive - which took down **power** lines as it toppled.

The cause of all the issues was a short period of violent **wind** and heavy rain.

Environment Canada issued a **wind** warning and a severe thunderstorm warning on Friday morning due to gusts potentially reaching 110 km/h.

But the stormy weather didn't last long.

Within 30 minutes of rainfall in downtown Windsor, skies lightened and the sun was shining again.

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Hydro One says 5,500 customers impacted by power outage in north Dufferin, Grey counties

Orangeville Banner - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$180

Reach: 23500 Page: 1

Hydro One is reporting that more than 5,550 customers in the **north** end of Dufferin County and Grey County have been impacted by a **power** outage.

As of 2:30 p.m. on Friday (May 4), **Hydro** One's outage map indicated customers in Shelburne and Mulmur as well as those in parts of Mono, Amaranth, Southgate, New Tecumseth and Adjala-Tosorontio were without **power**.

Hydro One has not released a cause for the outage, however, Environment Canada did issue a severe thunderstorm watch and **wind** warning for the region

early Friday morning.

The national weather agency's forecast called for heavy rain, large hail and "damaging **wind** gusts" of up to 100 km/h beginning in the afternoon.

As of 7 p.m. on Friday, **Hydro** One reported crews were assessing the damage causing the outage. The **utility** had not stated when it expected **power** to be restored.

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Wind storm caused outages to more than 180,000 Hydro One customers

www.newswire.ca - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A wind storm that started this afternoon has caused power outages to more than 180,000 Hydro One customers. It is expected this weather will continue throughout the evening, potentially causing further damage. Hydro One is mobilizing crews and where safe, assessing damage and restoring power to customers.

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Strong winds rip part of roof off downtown Bolton convenience store, knocks out power across Caledon

Caledon Enterprise - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$427

Reach: 15763 Page: 1

Caledon firefighters were in downtown Bolton at Queen Street and Highway 50 where strong winds tore part of a roof off a convenience store building, according to the Town of Caledon.

The Town sent out a tweet Friday (May 4) around 7:30 p.m. warning residents to avoid the area as Queen was closed to Sterne Street.

Caledon, like much of southern **Ontario**, was under **wind** warning Friday as Environment Canada advised that **wind** gusts of up to 110 km/h had been seen in the wake of a cold front moving through the area.

The strong winds downed **hydro** lines and trees across the town, toppled fences and tore shingles from rooftops.

David Arbuckle, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives for the town, said Caledon Fire was kept busy responding to multiple calls and was also monitoring situations in neighbouring areas for mutual aid. Firefighters were called to a house fire on Hockley and a grass fire at the Grange/Hwy 10 area.

According to the **Hydro** One Storm **Centre** map, a number of areas across Caledon were in the dark. More than 3,000 customers were without **power** in Bolton alone. Crews were working in the area, however, the map indicated the **power** may not be back on until 11:30 p.m.

According to **Hydro** One, the afternoon **wind** storm knocked out **power** to as many as 180,000 **Hydro** One customers. Making matters worse is that the wild weather is expected to continue into the evening which may cause more **power** outages.

"**Hydro** One crews are working to restore **power** as quickly as possible to

customers affected by the **wind** storm," said Greg Kiraly, Chief Operating Officer, **Hydro** One in a press release. "Our priority right now is to respond to emergencies and start repairing main lines so that we can get the largest numbers of customers restored as quickly and safely as possible."

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. To report downed trees on roadways, Caledon residents were asked to call the Region of Peel after hours number at 1-905-791-7800 and to call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

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Wind storm downs hydro lines across Northumberland

Northumberland News - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$186

Reach: 22800 Page: 1

NORTHUMBERLAND — A **wind** storm knocked down trees and **hydro** poles Friday night.

Wind gusts of up to 90 km/h were expected for Northumberland in a warning from Environment Canada.

Hydro One reported an outage in the Harwood area affecting 4,470 residents.

Downed **wires** and trees reportedly closed roads across Northumberland. **Hydro wires** were down on **Toronto** Street and Robertson Street in Colborne. A **pole** snapped and **wires** fell across Dale Road and Burnham Road closing the intersection at Precious Corners **north** of Cobourg.

In Port Hope Scriven Boulevard was closed after a wire fell across the road.

High winds drew some to the waves at Cobourg beach for **wind** and kite surfing.

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More than 200,000 without power following disastrous Ontario wind storm

nationalpost.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - More than 200,000 people are still without **power** across southern and central **Ontario** on Saturday morning following a windstorm that downed trees and **power** lines and left two people dead.

Environment Canada says **wind** gusted at close to 120 kilometres per hour on Friday in the wake of a cold front that moved across the province.

Hydro One, the province's largest **power utility**, is reporting more than 200,000 customers affected by outages on Saturday morning.

