John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: April 13, 2018 9:43 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Clippings Summary: Friday, April 13, 2018

Good Morning,

- There is coverage of the OEB's rejection of Hydro One's bid to buy Orillia Power Distribution. (Full Globe and Mail story below
- Sudbury Star has a story about the Liberal caucus pushing back against PC leader Doug Ford's comments during a local campaign stop, including claim that Ontario's energy rates are highest in North America. OEB is mentioned
- And there is widespread follow up coverage of Ford's promise to fire the CEO of Hydro One if elected, but no media pick up of comments made during the live news conference by PC Energy Critic Todd Smith, who took to the podium after Ford, and twice mentioned the OEB's concerns about executive compensation at Hydro One. FYI In their response to the PCs, Hydro One referred to the OEB aka "the regulator" regarding executive compensation.

Orilllia Matters: **BREAKING NEWS: OEB nixes deal between Orillia Power and Hydro One**

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has nixed a potential deal that would have seen the City of Orillia sell the distribution arm of Orillia Power to Hydro One as part of a large, multi-faceted deal.
"It's a decision we weren't expecting that's for sure," Orillia Mayor Steve Clarke told OrilliaMatters Thursday evening. "Yes, I was surprised."
He said the city received the decision at about 4:30 p.m. "It's a big document and we need to take a couple of days to review it and then come up with what the next steps might be," said Clarke, noting he couldn't say, at this point, why the OEB did not approve the deal. While disappointed and surprised, the mayor said the deal might not be dead.
"From my perspective, it's fair to say, it's not over," he said. "This council ran on economic development and job creation and I believe it's a tremendous opportunity we don't want to miss."
He said the city will seek legal advice and counsel from experts: "We need to get educated from those in the know regarding our options."

The city was approached by Hydro One in 2016 and agreed to sell the distribution arm of Orillia Power to the massive provincial entity for $26.35 million, which officials estimated was double its value. As part of the deal, Hydro One agreed to assume the $10 million in debt Orillia Power had amassed and said it would protect the 36 affected jobs – for one year.
As part of the pact, Hydro One agreed to purchase up to 36 acres at the Horne Business Park where, if the deal was green-lighted, it would build an integrated systems operation centre. Hydro One said two other buildings – a warehouse and regional operation centre – would be built there regardless of the outcome of negotiations.

Three city councillors – Mason Ainsworth, Rob Kloostra and Sarah Valiquette-Thompson – were not in favour of the deal.
Coun. Mason Ainsworth told OrilliaMatters tonight: "I respect the past decision of council. But as the record shows, I voted against this deal and it seems the OEB did the same."
Kloostra said he was surprised but elated. "It's a win for the little guy," he said while on vacation in the

Caribbean. "I never thought it should be sold."
Valiquette -Thompson said she was concerned by what she felt was a lack of public engagement during the process.
"It troubled me to no end the lack of public consultation on one of the biggest transactions in city history. (I was) shocked we didn't give public more opportunity to weigh in."
She said she is pleased the OEB has put the brakes on the plan. "I'm very happy for the people today – the people who used their voices and (I am) relieved the OEB decided with the people."
When the city announced it had consummated this deal, many believed the OEB would simply rubber-stamp the pact. However, in August, the OEB issued a procedural order that "holds the decision in abeyance" until it rules on the Hydro One distribution rate application. "The OEB has determined that Hydro One should defend its cost allocation proposal in its distribution rate application prior to the OEB determining if the Orillia acquisition is likely to cause harm to any of its current customers," the order stated.
Essentially, the OEB was concerned the acquisition would translate into higher costs to Orillia citizens. In its order, the OEB noted that when Hydro One acquired other utilities (such as Woodstock, Haldimand and Norfolk), there were "large distribution rate increases for some customers ... once the deferred rebasing period elapses."

Globe and Mail: Ontario Energy Board rejects Hydro One bid to buy Orillia Power Distribution
Hydro One had announced a deal to acquire the utility company for $41.3 million in 2016. The figure included the assumption of about $14.9 in OPDC debt. In its decision, the OEB said it applied a "no harm test" to assess the deal and was not satisfied that the test requirement had been met. Hydro One had said the deal would result in a one per cent reduction in base delivery rates for Orillia Power's customers in years 1 to 5 and rate increases of less than the inflation rate in years 6 to 10. The utility also said the consolidation would result in ongoing cost savings of approximately $3.9 million per year and reduced capital costs of about $600,000 per year.
The OEB said, however, that while it agreed that the deal would "reasonably be expected to result in overall cost savings and operational efficiencies," they might not necessarily translate to lower rates for customers in the long run.
Both Hydro One and the City of Orillia said late Thursday that they are reviewing the decision before determining their options. Negotiations between the city and Hydro One began in September 2015 and the deal was finalized the following August

Bayshore Broadcasting: OEB Rejects Sale Of Orillia Power Distribution Arm To Hydro One

- The Ontario Energy Board has rejected the application for the sale of the distribution arm of Orillia Power to Hydro One.
- In a statement, the City of Orillia says it will be reviewing the decision and exploring what options are available moving forward.
- Negotiations between the City and Hydro One started in September 2015 and a deal was concluded nearly a year later.
- Besides the sale of Orillia Power's distribution arm for $26 million, the project included a Technological Hub, of which Hydro One paid $3 million for 16.4 acres of land in the Horne Business Park.
- The City had suggested the deal could pour $200 to $300 million into the local economy and create an untold number of jobs.

Sudbury Star: Ford misleading Sudbury voters: Liberal Party

- The Liberal Party is refuting a series of statements made by Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford during his appearance in Sudbury on Wednesday.
- Ontario hydro rates are the "highest in North America," Ford told his Sudbury faithful.
- Not true, counters the Liberal caucus, with reference to a set of stats presented in graphic form by the Ontario Energy Board. "As you can see from the chart, electricity rates in Ontario are much lower than other North American jurisdictions," the release states.

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Friday, April 13, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 40 Results

Ontario Energy Board pulls plug on Hydro One-Orillia Power Distribution deal

Financial Post - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

TORONTO - The Ontario Energy Board has rejected Hydro One's application to purchase the Orillia Power Distribution Corp. Hydro ...

BREAKING NEWS: OEB nixes deal between Orillia Power and Hydro One - OrilliaMatters.com

www.orilliamatters.com - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has nixed a potential deal that would have seen the City of Orillia sell the distribution arm of Orillia Power to Hydro One as part of a large, multi-faceted deal.

- City of Orillia

www.orillia.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The City of Orillia has received notification that in a decision dated April 12, 2018, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has denied the application for the sale of Orillia Power Distribution Corporation to Hydro One Inc. (Hydro One).

Ontario Energy Board pulls plug on Hydro One-Orillia Power Distribution deal; OEB nixes Hydro One-Orillia Power deal

Broadcast news - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

TORONTO - The Ontario Energy Board has rejected Hydro One's application to purchase the Orillia Power Distribution Corp. Hydro ...

Ford misleading Sudbury voters: Liberal Party | Sudbury Star

www.thesudburystar.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
OEB is mentoned.

The Liberal Party is refuting a series of statements made by Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford during his appearance in Sudbury on Wednesday.

To Hydro Boss: 'You'Re Fired'; Ford pledges to get rid of board, CEO of utility

Toronto Sun - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $5,443
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford says his first act if elected to govern will be to fire the $6.2-million -a-year president and CEO of Hydro One and the utility's board of directors. "It is morally indefensible that at ...

Ford says he will fire Hydro One CEO if he wins election; PC leader's threat to axe '$6 million man' would cost $12M, report shows

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $17,047
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

Doug Ford's threat to "fire" the Hydro One chief executive he calls "the $6 million man" would cost almost twice that in severance. The Progressive Conservative leader promised Thursday to axe the board of directors and oust ...

Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board as first act

The Globe and Mail - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: $17,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A1

Doug Ford says his first act as Ontario premier would be to fire the head of the partly privatized Hydro One and the utility's board of directors if his Progressive Conservatives win power in June. Mr. ...

Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected premier - Article - BNN

www.bnn.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Doug Ford says that if he is elected premier this spring, he will fire the CEO of Hydro One and the company's board of directors.

PC leader Doug Ford would fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected Ontario premier

Burlington Post - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,706
Reach: 57819 **Page:** 1

Technical difficulties from a faulty microphone and disappearing spotlight didn't stop **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford from telling Halton's chambers of commerce how he plans to make the province "a better place to do business." One of ...

PC leader attacked; Doug Ford misleading Sudbury voters: Liberal Party of Ontario

Sudbury Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $953
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A2

The Liberal Party is challenging a series of statements made by Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford during his appearance in **Sudbury** on Wednesday. Ford told those gathered for a rally at Cambrian College that he would go "line item ...

'Take this to the bank'

Sarnia Observer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A5

If elected premier of **Ontario** in the spring election, Doug Ford says his first act will be to fire the CEO of **Hydro One** and the company's board of directors. The newly minted leader of the opposition Progressive ...

PC Leader Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford is vowing to fire the head of Hydro One, and its entire board if he's elected premier in June.

Ford makes bold campaign promise | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

In provincial politics PC leader Doug Ford has made a bold promise, saying he will fire the Chief Executive Officer and entire board of Hydro One, if elected.

Doug Ford promises to fire Hydro One CEO if elected | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Doug Ford says that if he is elected premier this spring, he will fire the CEO of Hydro One and the company's board of directors.

Fixing Ontario's hydro woes starts at Hydro One

Toronto Sun - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,932
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Ontario PC leader Doug Ford's commitment to turf **Hydro** One's board and its "$6-million man" CEO won't fix this province's **energy** troubles. It won't help seniors struggling to pay the highest **energy** bills ...

Doug Ford will fire Hydro One CEO if elected premier | Edmonton Sun

edmontonsun.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford says he will fire the $6.2 million-a-year CEO of Hydro One along with the entire board of directors if he's elected premier.

PC Leader Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford is vowing to fire the head of Hydro One, and its entire board if he's elected premier in June.

Ford's simple, stupid plan to fix hydro misses mark

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $994
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

The first thing Doug Ford would do as premier of **Ontario** is get rid of the chief executive of **Hydro One**, he said Thursday, a simple, dumb move that wouldn't lower the price of **electricity**. Mayo Schmidt, ...

Doug Ford (unintentionally) reminds people that privatizing Hydro One was a bad idea | National Union of Public and General Employees

www.nupge.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Unless Doug Ford commits to bringing Hydro One back under public ownership, his promise to fire the President and CEO of Hydro One is meaningless.

Ontario's soaring electricity costs result of poor government policies: report - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Poor decision-making by the Ontario government caused electricity costs to soar in recent years, hurting residents and hampering the competitiveness of the province's manufacturing sector, the Fraser Institute argues in a new report.

Setting the record straight

Mississauga News - Thu Apr 5 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,746
Reach: 123300 **Page:** 1

RE: **Ontario Power Generation** sells Lakeview lands in Mississauga for $275 million It is simply appalling that inaccurate and false information about the former Lakeview Generating Station continues unabated. ...

Ontario's power costs a result of poor policies, report finds

The Globe and Mail - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ALEXANDRA POSADZKI

Ad Value: $11,906
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A9

Poor decision-making by the **Ontario** government caused **electricity** costs to soar in recent years, hurting residents and hampering the competitiveness of the province's manufacturing sector, the Fraser Institute argues in a new ...

At least support an opinion with facts

Independent Free Press - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $47
Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

Re: Letter Make an Informed Election choice. Can an opinion piece get more unreasonable than this? An attack on Wynne with no supporting reasons and an accusation of childishness against anyone who supports her policies? Why do you publish such ...

Wynne and her merry band of tax theives

Toronto Sun - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jameswallace

Ad Value: $2,711
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

Kathleen Wynne has been busily dispensing free daycare, free prescription drugs for youth and seniors, free education and other pre-election goodies to the province's hard-pressed citizens. But she's hardly Robin Hood. More the Sheriff of ...

"At Issue:" Pipelines, premiers and the prime minister

THE NATIONAL - Thu Apr 12 2018, 9:00pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ANDREW COYNE; CHANTAL HÉBERT; ALTHIA RAJ; JOHN HORGAN; RACHEL NOTLEY; JUSTIN TRUDEAU

ROSEMARY BARTON (HOST): If there's any question about how tense things have gotten between Alberta and B.C. over the TransMountain pipeline, consider this, the prime minister is cutting short his trip to Peru at the Summit of the Americas to get ...

Time to lead on pipeline; Trans Mountain

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $22,649
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A12

The Trudeau government has positioned itself as taking the "middle way" in the increasingly bitter fight over whether to build a pipeline that would give Alberta oil an outlet to the sea. The problem with being in the middle, of course, is that you ...

Canadians far from clean on pollution

Sarnia Observer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: R And S Halliday

Ad Value: $129
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

In an article in yesterday's Observer, entitled Getting ready for **climate change**, our MP Marilyn Gladu is quoted as saying that Canadians only produce two per cent of the world's CO_2 emissions. The implication was that we, as ...

Audit exposes Canadian climate failures

LaSalle Post - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Suzuki

Ad Value: $584
Reach: 11120 **Page:** A6

Scientists, academics, environmentalists and communicators have urged governments to take the **climate** crisis seriously for decades. We've outlined the overwhelming evidence, generated discussion and offered myriad solutions. We've ...

Stay the course on cap and trade

Brantford Expositor - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Robert J. Macmillan

Ad Value: $434
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A4

Should we cancel the **cap**-**and**-**trade** program? Can we change direction without undoing what we have already accomplished with great effort and cost? In **electrical** production, we have already done the heavy ...

Philip Cross: Elites bungled their carbon-tax crusade because they don't understand Canadians | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A recent poll showing that a majority of Canadians don't understand or have never heard of a carbon tax demonstrates the gulf between the largely academic-bureaucratic elite who push for this tax and ordinary Canadians.

Trans Mountain: Just what is in the 'national interest'?

The Globe and Mail - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Ivanov James

Ad Value: $1,718
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A12

If the federal government won't act in the national interest, what's the point of having a federal government? Critical infrastructure - Trans Mountain and **Energy East** - must not be held ransom to **regional** politics. ...

Trudeau's pipeline dilemma: lose seats in B.C., or lose a lot more elsewhere | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Finding the right political balance between the environment and the economy isn't easy for any party. For Justin Trudeau's Liberal government, it's especially awkward.

Trudeau must lead on both pipeline and climate change | The Star

www.thestar.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The Trudeau government has positioned itself as taking the "middle way" in the increasingly bitter fight over whether to build a pipeline that would give Alberta oil an outlet to the sea.

UPDATED: Red Deer MPs worry about Trans Mountain delay - Red Deer Advocate

www.reddeeradvocate.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Red Deer's Conservative MPs say a solution to move the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project forward can't come quick enough.

Don Martin: On energy, distrusting a PM named Trudeau is in Albertans' DNA | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

You need a double-helix wrapping of Alberta DNA to appreciate the visceral anger raging against British Columbia for its legally-suspect Trans Mountain pipeline stalling tactics.

Business groups gather for action on Trans Mountain pipeline - Comox Valley Record

www.comoxvalleyrecord.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Small business, forestry, mining and other business leaders spoke in Vancouver Thursday to urge the federal government to save the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.

How not to build a pipeline - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, April 12, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

It has been called everything from an “economic emergency” to a “constitutional crises.” It has seen wine importation bans, a civil war between provincial wings of the NDP and the arrest of two B.C. MPs for protesting. And, it would appear, ...

Kinder Morgan’s frustrated attempt to build an oil pipeline reflects badly on Canada - Three-ringed circus

www.economist.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

ALMOST all Canada’s oil and gas is landlocked, so getting it to market requires pipelines—lots of them.

