John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: November 22, 2016 8:58 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Christine Long; 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; Peter Fraser; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: FW: OEB Morning News Summary - Tuesday, November 22, 2016

Good morning,

Here is the OEB news summary for Tuesday, Nov. 22

OVERVIEW

CBC News was one of several outlets to write about why hydro bills are high in Ontario over the past day, stemming from Premier Wynne's speech at the Liberal Party's AGM over the weekend. Reporter Mike Crawley specifically mentions the OEB as one of the reasons bills are high, stating it is a "weakened energy watchdog" as it doesn't have control over all electricity pricing, has little ability to control the price paid to electricity generators, and does not have that power over private producers. He also cites oversupply of power, price of green energy, time-of-use pricing and well-paid hydro workers as factors that have driven up costs. This article is also being frequently shared on social media.

Similarly, The National Post also published an article Monday regarding hydro bills, telling the stories of three families/consumers who are taking "drastic measures" to save on power and make ends meet. The article received significant traction on social media yesterday, with 260 shares on Facebook and a total of about 500 engagements and was also highly shared on Twitter. This article can be viewed here: http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/how-costly-ontario-hydro-bills-are-making-some-households-take-drastic-measures-its-just-killing-us

The Premier's speech on hydro rates was also covered in several other outlets including columns by Martin Regg-Cohn in the Toronto Star and Howard Elliot in the Hamilton Spectator and articles in the North Bay Nugget and Timmins Daily Press, where local MPP Gilles Bisson was critical of the government over hydro rates.

Brian Hill wrote a piece for Global News on the intersection of poverty and rising hydro rates in rural Ontario, visiting and interviewing rural residents' homes who are struggling with their bills. He tells one story of a couple who has been without electricity for nearly three months after their services were disconnected by Hydro One over what they say was roughly $1,200 in missed payments. The couple did receive $500 help from Ontario's Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), but in the end, it wasn't enough to prevent them from being disconnected.

The Toronto Star's Rob Ferguson wrote an article Monday night reporting that Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has ruled out a reincarnation of the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit, but the Premier and Minister have vowed to provide more relief for Ontarians.

The federal government's policy to have 90 per cent of Canada's electricity to come from sustainable sources by 2030, up from 80 per cent now, was another major story reported on across Canada overnight. Keith Leslie of the Canadian Press reported that Ontario is advising other provinces to keep an eye on hydro bills as coal gets phased out, citing that electricity rates for homes and small businesses in Ontario jumped 70 per cent between 2006 and 2014 as the province moved away from coal.

The Energy Minister was also in the news yesterday after a Crown lawyer's case against two members of the Liberal government alleges that the minister "sought certain benefits" to run in a provincial byelection. The Globe and Mail and National Post reported on this story, while the Sudbury Star had an article that quoted the Minister's legal representation responding to the allegations.

FLAGGED FOR DISCUSSION

**The following items will be discussed by the communications team on the daily media and issues call.*

- CBC News Story
- The National Post Story
- Brian Hill Story

SOCIAL MEDIA

While there wasn't specific activity pointed at the OEB, energy issues were a key topic on social media over the past 24 hours with a higher than normal volume of Ontario energy-related keywords coming up in our scans. Most of the activity was related to Premier Kathleen Wynne's speech over the weekend and subsequent news articles by CBC and the National Post. News about the Energy Minister was also highly shared and discussed on social media.

From: Infomart Newsletters
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 8:15 AM
To: Jeff Blay
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, November 22, 2016

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 41 Results

Ontario fuel to get a review - Northern Ontario Business

www.northernontariobusiness.com - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to conduct a review of the transportation fuel market in November.

Hydro break won't be coming back in Ontario

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $7,874
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

A promise from Premier Kathleen Wynne to take more sting out of high **electricity** bills will not include the return of a 10-per-cent discount scrapped last January. **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault has ruled out a reincarnation ...

Wynne presses reset button

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $20,836
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A4

Love means never having to say you're sorry. That's the storyline in the movies. But it's a different kind of Love Story in politics: Lack of love means always having to apologize, as Kathleen Wynne has discovered. Plunging in the polls, the ...