Toronto Hydro says another 20,000 are without **power** in the city.

On Friday, police **west** of **Toronto** said two people died as a result of the winds.

Halton Regional Police say a tree fell on two men who were "working on tree servicing" on Friday afternoon in **Milton**, Ont., killing one and injuring the other.

And in Hamilton, police say a man who had been trying to clear downed **power** lines was found "in contact with live **wires**" on a road and died soon after emergency services arrived on Friday evening.

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Oilpatch CEOs blame high costs, red tape for erosion of Canada's competitive edge | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon May 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

CEOs of the largest oilpatch companies are stepping up to the podium this month for their annual address to shareholders and, one by one, they are painting a picture of how uncompetitive it is to operate in Canada and attract investment dollars.

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Engage in the public debate, Fort St. John resource rally hears

www.alaskahighwaynews.ca - Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Out of your seats and onto the streets — that was the message heard by a group of business and political leaders at a natural resource rally in Fort St. John Friday night.

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WATCH: Albertans rally in Red Deer for Trans Mountain Pipeline - Red Deer Express

www.reddeerexpress.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

A rally for Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain Pipeline at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer saw hundreds of Albertans come out and show their support for the embattled pipeline project.

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Scheer blames Trans Mountain pipeline situation on lack of leadership in Ottawa - 660 NEWS

www.660news.com - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer spoke in downtown Calgary on Friday at the Calgary Chamber lunch.

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Scheer blames Trans Mountain pipeline situation on lack of leadership in Ottawa - 660 NEWS

www.660news.com - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Conservative Party Leader Andrew Scheer spoke in downtown Calgary on Friday

at the Calgary Chamber lunch.

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Andrew Scheer warns against using public money for Trans Mountain | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri May 4 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer raised a red flag Friday over the potential use of taxpayers' dollars by the federal and Alberta governments to backstop the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline

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Hicks on Biz: Is Big Oil slip-sliding away in Alberta? | Edmonton Sun

edmontonsun.com - Fri May 4 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

There will be no dramatic cleaning out of Enbridge or TransCanada's Calgary corporate headquarters, no fleet of moving vans heading down the American I-25 highway in a near straight line from Calgary through Denver to Houston.

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Is the dream of a First Nations-led pipeline a 'big joke'?; One Indigenous entrepreneur's plan to obtain consent from local bands has received support from many - but also opposition from some who are skeptical that the dream will crumble ahead of coming oil-tanker legislation, Brent Jang writes

The Globe and Mail - Sat May 5 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Brent Jang

Ad Value: \$31,139
Reach: 372649 Page: A16

Indigenous entrepreneur Calvin Helin believes he has found the way to turn his pipeline dreams into reality: obtain consent first from certain First Nations and worry about the economics later.

Amid the constitutional mess enveloping the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion plans, the president of Eagle Spirit **Energy** Holding Ltd. says his alternative, **Northern** Alberta-B.C. pipeline proposal has gained a new lease on life over the past four weeks. Mr. Helin says investor interest in Eagle Spirit has picked up considerably since Kinder Morgan announced on April 8 that it had halted non-essential work on the Trans Mountain project and set a May 31 deadline for a decision on whether to proceed.

"There has been a change in tone recently. We've gone from an idea five years ago, an exercise, to a commercially realistic **plan**," Mr. Helin said in an interview this week in a boardroom at Rogers Arena, home of the Vancouver Canucks.

While billions of dollars will have to be raised from a wide range of sources, Eagle Spirit has the early backing of Aquilini Group, owner of the Canucks and a major **real-estate** developer.

Mr. Helin says he has secured Indigenous consent along Eagle Spirit's

northern route from Alberta to British Columbia and, crucially, approval from the Lax Kw'alaams Band at the proposed export terminal site at Grassy Point. By contrast, the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations oppose Trans Mountain's expansion plans for the Burnaby terminal on their traditional land along Burrard Inlet in the Vancouver region.

But skepticism and criticism persist.

The Coastal First Nations, an alliance of nine Indigenous groups that includes the Gitga'at, is urging the federal government to formalize a planned ban on large oil tankers on the **North Coast**.

"I think Eagle Spirit is a big joke," said Gitga'at chief councillor Arnold Clifton, who categorizes the project as a pipe dream because of the expected passage this year of Bill C-48, the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act.

The Lax Kw'alaams Band made headlines in the spring of 2015 when the vast majority of its members voted against exports of liquefied **natural gas** from Lelu Island by Pacific NorthWest LNG. In the summer of 2016, many members changed their minds, but Pacific NorthWest LNG cancelled the project last year.

Internal strife lingers, with one group within the band issuing a declaration opposing Eagle Spirit.