Celebrate Earth Day at Gamiing

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $27
Reach: 29544 **Page:** 1

Area residents looking to make every day Earth Day and reduce their **carbon footprint** are invited to get a start on it all with a visit to Gamiing Nature **Centre** on April 21. There is plenty to do for people of all ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario Energy Board pulls plug on Hydro One-Orillia Power Distribution deal

Financial Post - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

TORONTO - The Ontario Energy Board has rejected Hydro One's application to purchase the Orillia Power Distribution Corp.

Hydro One had announced a deal to acquire the utility company for $41.3 million in 2016. The figure included the assumption of about $14.9 in OPDC debt.

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The utility also said the consolidation would result in ongoing cost savings of approximately $3.9 million per year and reduced capital costs of about $600,000 per year.

The OEB said, however, that while it agreed that the deal would "reasonably be expected to result in overall cost savings and operational efficiencies," they might not necessarily translate to lower rates for customers in the long run.

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Negotiations between the city and Hydro One began in September 2015 and the deal was finalized the following August.

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www.orilliamatters.com - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

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- City of Orillia

www.orillia.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

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Ford misleading Sudbury voters: Liberal Party | Sudbury Star

www.thesudburystar.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

The Liberal Party is refuting a series of statements made by Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford during his appearance in Sudbury on Wednesday.

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To Hydro Boss: 'You'Re Fired'; Ford pledges to get rid of board, CEO of utility

Toronto Sun - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $5,443
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford says his first act if elected to govern will be to fire the $6.2-million -a-year president and CEO of **Hydro** One and the **utility**'s board of directors.

"It is morally indefensible that at this time when seniors are fearful of heating their homes, when businesses are closing down and jobs are leaving the province, when taxpayers are suffering all due to skyrocketing **hydro** bills that this board and the CEO of **Hydro** One are laughing themselves to the bank," Ford said yesterday, releasing the first plank of his election campaign. "That's why today I'm announcing that my first act as premier, we will use every tool at the disposal of the **Ontario** government to remove the $6-million man and the entire board of **Hydro** One."

Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government has sold off a majority stake in **Hydro** One but the province remains the largest single shareholder.

PC **energy** critic Todd Smith said the province can't directly fire the CEO, but does have the right to remove the board which has control over senior management.

Such a move would send ripples through the entire **public** sector that the government won't stand for these types of compensation packages, Smith said.

According to **Hydro** One documents, it may not be a cheap thing to do.

The **contract** for President and CEO Mayo Schmidt, who received a $1.7-million increase in compensation this year to bring his take home to $6.2 million, stipulates that he's entitled to $5 million if terminated without cause.

That golden parachute grows to $10.7 million if Schmidt is terminated without cause after a "change in control" such as the **Ontario** government replaces the entire board. Similar agreements are in place for other top executives at **Hydro** One.

"We will not engage in politics, however our customers deserve the facts," a **Hydro** One statement says. "We have heard the feedback from our customers and the **regulator** about executive compensation. That's why we decided earlier this year that customers will only pay for the CEO's salary as it was at the time of the IPO. **Hydro** One customers will pay 2 cents on their monthly bill for the CEO's compensation - this is the same as before privatization."

The majority of executive compensation is paid for by shareholders, **Hydro** One said.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said Ford is obliged to explain clearly how his "chaotic scheme" would work.

"We've already seen the chaos created by a man in the White House who's governing by firing people all the time," Thibeault said in a statement. "Ford's gimmick will drag us down into the same mess and won't actually do anything to reduce **hydro** bills, either."

Since 2003, the Liberal government has tripled **hydro rates**, at a cost of about $1,000 a year, while **hydro** executives have taken home millions of dollars in bonuses, Ford said.

Schmidt's salary is more than six times higher than comparable executive compensation across the country, the PCs say.

Meanwhile, people across the province are telling him they can't afford their **hydro** bills, Ford said.

"You can take this to the bank - the CEO's gone and the board's gone," Ford said. "The party's over." aartuso@postmedia.com

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Ford says he will fire Hydro One CEO if he wins election; PC leader's threat to axe '$6 million man' would cost $12M, report shows

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $17,047
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

Doug Ford's threat to "fire" the **Hydro** One chief executive he calls "the $6 million man" would cost almost twice that in severance.

The Progressive Conservative leader promised Thursday to axe the board of directors and oust Mayo Schmidt, who earned $6.2 million in total compensation last year, in his "first act" if elected premier June 7.

"You can take this to the bank. The CEO is gone and the board is gone," Ford told a campaign-style news conference at a downtown hotel.

He blamed Kathleen Wynne's government for bloated executive pay in the **public** sector and high **electricity** bills pinching the pockets of Ontarians.

"We need to start respecting the taxpayers. We need to start putting money back into their pocket instead of the millionaires' club."

Although Ford and Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith, the party's **energy** critic, could not say how much their **Hydro** One housecleaning would cost, the company's latest management information circular provides details.

Firing the board, using powers the provincial government retained after partially privatizing the former Crown **utility**, would constitute a "change of control" in **Hydro** One and entitle Schmidt to walk away with $10.7 million under a "double trigger" provision for a firing without cause. Should the existing board dismiss Schmidt without cause, his payout would be $5.04 million.

Schmidt's total pay packet is about eight times higher than the previous chief executive officer's before the privatization.

Ford suggested an appropriate annual salary would range from $400,000 to $500,000, similar to what provincial **hydro** generating and **transmission** company CEOs earn in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board as first act

The Globe and Mail · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: $17,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A1

Doug Ford says his first act as **Ontario** premier would be to fire the head of the partly privatized **Hydro** One and the **utility**'s board of directors if his Progressive Conservatives win **power** in June.

Mr. Ford labelled Mayo Schmidt the "six million dollar man," in one of his initial policy announcements as **Ontario**'s opposition leader, and blamed the CEO of **Hydro** One for the province's high **electricity** prices.

Mr. Schmidt, who runs the former Crown **corporation** responsible for the **transmission** of much of **Ontario**'s **electricity**, received a $1.7-million raise last year for a total salary of $6.2-million.

"You can take this to the bank, the CEO is gone and the board is gone," Mr. Ford said during a news conference on Thursday. "It's done, the party is over."

The government's **energy** policies have been blamed for soaring **electricity** bills across the province over the past decade. The issue has become an explosive one for the Liberals, particularly in rural **Ontario**, prompting Premier Kathleen Wynne to reduce **rates** by 25 per cent in 2017.

Delivering a populist message and promising to lower those bills further, Mr. Ford said Mr. Schmidt and his **hydro** executives are elites benefiting at the **public**'s expense.

However, the PC Leader could not say exactly how he would fire the head of a company partly privatized by Ms. Wynne two years ago or how that would lower **electricity** bills.

The government still has a 47-percent stake in the **utility**.

The CEO's severance could cost more than $10-million, according to the company's annual report. "We're going to eliminate the outrageous salaries and bonuses for these people," said Mr. Ford.

When asked by reporters how his move wouldn't trigger paying severance, Mr. Ford could not answer.

After taking a few questions on Thursday, he asked Tory **energy** critic Todd Smith to provide specifics on the **plan** and left the room. Mr. Smith quickly acknowledged that the **Ontario** government could not directly fire the CEO.

"We don't have the ability to go out and say we are firing the CEO at **Hydro** One," said Mr. Smith, only minutes after his leader said Mr. Schmidt was gone if he was elected premier.

"We certainly have a tool at our disposal to get rid of the board at **Hydro** One, which is going to get the message loud and clear from Doug Ford and the PCs that we want to get these executive compensation packages under control," Mr. Smith added.

According to the agreement signed by **Ontario** when it sold more than half of **Hydro** One, the province can call a shareholders meeting to replace the company's board. However, only the board can dismiss the CEO. According to Mr. Smith, after winning **power**, Mr. Ford would make it clear that "he's going to get rid of the board unless the board gets rid of [Mr. Schmidt] first."