THE DAILY PRESS

Liberals in 'damage control' over hydro costs: MPP

The Timmins Daily Press - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Moore

Ad Value: $517
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A1 / Front

"The first step in dealing with a problem is admitting you have a problem." That was the tongue-in-cheek response that MPP Gilles Bisson (NDP - Timmins-James Bay) had in regards to Premier Kathleen Wynne's admission this past weekend that soaring ...

Chatham Daily News

Demand for hydro help skyrockets; Assistance from Salvation Army program more than triples

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $430
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

Do you pay for groceries or your utility bill? That's a decision hundreds of households across Chatham-Kent make every month. The Salvation Army's Capt. Stephanie Watkinson says costs associated with housing are eating up local household food ...

Navigant releases its analysis of Hydro One offer | (CHEXTV)

www.chextv.com - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

It's been an hot button issue at Peterborough City Hall for months now. Come December 15th, council will finally decide the fate of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

PDI sale will cause us long-term harm

Peterborough Examiner - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Fred Irwin Founder

Ad Value: $545
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

Re: Mayor responds to letter with PDI sale questions, Nov. 16 The mayor is selling a bill of goods to the citizens of Peterborough with respect to the sale of PDI to **Hydro One** at a time when he should be planning on how to ...

HydroOne will make up for lost revenue from PDI purchase in future

Peterborough This Week - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: This Week

Ad Value: $18
Reach: 47038

To the editor: As a **Hydro One** customer, I believe PDI customers in Norwood and Lakefield, should be very concerned about the sale of PDI to **Hydro One**, and should have some say in the matter. Why? I live ...

Our public assets are not for sale; Time to talk honestly about pros, cons of selling of Hydro, Nov. 17

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $7,685
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A14

Time to talk honestly about pros, cons of selling of **Hydro**, Nov. 17 I'm following very closely the process by which those elected to serve us are so eager to cannibalize the household furniture to stave off the approaching chill. ...

Hydro bungling makes Wynne our Christmas Grinch

St. Catharines Standard - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe Potter

Ad Value: $253
Reach: 30196 **Page:** A4

In a time not so long ago, before Dalton McGuinty, the people joyfully celebrated the festive season with brightly coloured lights and decorations. Then came the devious mean **Green Energy Act** and stupid smart meters, ...

Wynne's mea culpa alone won't be enough

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Howard Elliott

Ad Value: $2,423
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A13

When Premier Kathleen Wynne refers to Ontario's high **electricity** prices as her "mistake", she's only partly right. To the extent that rising **rates** are a mistake, they are equally shared with former Premier Dalton McGuinty, who ...

Wynne urged to resign

North Bay Nugget - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $127
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

The leader of the Northern Ontario Party is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to resign. In a release Monday, Trevor Holliday said he has been pointing out the ways that Wynne has been destroying Northern Ontario. "He feels it's about time she ...

Ontario Energy Minister alleged to have sought ‘benefits ’ to run for Liberals: report - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault allegedly asked for a job guarantee in exchange for running for the Liberals in last year’s Sudbury by-election, a federal prosecutor told CBC News.

Comments 'disgraceful'; Sudbury MPP's lawyer takes exception to prosecutor's suggestion his client asked for 'benefits' to run for the Liberals

Sudbury Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Star Staff

Ad Value: $1,974
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A1 / Front

The lawyer for Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault has reacted angrily to suggestions he "sought certain benefits" to run in the 2015 Sudbury byelection. "The Crown has chosen to sully Mr. Thibeault's reputation without ever naming him as the target of its ...

Liberals exhale in relief over Ottawa-Vanier win

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $660
Reach: 9181 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Liberals have some ground to stand on as they fight toward re-election in 2018: Ottawa-Vanier. Their candidate in Thursday's byelection, Nathalie Des Rosiers, handily defeated Progressive Conservative challenger André Marin. Premier ...