Bill Gallagher, a lawyer who examines conflicts between First Nations and **energy** developers, says Pacific NorthWest LNG's cancellation taught everyone a valuable lesson: Corporations are willing to walk away when faced with shaky project economics, in addition to the complicated and often conflicting views within Indigenous groups.

While the idea of an **energy** corridor across **Northern** B.C. is a good one, Eagle Spirit isn't necessarily a realistic answer to Alberta's prayers for getting oil to tidewater, Mr. Gallagher cautions.

But Mr. Helin, a lawyer who grew up in Lax Kw'alaams, is unapologetic about his unconventional approach to business.

In what Canada's oil sector sees as desperate times, his seemingly wild and crazy vision is being given a serious look in Alberta by industry players, who see it as an innovative project led by Indigenous leaders.

"We see a lot of First Nations supporting the **northern** project that Calvin and his team are moving forward," said Tim McMillan, president of the **Canadian** Association of Petroleum Producers. Oil producers Cenovus **Energy** Inc., MEG **Energy** Corp. and Suncor **Energy** Inc. have expressed interest in signing up for capacity on Eagle Spirit, while AltaCorp Capital Inc. has been tapped as a financial adviser.

Mr. Helin, 58, is unfazed by the vocal skeptics who portray his mission as farfetched, given Enbridge Inc's ill-fated **Northern** Gateway proposal. He counters that the proposed oil tanker moratorium won't stand up in court. He plays down the criticisms of the Coastal First Nations and adds that it is unrealistic to expect him to obtain unanimous consent from First Nations across B.C.

To differentiate his project from Kinder Morgan's, he is proposing to remove bitumen from the picture. He says shipments of medium crude, a lighter commodity, are much less controversial among the Indigenous leaders who count - those along Eagle Spirit's route from Alberta to Grassy Point.

He has revised his proposal several times over the past five years, and the latest vision does not depend on refining heavy crude into synthetic light oil. Still, over the long term, he is open to having a third party build a refinery in Alberta if it makes economic sense.

Taking a back seat for now is the proposed pipeline's economic viability, because without Indigenous support at the outset, new **energy** megaprojects in Canada are doomed, Mr. Helin said. "The toughest thing to do is getting support from First Nations," he said.

He credits Luigi Aquilini, the patriarch of family-owned Aquilini Group, for relying on "gut instinct" in agreeing to help Eagle Spirit in its early days, in 2013. "Luigi understands that there isn't much of a chance for things to move unless there is support from First Nations," Mr. Helin said.

Eagle Spirit plans to apply next year for federal regulatory approval for its \$12-billion pipeline **plan**.

Mr. Helin says he takes a neutral position on Trans Mountain, only making comparisons to show why he should be taken seriously. He insists that Eagle Spirit's Grassy Point site is better situated than Kinder Morgan's Burnaby terminal. "The problem with Kinder Morgan is the location of their port and the political and navigational risks associated with that site," he said.

He says the roots of the impasse over Kinder Morgan's project can be traced back 40 years, to a comprehensive 1978 study by the federal government. It concluded that Grassy Point would be the best export location in British Columbia, with much better ratings than Burrard Inlet in categories such as cleanup potential in the event of an oil spill.

Grassy Point's deepwater site would be capable of handling enormous tankers called very large crude carriers, which are well suited for oil exports to Asia, according to an Eagle Spirit presentation. The company argues that going through Burrard Inlet would be less efficient because it requires smaller, Aframax tankers to navigate under two bridges in the shallower waters of the Port of Vancouver, potentially rendering shipments to Asia uneconomic.

Mr. Helin says he has the momentum - and the support of his older brother, John, who is mayor of the Lax Kw'alaams Band and a former vice-president of Eagle Spirit.

The Lax Kw'alaams Band filed a notice of civil claim in March in B.C. Supreme Court, against Canada and British Columbia, claiming aboriginal title to its traditional territory, including Grassy Point.

"This court case isn't about oil, per se.

It's about the federal government imposing its will on us without consulting us about banning tankers," John Helin said in an interview. "The government talks about reconciliation, but it doesn't mean anything. Our people want economic benefits and they want jobs."

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Earth's CO2 levels reach historic high; Experts blame fossil fuels for rise in greenhouse gas causing global warming

Toronto Star - Sun May 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Doyle Rice USA Today

Ad Value: \$9,416

Reach: 315452 Page: A4

Carbon dioxide - the **gas** scientists say is most responsible for global warming - reached its highest level in recorded history last month, at 410 parts per million.

This amount is the highest in at least the past 800,000 years, according to the

Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Prior to the onset of the Industrial Revolution, carbon dioxide levels had fluctuated over the millennia but had never exceeded 300 parts per million.

"We keep burning fossil **fuels**. Carbon dioxide keeps building up in the air," said Scripps scientist Ralph Keeling, who maintains the longest continuous record of atmospheric carbon dioxide on Earth. "It's essentially as simple as that."