While **Ontario**'s Liberal government brought in measures last year to lower **electricity rates** by 25 per cent, many in the province remain upset with the rapid increase in prices. According to a study from the right-of-**centre** Fraser Institute, residential **electrical** costs increased by 71 per cent in **Ontario** between 2008 and 2016. The government has defended the increased **rates** as the cost of rebuilding a threadbare **electrical** system, which no longer suffers from rolling **power** failures, and closed all its coal-burning plants.

"**Ontario**'s **electricity** problems need more careful analysis and solutions than swinging an axe at parts that garner outrage on talk-radio call-ins," said **energy** consultant Tom Adams. He said firing the head of the **transmission** company, which doesn't produce **electricity**, would do nothing to lower **electrical** bills.

During Question Period in the legislature on Thursday, Ms. Wynne compared Mr. Ford's promise to fire people to moves by U.S. President Donald Trump "I have no idea how that will help any person in the province of **Ontario**," she said. "The reality is that that will not take one cent off anyone's **electricity** bill. You know, there's a guy to the south of us, Mr. Speaker, who is governing by firing, and I'm not sure that's going so well," Ms. Wynne said. She dismissed Mr. Ford's announcement as "a slogan masquerading as policy."

Hydro One said in a statement that Mr. Schmidt's compensation costs each of its customers two cents on their monthly bills - a **rate** that hasn't changed since privatization. According to the company, the CEO's team executed $114-million in savings last year. "We will not engage in politics, however our customers deserve the facts," the **utility** said.

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Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected premier - Article - BNN

www.bnn.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Doug Ford says that if he is elected premier this spring, he will fire the CEO of Hydro One and the company's board of directors.

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PC leader Doug Ford would fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected Ontario premier

Burlington Post - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,706
Reach: 57819 **Page:** 1

Technical difficulties from a faulty microphone and disappearing spotlight didn't stop **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford from telling **Halton**'s chambers of commerce how he plans to make the province "a better place to do business."

One of the first tasks on that list - if he's elected premier on June 7 - is to fire the

Hydro One CEO and its board of directors - referencing company president and CEO Mayo Schmidt getting a $1.7-million raise, which set his yearly salary and bonuses at $6.2 million in 2017.

It's unclear, however, how Ford would be able to do so after the Liberal government recently sold a 53-per-cent stake in Hydro One and no longer controls the entity. The controversial deal raised $9.2 billion.

"We have the highest hydro rates in North America; that is discouraging businesses from holding up in Burlington," said Ford.

"That's absolutely unacceptable. We're going to make sure that we'll be a 'business-friendly' government. There's going to be accountability, transparency and integrity brought back to Queen's Park."

The new PC leader was invited to speak at the Burlington Convention Centre on Thursday, April 12 morning by the Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills chambers of commerce.

Ken Nevar, chair of the board for the Oakville Chamber, said invitations to speak have also been sent to Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne and Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath, noting chambers of commerce are non-partisan.

Ford gave a 10-minute keynote address, which was followed by a 20-minute fireside chat with Kim Donaldson, Ontario vice-president for the Insurance Bureau of Canada - the short times were due to Ford's schedule, the crowd of approximately 460 business, community and political leaders was told.

The PC leader called the upcoming provincial election one about respecting the taxpayer and businesses.

Ford said the province tries attracting businesses, but they end up facing too much regulation through taxes, hydro rates and what he called the "nasty" carbon tax, which he said was "an absolute job-killer" and a "scam" - although he did not go into specifics on how it was either of those.

"We're going to change things. We'll be environmentally-friendly while still giving businesses the opportunity to thrive in this province," he said. "They are being stifled by a government that is anti-business."

During the fireside Q-and-A with Donaldson, Ford was asked how his government, if elected, would deal with combating traffic gridlock, balancing Ontario's budgets, regulatory red-tape, bringing people together culturally and politically, and how it would support Halton's "vital" automotive and manufacturing sectors.

On gridlock, Ford said he would throw money at building the province's infrastructure through rapid transit and a regional transportation system in some form (either through GO Transit or another) to get people out of their cars.

While he didn't offer specifics on how a Ford-led provincial government would balance the budgets, he did say "everything would be transparent and be available online."

Ford said he couldn't stand "red-tape," calling the regulations of the ministries of natural resources and environment an "absolute nightmare" and he believed in letting entrepreneurs and businesses thrive.

As for how he'd support Halton's auto and manufacturing sectors, Ford responded by saying how could companies be competitive if the biggest cost is hydro and the carbon tax was going to be massive.

"You can't. We have the greatest minds here in Ontario; let them compete. We need a principled leader to stand up and not fight with our biggest trading partner," he noted, alluding to the province recently looking to introduce a new bill that would allow it to retaliate against any U.S. state that adopted 'Buy American' provisions.

Touching on health care, Ford said **Ontario** had "the greatest" doctors, some of which he's placed on his political staff to figure out how to reduce hospital wait times in the province.

"I have a simple theory - I surround myself with smarter people than Doug Ford and I listen to those people," he said, regarding himself.

"And I have listened to the people and the common message is we're being torn by this Liberal government. We have one shot to turn this province around and I'm going to make sure it is the most prosperous region in the entire world," he continued, "and once we do that, I'm going to go down to the border with big neon signs that read '**Ontario** is open for business.'"

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The Sudbury Star

PC leader attacked; Doug Ford misleading Sudbury voters: Liberal Party of Ontario

Sudbury Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $953
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A2

The Liberal Party is challenging a series of statements made by Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford during his appearance in **Sudbury** on Wednesday.

Ford told those gathered for a rally at Cambrian College that he would go "line item by item in every ministry and drive efficiencies" should he be elected premier, adding he and his late brother Rob Ford accomplished huge savings for **Toronto** taxpayers without anyone having to lose their job.

The Liberal Caucus **Service** Bureau said in a release Thursday that Ford's **plan** to slash billions from the budget would result in a minimum of 75,000 job losses, as calculated by **independent** economist Jim Stanford.

Many of the **public** employees cast adrift- at least 7,000, according to the Liberals - would be teachers, early childhood educators and education assistants. The governing party said Ford would also "fire thousands of nurses, doctors, and personal support workers."

As for earlier preserving jobs in **Toronto**, the bureau said that was false, too. "From 2011 to 2012, operating positions at the City of **Toronto** decreased by 1,411," the release states. "This includes fewer positions at the Affordable Housing Office, **Toronto** **Public** Health, and Long Term Care Home and Services."

Ford also assured his audience that he would "turn this province around and put money back into your pocket instead of the government's pocket."

Citing the **Canadian** **Centre** for Policy Alternatives - an **independent** (albeit left-leaning) think tank - the Liberals counter that their rollout of a $15 minimum wage (which Ford would reverse) will amount to "an extra $1,950 a year before taxes - approximately $1,500 more than they'd get under Ford's **plan**."

Elsewhere in his speech, Ford described **Ontario** as a have-not province and promised a new era of "prosperity and growth."

The Liberals point out that "820,000 net new jobs have been created in **Ontario** since the recession, and over 400,000 under Premier Wynne," adding the province "led the G7 in economic growth for the past three years, and the unemployment rate is at a 17-year low."

Ontario hydro rates are the "highest in North America," Ford told his Sudbury faithful.

Not true, counters the Liberal caucus, with reference to a set of stats presented in graphic form by the Ontario Energy Board.

"As you can see from the chart, electricity rates in Ontario are much lower than other North American jurisdictions," the release states.
sud.editorial@sunmedia.ca

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'Take this to the bank'

Sarnia Observer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A5

If elected premier of Ontario in the spring election, Doug Ford says his first act will be to fire the CEO of Hydro One and the company's board of directors.

The newly minted leader of the opposition Progressive Conservatives blames the utility's CEO Mayo Schmidt, who earned a $6.2-million salary last year, and other company executives for a dramatic increase in hydro rates in the province.

"You can take this to the bank, the CEO's gone and this board is gone," Ford told a news conference Thursday. "When we're in government, we're going to put an end to the hydro executives getting rich off the taxpayers of this great province."