Why hydro bills are so high in Ontario - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Premier Kathleen Wynne grabbed some attention this weekend by admitting a mistake.

CTV Toronto: Wynne says she'll help with hydro | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Frustration with Union Gas I'm on a disability pension, and recently had to

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Roy Lumley

Ad Value: $161
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A6

repair my furnace. But the technician called **Union Gas** to have the **natural gas** turned offover a couple issues, one being I have no ductwork at the moment installed. My account with **Union** ...

Wynne's carbon tax another Liberal cash grab

Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Strong

Ad Value: $222
Reach: 6045 **Page:** A5

As one looks back on what's taken place with the Ontario Liberals addressing **climate change**, including the producing and billing of **electricity**, the people of Ontario must address the facts along with the Liberals' ...

Provinces fall in line with Ottawa's carbon plan; Saskatchewan is lone holdout as Nova Scotia, Manitoba agree to adhere to federal government's ambition to curb emissions

The Globe and Mail - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $15,562
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan for a pan-Canadian **climate** strategy got a major boost Monday when governments in Nova Scotia and Manitoba announced their intention to adopt carbon pricing in their provinces. However, less than three ...

Feds move to phase out coal

Ottawa Sun - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $928
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A10

The Liberal government is moving to phase out the use of **coal**-**firedelectricity** in Canada by 2030 as part of its overall clean-**energy** strategy. The goal is to make sure 90 per cent of Canada's ...

Canada accelerates phasing out of coal; Critics say plan will create competitive imbalance with U.S.

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Josh Wingrove Bloomberg

Ad Value: $12,447
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is speeding up Canada's planned elimination of traditional coal-fired **power** plants, doubling down on green pledges as its top trading partner moves in the opposite direction. Environment ...

Help the climate and our health by phasing out coal

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $3,226
Reach: 114846 **Page:** A9

The following is an edited excerpt from a Pembina Institute report, released Monday, entitled Out with the coal, in with the new. As the world ratifies the Paris Agreement and works to reconcile existing **climate** plans with the long-term ...

Coal-FiredElectricity Will Be Phased Out

CTV - CTV NATIONAL NEWS - Mon Nov 21 2016, 11:00pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: LISA LAFLAMME

LISA LAFLAMME: Canada's environment minister announced a plan today to eliminate a long-standing source of **power** in parts of Canada. **Coal-firedelectricity** is responsible for ten percent of the country's ...

Coal country holds out for a revival; Mines out west would gain the most under Trump, though a full restoration to former glory is doubtful

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Virtanen And Matthew Brown The Associated Press

Ad Value: $29,657
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

The hard-eyed view along the Tug Fork River in West Virginia coal country is that president-elect Donald Trump has something to prove: He'll help bring back Appalachian mining, as he promised on the campaign trail. Nobody thinks he can revive it ...

The right move; Dumping coal

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $10,418
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A14

The Trudeau government has taken important steps to assert Canadian leadership on environmental issues after years of neglect under the Harper government. It played a key role in negotiating the landmark Paris Agreement on **climate** ...

Watch hydro bills as coal phased out: Ontario

InsideTorontocom - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral

TORONTO - Ontario has some advice for its fellow provinces as they move to meet the federal government's newly unveiled goal of eliminating coal-fired **power** generation in Canada by 2030: keep an eye on those **electricity** bills. ...

Liberals present plan to phase out coal-powered electricity by 2030

THE NATIONAL - Mon Nov 21 2016, 9:00pm ET
Tone: Positive
Byline: MARGO MCDIARMID; CATHERINE MCKENNA; IAN CULBERT; SCOTT MOE; STEPHEN MCNEIL; ED FAST

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): - Canada vows to get off coal sooner. The potential impact on you. ED FAST (OPPOSITION ENVIRONMENT CRITIC): This kind of a policy has dramatically increased **electricity** **rates**. - Natural resources ...

Liberals present plan to phase out coal-powered electricity by 2030 - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The federal government is speeding up the plan to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030.