Keeling and his late father Charles David Keeling have kept carbon dioxide (CO₂) measurements at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii since 1958.

The average concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was 410.31 parts per million (ppm) for the month of April, according to the Keeling Curve measurement series.

This marks the first time in the history of the Mauna Loa record that a monthly average has exceeded 410 parts per million. It's also a 30-per-cent increase in carbon dioxide concentration in the global atmosphere since the Keeling Curve began in 1958.

"As a scientist, what concerns me the most is not that we have passed yet another round-number threshold but what this continued rise actually means: that we are continuing full speed ahead with an unprecedented experiment with our planet, the only home we have," Katharine Hayhoe, a **climate** scientist at Texas Tech University, tweeted Thursday.

Carbon dioxide is called a greenhouse **gas** for its ability to trap **solar** radiation and keep it confined to the atmosphere. It is the most prevalent among all greenhouse **gases** produced by human activities, attributed to the burning of fossil **fuels**.

The increase in **gases** such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide is fuelling **climate** change and making "the planet more dangerous and inhospitable for future generations," the World Meteorological Organization said.

Increasing amounts of carbon dioxide and other **gases** are enhancing the planet's natural "greenhouse effect." CO₂ levels were around 280 parts per million prior to the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800s, when large amounts of greenhouse **gases** began to be released by burning fossil **fuels**.

The burning of the oil, **gas** and coal for **energy** releases greenhouse **gases** such as carbon dioxide and methane.

These **gases** have caused the Earth's temperature to rise over the past century to levels that cannot be explained by natural variability.

Carbon dioxide is invisible, odourless and colourless, yet it's responsible for 63 per cent of the warming attributable to all greenhouse **gases**, according to NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo.

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Taking aim at wind power

National Post - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$3,834

Reach: 185480 Page: A13

Re: Renewables: Still not cheap, Lawrence Solomon, April 27 As usual, Lawrence Solomon has skewered the reputation of renewables with the facts, which are that the rush to **renewable energy** in the form of **solar power** and **wind** turbines has had a huge downside. In several countries, it has failed to

produce longterm employment and resulted in skyrocketing **hydro** prices, often accompanied by little or no reduction in overall GHGs, since **wind** turbines do not come without a GHG penalty.

Although he focused on Germany, similarly devastating results are being reported from the U.K. and Australia, where the local citizenry in many communities are fighting to have existing **wind** turbines removed and petitioning for no new "beasts of the **wind**." In the U.K. alone, there are more than 120 anti-**wind turbine** organizations protesting current installations and fighting future developments.

Moreover, in the U.K, many **wind** turbines are reaching the same end-of-life period as those in Germany, and in a number of U.K communities, the move is on to decommission and not to reemploy them.

The claims of reducing pollution or greenhouse **gases** appear to be greatly exaggerated.

Wind is a diffuse and fickle resource that does not follow demand. Despite decades of experience and substantial installations in Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Spain, often successful in generating reasonable **electrical energy** contributions to the grid, these giant turbines have not been shown to meaningfully reduce the use of other **fuels** on the **electric** grid - such as **natural gas**, coal, and nuclear - let alone oil for transport and heating. For this reason, their ability to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to **climate** change or pollutants that cause acid rain and health problems is doubtful, despite the vast number of installed **wind** turbines worldwide.

Duane Sharp,

Mississauga, Ont.

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Carbon pricing effective

The Sault Star - Sat May 5 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Elaine Blacklock M.D. Sudbury

Ad Value: \$364

Reach: 14083 Page: A8

Re: Trudeau must reveal carbon tax's true cost As a physician, I often engage in discussions with patients about the pros and cons of a treatment. Good medical decisions must be based on consideration of not only the possible negative effects of a treatment, but take into account the severity of the disease, the likelihood the treatment will be effective, what other options are available, and what will happen if you decide against the treatment. Regarding the proposed carbon tax, Postmedia claims it will be ineffective and wants its true costs to be revealed. Have they not read the extensive documentation on the effectiveness of carbon pricing prepared by Canada's Ecofiscal commission? Why aren't they factoring in the severity and urgency of the **climate** change problems we face? The massive costs we are already accruing as a result of increased frequency of drought, fires, mega-storms, etc? And if carbon pricing is so bad, why are they not outlining proposed alternative "treatments" and arguing for their effectiveness? Finally, it's wrong to say the US has "rejected" carbon taxes. Trumpian Washington may have done so, but carbon pricing is a reality in many American cities and states, most notably California, with whom **Ontario** and Quebec share an emissions **Cap and Trade** system. Note that California's economy alone is larger than Canada's. Elaine Blacklock M.D. **Sudbury**

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