The populist politician's antielitist message resonates with many voters, especially in rural Ontario, who are angry at the Liberal government about the skyrocketing price of hydro.

"We need to start respecting the taxpayers," Ford said. "We need to start putting money back into their pocket."

Shortly after Ford's remarks, Tory energy critic Todd Smith acknowledged that the Ontario government does not have the direct ability to dismiss the Hydro One CEO.

The government has put a process in place that allows it to control or replace the company's board of directors, and only the board can fire the CEO.

Hydro One was partially privatized in November 2015, with the province saying it planned to use the sale of shares to fund transit and infrastructure projects. By December 2017, the province had sold off 53 per cent of its stake in the company.

The decision has come under a lot of criticism, including from the province's fiscal watchdog, who said earlier this year that taxpayers would have saved $1.8 billion if the government had taken on traditional debt to fund infrastructure projects instead of partially privatizing Hydro One, which has over $25 billion in assets and annual revenues of nearly $6 billion.

Hydro One, which is Ontario's largest electricity transmission and distribution provider, said Thursday that it will not engage in politics. However, it said its customers "deserve" to know the facts.

"We have heard the feedback from our customers and the regulator about executive compensation," the company said in a statement. "That's why we decided earlier this year that customers will only pay for the CEO's salary as it was at the time of the IPO."

Hydro One customers pay only two cents on their monthly bill for the CEO's compensation, the company said, adding that nearly 80 per cent of the total executive compensation package is paid for by shareholders.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said Ford's plan will do nothing to address the actual issue of keeping hydro rates low, comparing his statement Thursday to the rhetoric and actions of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The only plan we've heard from Doug Ford so far is firing people and laying off people," Thibeault said. "What I'm seeing a very strong prevalence to is the person running the White House. He's ben doing a lot of firing as well and that's not been working out so well for them."

Ontario's election is set for

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PC Leader Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected | CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford is vowing to fire the head of Hydro One, and its entire board if he's elected premier in June.

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Ford makes bold campaign promise | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

In provincial politics PC leader Doug Ford has made a bold promise, saying he will fire the Chief Executive Officer and entire board of Hydro One, if elected.

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Doug Ford promises to fire Hydro One CEO if elected | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral

Doug Ford says that if he is elected premier this spring, he will fire the CEO of Hydro One and the company's board of directors.

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Fixing Ontario's hydro woes starts at Hydro One

Toronto Sun · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,932
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Ontario PC leader Doug Ford's commitment to turf Hydro One's board and its "$6-million man" CEO won't fix this province's energy troubles.

It won't help seniors struggling to pay the highest energy bills in Canada, bills that have tripled since the Liberals won power in 2003.

It won't stop manufacturers from fleeing this province because of high energy prices, or bring back the 75,000 manufacturing jobs lost under the Liberals.

It won't repair the profound structural damage done to the province's electricity sector or address the Liberal government's wasteful green energy schemes that have needlessly cost taxpayers and hydro ratepayers billions of dollars.

Ford isn't saying it will. But this is what real change looks like. Real change isn't about using bumpersticker slogans like "Fair Hydro Plan" to justify costly and indefensible mismanagement and save the government from political extinction.

It's about making difficult and unpopular decisions that actually serve consumers and taxpayers and that encourage affordable services and business and economic growth.

Ford specifically plans to change the leadership at Hydro One and fire President and CEO Mayo Schmidt, who takes home $6 million annually, which is a first good step.

"It's morally indefensible, at a time when seniors are fearful of heating their own homes, when businesses are closing down and good jobs are moving out of the province and when taxpayers are facing financial hardships - all due to skyrocketing hydro bills - that the board and this CEO are laughing themselves to the bank," he said Thursday.

Because the province both owns 47.4% of the common shares of Hydro One Ltd. and regulates the electricity sector, he's got the tools to make good on his promise.

But the difficult task will be fixing Ontario's costly, unreliable and uncompetitive electricity sector.

The Liberals have already spent the $9.2 billion in profits they made from the ill-advised sale of Hydro One.

They're spending $39.4 billion to give hydro ratepayers a temporary, vote-buying 25% discount on the eve of an election.

They've overpaid $9.2 billion over 20 years for wind and solar power and are losing $1 billion annually dumping unneeded green energy below cost to neighbouring markets.

Ford's right to pull the plug on a CEO and board who don't seem to see lower hydro prices as a priority.

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Doug Ford will fire Hydro One CEO if elected premier | Edmonton Sun

edmontonsun.com · Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford says he will fire the $6.2 million-a-year CEO of Hydro One along with the entire board of directors if he’s elected premier.

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PC Leader Doug Ford vows to fire Hydro One CEO, board if elected | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford is vowing to fire the head of Hydro One, and its entire board if he's elected premier in June.

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Ford's simple, stupid plan to fix hydro misses mark

The Intelligencer

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $994
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

The first thing Doug Ford would do as premier of Ontario is get rid of the chief executive of Hydro One, he said Thursday, a simple, dumb move that wouldn't lower the price of electricity.

Mayo Schmidt, who's had the job 2½ years, was paid $6.2 million last year. Maybe that's all you need to know.

"Nobody should get rich off of ripping off the taxpayers," Ford said. "It is morally indefensible, at a time when seniors are fearful of heating their own homes, when businesses are closing down and good jobs are moving out of our province, and when taxpayers are facing financial hardships, all due to skyrocketing hydro bills, that this board and this CEO are laughing themselves to the bank." Schmidt has to go, Ford said.

"We need to start respecting the taxpayers," Ford said. "The $6-million man is gone."

But Schmidt is not the problem.

The province hired him to lead Hydro One after the privatization was underway. He was already rich: his previous big job was leading Viterra, a grain-handling company descended from the iconic Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, out of profound financial decrepitude and into a $6-billion acquisition by commodities multinational Glencore. Canadian Business magazine called him Canada's best CEO in 2009. In his last year in that gig, before the sellout, Schmidt was paid $5.1 million.

Transforming Hydro One from a ramshackle public utility everyone loves to hate into an effective private corporation is an almost identical sort of job. Schmidt has a proven history of being good at it, and $6 million is what he costs.

Public records show him as a donor to no political party or candidate. He's not even an Ontario guy - he's from Kansas and spent most of his career in Saskatchewan.

So how will firing Schmidt lower hydro bills? "I'm gonna tell you, we're going to achieve that," Ford said. "Over the period of the next 55, 56 days (until the June election), we're going to roll out how we're gonna start putting money in the taxpayer's pocket instead of the government's pocket."

Translation: it won't. If what you want is to see a rich guy get punched in the face over the price of **hydro**, Ford's fist is clenched for you. You'll get the same bill next month and corporate Canada will think the **Ontario** government has lost its mind, but maybe it'll feel good for a little bit.

We used to radically underpay for **electricity** and that left us with a mess that higher prices have paid to fix. If we really want cheaper **electricity**, we can go back to starving the system and start the cycle again. We could **plan** to stop using nuclear **power**, which is reliable but expensive to build and maintain. Or we could go to war with **power**-sector unions, whose members are collectively paid a whole lot more than Mayo Schmidt. No party proposes any of these ideas.

The Liberals have lowered prices by 25 per cent by just borrowing money to cut them, knowing it'll mean higher bills later. Wynne appeals to "generational fairness," spreading out the costs of fixing up our **electricity** system over more years, but it still comes down to putting more on credit to pay off in the future.

After years of harassing the Liberals for their ineptitude on **hydro**, Patrick Brown's "People's Guarantee" took that one step further. He'd have kept the Liberal **plan** and moved more **hydro**-related expenses into the government budget. **Hydro** bills would be lower, taxes would be higher. Whoop-de-do.

And the New Democrats want to buy back control of **Hydro** One at massive expense, see if they can talk the feds into taking sales tax off **electricity**, and then convene a panel to study the problem.

All of these ideas are cosmetic. But they'd still be harder than firing Schmidt or the **Hydro** One board or both, and would do more good.
dreevely@postmedia.com

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Doug Ford (unintentionally) reminds people that privatizing Hydro One was a bad idea | National Union of Public and General Employees

www.nupge.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Unless Doug Ford commits to bringing Hydro One back under public ownership, his promise to fire the President and CEO of Hydro One is meaningless.

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Ontario's soaring electricity costs result of poor government policies: report - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

Poor decision-making by the Ontario government caused electricity costs to soar in recent years, hurting residents and hampering the competitiveness of the province's manufacturing sector, the Fraser Institute argues in a new report.

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Setting the record straight

Mississauga News - Thu Apr 5 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,746
Reach: 123300 **Page:** 1

RE: **Ontario Power Generation** sells Lakeview lands in Mississauga for $275 million

It is simply appalling that inaccurate and false information about the former Lakeview Generating Station continues unabated.

The statement that Lakeview GS "was also one of the worst polluters in the province, spewing coal ash and smoke day and night throughout the city," is totally false.

The installation electrostatic precipitators early on removed over 99 per cent of flash. However, particulate fallout originating from a cement plant further **west** in Mississauga was typically blamed on Lakeview GS.

Lakeview GS never spewed "smoke," which is carbon black from inefficient and uncontrolled low-temperature combustion, because of the high-temperature combustion process used.

Only water vapour was visible exiting the stacks. No "smoke" was evident - although the water vapour plumes have often been falsely described as smoke in the media due to the consistent failure to provide accurate information to the **public**.

Lakeview's emissions never caused smog or adversely impacted air in **Toronto** or Mississauga at ground level since plumes from high-altitude stacks rise in the atmosphere, not sink - and prevailing winds carried the stack plumes away from those cities the majority of the time as seen in both photos.

The most prevalent sources of smog in urban areas have always been motor vehicles and heating of buildings, with absolutely zero input from Lakeview GS.

Ontario's coal-fired generating stations have been routinely blamed for most sulphur-dioxide pollution in **Ontario**. It must be noted that high-sulphur motor and heating **fuels** were prevalent in **Ontario** until recent years with sulphur concentrations routinely exceeding 0.1 per cent. High-sulphur **fuels** were phased out of use at the same time as the closure of **Ontario**'s coal-fired generating stations. Reductions in airborne sulphur dioxide concentrations attributed to the **power** plant closures were mainly due to reduction of sulphur content in **fuels**.

Planned investments would have further reduced emissions utilizing "clean-coal" technology, as used in Europe since the late 1980s (e.g. Germany, Denmark, etc.) - at a fraction of the cost and burden to taxpayers of implementing so-called "green" **energy** sources.

Finally, Lakeview GS was never operational in the 1950s. Unit No. 1 was commissioned in 1962, and the last unit in 1969.

When government, non-governmental organizations and the media perpetrate and convey unsubstantiated information that is not factual, it constitutes a disservice to the **public** interest.

Paul Chomik

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Ontario's power costs a result of poor policies, report finds

The Globe and Mail · Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ALEXANDRA POSADZKI

Ad Value: $11,906
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A9

Poor decision-making by the Ontario government caused electricity costs to soar in recent years, hurting residents and hampering the competitiveness of the province's manufacturing sector, the Fraser Institute argues in a new report.

The report, published Thursday, says Ontario's residential electricity costs spiked 71 per cent between 2008 and 2016 - far outpacing the 34 per cent average growth seen across the country.

But it's not just residents who felt the sting of rising costs. Large industrial users in Toronto experienced a 53 per cent jump in costs, while those in Ottawa saw a 46 per cent boost. That compares with an average increase of 14 per cent for the rest of Canada, according to the report.

The price hikes are responsible for roughly 75,000 job losses in the province's manufacturing sector from 2008 to 2015, according to the report.

The research comes ahead of a provincial election in which electricity prices are likely to be a hot topic.

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford vowed Thursday to fire Hydro One's CEO Mayo Schmidt and the utility's board of directors if he's elected premier.

Mr. Ford said he would can Mr. Schmidt for presiding over the dramatic runup in electricity rates and because of the $6.2-million salary he earned last year.

Ontario began shifting its energy policies in 2005, when the government resolved to start phasing out coal.

In 2009, the province introduced the Green Energy Act, aimed at expanding renewable energy production. To help cover the costs associated with the act, the government introduced a surcharge called the Global Adjustment fee.

That fee grew by more than 70 per cent between 2008 and 2016, causing a dramatic spike in electricity prices, according to the Fraser Institute report.

One of the provisions in the act, which required equipment for wind and solar farms to be sourced locally in order to qualify for a subsidy, was later walked back, after Japan complained to the World Trade Organization that it breaches international trade law.

The Ontario government also got into hot water over its decision to cancel two gas-fired plants - one in Oakville and one in Mississauga - a move that cost taxpayers $1.1-billion.

On Wednesday, David Livingston, the chief of staff to former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty, was sentenced to four months in jail and one year of probation for destroying documents related to the cancellations.

Last year, in an attempt to repair the Liberal government's track record on electricity, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne promised to slash hydro costs by 25 per cent.

But opposition parties were highly critical of the plan because it will result in billions of extra costs, amortized over the next 30 years.

The Fraser report concludes that, as a result of all the policy changes, Ontario has the fastest growing electricity costs in the country, and among the highest in North America.

"Given the critically important role that affordable energy plays in economic growth and prosperity, the authors urge the Ontario government to pursue meaningful policy reforms aimed at lowering electricity costs for all Ontarians," the report notes.

With a file from The Canadian Press

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At least support an opinion with facts

Independent Free Press - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $47
Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

Re: Letter Make an Informed Election choice.

Can an opinion piece get more unreasonable than this? An attack on Wynne with no supporting reasons and an accusation of childishness against anyone who supports her policies? Why do you publish such tripe? You don't do your readers any favours by publishing politically polarized, one-sided letters that pander to a narrow and committed audience. That's not debate.

If someone wants to criticize Wynne, please include reasons. Those not in a closed echo chamber of cherry-picked information don't see anti-Wynne conclusions as a given. I encourage the writer to step back and look at the progress Wynne has made on medicare, minimum wage legislation or her defence against "Buy American" policies. Why not criticize her for an expansion of the deficit or selling off parts of Hydro? Even one reason would make this letter reasonable!

Of course, there are no reasons to criticize Ford because he has no policy, though I suspect he would be good at marijuana marketing. On that note, I wonder if he paid taxes on his hashish profits, profits he made while the rest of us were working hard and living ethically and legally within our means.

Rick Hall

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Wynne and her merry band of tax theives

Toronto Sun - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jameswallace

Ad Value: $2,711
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

Kathleen Wynne has been busily dispensing free daycare, free prescription drugs for youth and seniors, free education and other pre-election goodies to the province's hard-pressed citizens.

But she's hardly Robin Hood.

More the Sheriff of Nottingham, whose hardknuckled tax collectors have spent years progressively shaking down those same citizens and making life more unaffordable for them.

The numbers are difficult to contest.

After winning power in 2003, the Liberal's first budget collected $54 billion in "taxation revenue" from Ontarians - personal income tax, corporate tax, sales tax, the then-new Ontario Health Premium and various and sundry other taxes.

Some 14 years later, Liberal tax collectors plan in 2018-19 to pick $103.6 billion from the pockets of those same **Ontario** taxpayers.

That's an increase of 111% over a time period that saw inflation rise just 29%, according to the Bank of Canada.

And it isn't the wealthy or corporations most affected by tax hikes. It's the middle class, the working class, the working poor.

Sales taxes, which everyone pays, increased from $15 billion to $26 billion under the Liberals and their thennew Health Premium tax went from $1.6 billion in 2004 to a projected $3.9 billion this year - a 144% increase.

Overall, the Liberals doubled spending and increased debt 125% to more than $300 billion - another tax future generations now must repay.

Meanwhile, average Ontarians saw the cost of auto insurance rise to the highest in the country, saw new and growing user fees slapped on everything from driver's licences to home sales and saw **electricity** **rates** rise to the highest and most unaffordable in the country.

It's not uncommon now for seniors on fixed incomes to show up at MPP's offices desperate for help to pay their bills, terrified over the prospect of having their lights and heat cut off.

The **Canadian** Association for Retired People (CARP) - after becoming overwhelmed with stories from desperate seniors - ran a "Heat or Eat" campaign to shame the Liberals into dealing with the mess they'd made of **electricity** **rates**.

Wynne responded by borrowing billions to temporarily reduce **rates** 25% in advance of the June 7 provincial election - again, which will add to the tax burden of future generations. And the Liberals were forced to outlaw winter **disconnections**.

They admit **hydro** **rates** will increase after the $39 billion they spent to lower **rates** 25% runs out in four years.

Basically, they've kicked the mess down the road.

Which is why criticism yesterday from Liberal **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** of **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford's **plan** to fire the board and CEO of **Hydro** One is so galling.

Thibeault, whose **energy** policies have literally resulted in people being fired and laid off - including the 75,000 manufacturing jobs high **energy** prices here helped chase out of the province - made a schoolyard comparison between Ford and U.S. President Donald Trump and a groundless accusation Ford plans on "firing people and laying people off."

If he's talking about the board and CEO of **Hydro** One, who made $6.2 million while running up **hydro** **rates** at the **utility** Thibeault and Wynne privatized, it's unlikely **hydro** customers or the union who bitterly opposed the sale will complain.

As for Wynne, Thibeault and the merry band of Liberals, their days of fleecing **Ontario** families may be coming quickly to an end. jawallace@postmedia.com

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Time to lead on pipeline; Trans Mountain

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $22,649
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A12

The Trudeau government has positioned itself as taking the "middle way" in the increasingly bitter fight over whether to build a pipeline that would give Alberta oil an outlet to the sea.

The problem with being in the middle, of course, is that you risk getting crunched between those who've staked out extreme positions on both sides. And as the fight over the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline heats up, the Liberals are indeed being targeted by both those who would give the **energy** companies a free pass and those who will never approve any pipeline under any circumstances.

It's a dangerous, uncomfortable spot to be in. But the fact remains that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has taken essentially the right approach to this thorny problem. And despite the crisis unleashed this week by Kinder Morgan's threat to kill the Trans Mountain project, he's still right.

He's right that a project already approved by both the federal and British Columbia governments should be allowed to proceed. The B.C. government of NDP Premier John Horgan should not be allowed to essentially negate the decision of its Liberal predecessor by throwing up new obstacles at every turn. Nor can it be allowed to defy the federal government in an area where **Ottawa** clearly has jurisdiction.

Trudeau is also right that green-lighting Trans Mountain must be part of a meaningful national approach to the pressing issue of **climate** change. That involves, among other things, putting a price on carbon and making sure Alberta is part of the solution. Attempting to simply shut down the biggest **energy**-producing province won't work and would be disastrous for national unity.

In the short run, the Trudeau government needs to lower the temperature on the issue. It needs to find a way to give Kinder Morgan assurances that the law will be followed and it has a reasonable prospect that its multi-billion-dollar investment in Trans Mountain isn't just money down the drain.

In that regard, inviting Horgan and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley to meet with the prime minister in **Ottawa** on Sunday is a smart move. Both premiers need to cool their rhetoric. Notley, for one, should hold off on any retaliatory measures against B.C., such as shutting off oil flows that would raise prices at the pump in Vancouver. That would be provocative and quite possibly illegal.

Ottawa and Alberta could also take a financial stake in Trans Mountain, sharing the risk with Kinder Morgan. And the federal government could ask the Supreme Court for a quick ruling on the key legal issues (with B.C. agreeing to accept the outcome). All that should persuade the company not to pull the plug on the pipeline, as it has warned it may do by May 31.

It certainly won't guarantee that the project will be built on schedule, given that protesters will no doubt do everything they can to stop it and the minority Horgan government hangs by a thread, propped up by three Green Party MLAs who are committed to killing Trans Mountain. But it would prevent escalation of the situation to the point where Alberta feels it has been fundamentally betrayed.

Because, make no mistake, turning Alberta into a national pariah would be a disaster. Those who argue that the oilsands should simply be isolated, strangled and shut down entirely to save the planet are kidding themselves. It may make them feel like virtuous **climate** warriors, but it won't have the effect they say they want. The opposite, in fact.

Federal backing for Trans Mountain was never a given. The Trudeau government killed another proposed pipeline, the Northern Gateway project from Alberta to Kitimat, B.C., and allowed the planned Energy East line to die. The Kinder Morgan project is by far the safest route (it involves expanding an existing pipeline), and approving it came as part of an understanding with the Notley government.

In return for allowing Alberta's oil to flow to the coast for export to Asian markets, Notley signed up for the most ambitious climate plan her province has ever seen. It involves phasing out coal-fired power plants, capping oilsands emissions, and introducing a carbon tax. That's key to the Trudeau government's drive to bring in a national carbon pricing scheme, undoubtedly the most efficient long-term way to reduce emissions and fight climate change.

The carbon pricing plan is already under big pressure. Doug Ford, for one, promises to scrap Ontario's cap-and-trade system if he becomes premier on June 7. Killing the Trans Mountain line would destroy public support in Alberta for such schemes, and make it almost certain that Notley would lose power next year to Alberta's United Conservatives under Jason Kenney. Then watch out.

The simple fact is that fighting climate change is a political issue, not just a technical one. Hectoring people or destroying the industries they rely on for their livelihoods isn't going to work. In a democracy broad public buy-in is needed, and the Trudeau government has been trying valiantly to bring people along with a carbon pricing plan that can be ramped up over time.

It isn't enough, for sure, but it's a big step in the right direction. Driving a stake through its heart by turning Alberta from an ally into an enemy of effective climate action would be foolish in the extreme.

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Canadians far from clean on pollution

Sarnia Observer - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: R And S Halliday

Ad Value: $129
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

In an article in yesterday's Observer, entitled Getting ready for climate change, our MP Marilyn Gladu is quoted as saying that Canadians only produce two per cent of the world's CO2 emissions. The implication was that we, as Canadians, shouldn't worry too much about our carbon footprint.

Perhaps, sadly, she is unaware that Canadians per capita (or per person) are the second-worst polluters on the planet.

So we shouldn't get too comfortable resting on our laurels in that respect, and neither should she. It's no excuse to do nothing as far as curbing our carbon emissions.

R and S Halliday

Sarnia

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Audit exposes Canadian climate failures

LaSalle Post - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Suzuki

Ad Value: $584
Reach: 11120 **Page:** A6

Scientists, academics, environmentalists and communicators have urged governments to take the **climate** crisis seriously for decades.

We've outlined the overwhelming evidence, generated discussion and offered myriad solutions.

We've confronted politicians who refuse to accept that a problem exists, or that we can do anything about it if it does.

That's frustrating and disheartening, especially for those of us with children and grandchildren, and more so for people who are children and grandchildren.

It's even more frustrating to deal with politicians who claim to take the matter seriously but whose actions belie their words.

We're failing to take the necessary steps to confront or adapt to global warming.

The current U.S. administration is going in the opposite direction.

In Canada, despite hopeful rhetoric after the 2015 federal election and leading to the Paris **climate** summit, neither the federal nor provincial governments are doing enough to indicate they even understand the severity of the crisis.

Federal Environment Commissioner Julie Gelfand and auditors general in nine provinces conducted an audit of **climate** change planning and emissions-reduction programs between November 2016 and March 2018.

They concluded, "most governments in Canada were not on track to meet their commitments to reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions and were not ready for the impacts of a changing **climate**."

They further reported, "Most **Canadian** governments have not assessed and, therefore, do not fully understand what risks they face and what actions they should take to adapt to a changing **climate**."

Only two provinces-New Brunswick and Nova Scotia-are on track to meet their emissions -reduction targets, and federal, provincial and territorial governments are using a mishmash of approaches, targets and measurements.

"As a result, it was unclear how the federal, provincial, and territorial governments would measure, monitor, and report on their individual contributions to meeting Canada's national 2030 target."

Meanwhile, the federal and some provincial governments bizarrely argue that the best way to confront **climate** change is to continue expanding the fossil fuel industry and its infrastructure, with increased oilsands and liquefied **natural gas** development and more pipelines.

Last year, this column's authors wrote a book,

Just Cool It!: The **Climate** Crisis and What We Can Do, with the hope of offering the **public** and politicians a readable guide to the science of and solutions to **climate** disruption.

If politicians don't have the time or inclination to read it or any of the other excellent books on the subject, we hope they would at least listen to the many experts in government, academia and elsewhere who have clearly outlined the crisis, evidence and solutions.

Instead, through lack of imagination and foresight and because of election cycle constraints and misguided priorities, many have chosen to continue serving the fossil fuel industry.

The audit is clear that Canada's **climate** is "becoming warmer and wetter, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent. **Climate** change impacts are felt across Canada and pose significant risks to Canadians and the economy."

Costs are mounting in the face of increasing and more intense floods, forest fires, heat waves, melting sea ice, rising sea levels and thawing permafrost.

A positive step

Gelfand told **Canadian** Press that the federal Pan-**Canadian** Framework on Clean Growth and **Climate** Change, released in December 2016, is a positive step but that its proof will be in its implementation.

Saskatchewan has yet to sign on to the framework and is opposing the requirement for provinces and territories to introduce carbon pricing, an effective and necessary tool to fight **climate** change.

Had governments, industry and the **public** recognized and started acting on the problem decades ago when it became clear that failing to do so would lead to catastrophe, we might be much further ahead, without the disruption that acting so belatedly will entail.

We'd also be able to focus more on reducing the problem than finding ways to adapt to its consequences.

Many systemic problems are contributing to the **climate** crisis and other ecological challenges, including outdated economic systems based on constant growth and consumption.

We must address those, but we at least need to start by living up to national and international **climate** commitments and acting quickly to implement the many known solutions and plans that will put us on track to a cleaner, healthier future.

- Written with contributions from David Suzuki Foundation senior editor Ian Hanington

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation Learn more at DavidSuzuki.org

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THE EXPOSITOR

Stay the course on cap and trade

Brantford Expositor - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Robert J. Macmillan

Ad Value: $434
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A4

Should we cancel the **cap-and-trade** program? Can we change direction without undoing what we have already accomplished with great effort and cost? In **electrical** production, we have already done the heavy lifting. Only 8.5 per cent of our **electricity** is generated by fossil **fuels** (**natural gas**). Even our **solar** and **wind** sources generate more **electricity** than fossil **fuels**.

Does it make sense to reverse ourselves now? Is reversing direction even desirable? Advances in **solar** technology have made a generating plant based on **solar** sources cheaper to build and operate than a coalfired plant. And **energy** production from non-fossil sources only will continue to get cheaper.

The same cannot be said for fossil fuel generation.

Consider the inevitable conflict with **Ottawa**. What are the odds of winning such a battle? Equally important, considering **Ontario**'s deficit, what are the legal costs of engaging in a battle that inevitably will go to the Supreme Court? **Ontario** has no significant fossil fuel resources. Money for **energy** from fossil **fuels** flows from **Ontario** consumers to producers in other jurisdictions. In contrast, money for **energy** from non-fossil **fuels** flows from **Ontario** consumers to **Ontario** producers. Isn't it to our economic advantage to direct our **energy** consumption to **electricity** that can be produced in **Ontario**? The rest of the world continues to develop the use of non-carbon technologies.

China and India pursue the development of **solar**-based **energy**. To the **cap and trade** of California and Quebec, add the 31 nations tied into the European Union's program. Even as U.S. President Donald Trump pushes back, American states and industries strive to reduce fossil fuel consumption. The world-wide auto industry is focusing on **electric** vehicle technology.

Can we afford to not participate in these new developments? In the 1950s, we had an aeronautical industry second to none in the world. We built the first jet passenger plane to fly in **North** America. We built a fighter aircraft among the most technologically advanced in the world. One political party cancelled the Jetliner. The other cancelled the Avro Arrow. An incredible store of knowledge slipped from our grasp, and today that industry is non-existent.

Can we risk repeating this for the new technologies in **energy** production?

Robert J. MacMillan

Brantford

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Philip Cross: Elites bungled their carbon-tax crusade because they don’t understand Canadians | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

A recent poll showing that a majority of Canadians don’t understand or have never heard of a carbon tax demonstrates the gulf between the largely academic-bureaucratic elite who push for this tax and ordinary Canadians.

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Trans Mountain: Just what is in the 'national interest'?

The Globe and Mail - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Ivanov James

Ad Value: $1,718
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A12

If the federal government won't act in the national interest, what's the point of having a federal government? Critical infrastructure - Trans Mountain and **Energy** East - must not be held ransom to **regional** politics.

Sarah Ivanov James

Winnipeg

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Trudeau's pipeline dilemma: lose seats in B.C., or lose a lot more elsewhere | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri Apr 13 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Finding the right political balance between the environment and the economy isn't easy for any party. For Justin Trudeau's Liberal government, it's especially awkward.

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Trudeau must lead on both pipeline and climate change | The Star

www.thestar.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The Trudeau government has positioned itself as taking the “middle way” in the increasingly bitter fight over whether to build a pipeline that would give Alberta oil an outlet to the sea.

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UPDATED: Red Deer MPs worry about Trans Mountain delay - Red Deer Advocate

www.reddeeradvocate.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Red Deer’s Conservative MPs say a solution to move the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project forward can’t come quick enough.

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Don Martin: On energy, distrusting a PM named Trudeau is in Albertans' DNA | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

You need a double-helix wrapping of Alberta DNA to appreciate the visceral anger raging against British Columbia for its legally-suspect Trans Mountain pipeline stalling tactics.

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Business groups gather for action on Trans Mountain pipeline - Comox Valley Record

www.comoxvalleyrecord.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Small business, forestry, mining and other business leaders spoke in Vancouver Thursday to urge the federal government to save the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.

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How not to build a pipeline - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

It has been called everything from an “economic emergency” to a “constitutional crises.” It has seen wine importation bans, a civil war between provincial wings of the NDP and the arrest of two B.C. MPs for protesting. And, it would appear, the sophisticated chess match is just getting started.

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Kinder Morgan’s frustrated attempt to build an oil pipeline reflects badly on Canada - Three-ringed circus

www.economist.com - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Neutral

ALMOST all Canada’s oil and gas is landlocked, so getting it to market requires pipelines—lots of them.

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Celebrate Earth Day at Gamiing

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Thu Apr 12 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $27
Reach: 29544 **Page:** 1

Area residents looking to make every day Earth Day and reduce their **carbon footprint** are invited to get a start on it all with a visit to Gamiing Nature **Centre** on April 21.

There is plenty to do for people of all ages this year with activities running from 2 to 4 p.m.

In and around the Hayloft will be a petting zoo courtesy of Amy Elliot and Little Country Critters, featuring donkeys, sheep, goats, mini-pigs and rabbits.

At 2 p.m. City of Kawartha Lakes environmental advisory committee chair Pat Warren will speak about the city's healthy environment **plan** and discuss the Forest School that Gamiing piloted in the fall and winter.

Everyone is encouraged to make a Green Pledge for the year that will be posted on the Hayloft wall and become a permanent display.

Those wishing to make an Indigenous talking stick is invited to walk the trails and gather sticks and feathers, then visit the Discovery Shack where tables will be set up with string, beads and scissors.

Talking sticks are an Indigenous tradition that is used to signify who has the right to speak during sacred council ceremonies and meetings. The tribe chief holds the stick at the beginning of the discussion then passes it to the next person to share their sacred viewpoint. Only the person holding the stick is allowed to talk, encouraging others to direct their full attention to the speaker.

For more information on Gamiing or the events, call 705-928-0263, email info@gamiing.org or visit www.gamiing.org.

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