Canada's rejection of coal will clear the air but impact workers and power bills - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna hastened the decline of Canada's coal industry Monday with the announcement of a plan to aggressively phase out coal-fired power plants by 2030, roughly ten years ahead of schedule.

Ottawa sets sights on coal-fired power

Brampton Guardian - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,890
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The federal Liberal government once again earned the scorn of Saskatchewan's premier Monday with the next phase of its clean-**energy** strategy: pushing provinces to either phase out or clean up their coal-fired **power** ...

Wall blasts Ottawa over plan; Trudeau announces government will phase out coal-fired electricity

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 9181 **Page:** B4

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall accused Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of ignoring commitments to collaborating with the provinces on **climate change**, after Ottawa announced Monday it would phase out coalfired ...

Learn from our 'mistake,' province warns; Ontario advises other provinces to keep an eye on hydro bills as coal phased out

Kingston Whig-Standard - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value: $1,181
Reach: 21850 **Page:** B2

Ontario has some advice for its fellow provinces as as they move to meet the federal government's newly unveiled goal of eliminating coal-fired **power** generation in Canada by 2030: keep an eye on those **electricity** bills. The ...

Numbers behind Canada's coal-fired emissions

Brampton Guardian - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $646
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The federal government wants to phase out the rest of Canada's coal-fired **power** plants by 2030 as part of its clean-**energy** strategy. Here's a look at some of the numbers involved: - Close to three-quarters of the ...

Trump's 'hoax' approach

National Post - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Judith Curry

Ad Value: $7,297
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

The election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency has alarmed many environmentalists, and has provoked anxiety and speculation about where U.S. **climate** and **energy** policy is headed under a Trump administration. Such ...

Trump win stirs cloud gusts over Ontario Grits

Kingston Whig-Standard - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $730
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Liberals fear getting swept away by the same whirlwind that carried Donald Trump to the White House, with the worst gusts coming from high **electricity** prices. They know they're unpopular. They have believed their efforts to ...

Climate muddle runs deep; Liberals tout clean growth but achieve neither

National Post - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Terence Corcoran

Ad Value: $10,079
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

In announcing a national coal phase-out Monday, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna claimed to have "a vision of a cleangrowth economy." Unfortunately, it's a vision unaccompanied by a clear grasp of how to achieve a clean and growing economy. ...

Federal infrastructure bank to build electricity connections between provinces | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Trudeau government intends to use its new infrastructure bank to finance a "nation-building effort" to build clean electricity systems between provinces and territories.

Pan-Canadian power grid in the cards?

Brampton Guardian - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $2,428
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The Trudeau government intends to use its new infrastructure bank to finance a "nation-building effort" to build clean **electricity** systems between provinces and territories. But does that mean the decades-old dream of a ...

Oil consumption outlook fuels further pipeline debate | Mining & Energy | Business in Vancouver

www.biv.com - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Energy East is mentioned.

Despite a current short-term glut, the long-term global demand for natural gas will increase 50% over the next 25 years, at the expense of coal, as demand for energy grows by 30% in developing economies, according to the International Energy Agency ...

Chatham Daily News

Site plan calls for 12 turbines north of Wallaceburg

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Positive
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $226
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

A **wind** farm proposed for north of Wallaceburg released its site plan recently, giving area residents an idea where **wind** turbines are to be located. According to the draft site plan, the project will include 12 **wind** ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario fuel to get a review - Northern Ontario Business

www.northernontariobusiness.com - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral

Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to conduct a review of the transportation fuel market in November.

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Hydro break won't be coming back in Ontario

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $7,874
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

A promise from Premier Kathleen Wynne to take more sting out of high **electricity** bills will not include the return of a 10-per-cent discount scrapped last January.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault has ruled out a reincarnation of the Ontario Clean **Energy** Benefit (OCEB), which cost taxpayers $1 billion annually.

"Things like the OCEB, their time has come and gone," Thibeault told reporters Monday. He said Ontarians will have to wait and see what other measures he can devise.

Wynne surprised delegates at a Liberal convention in Ottawa on the weekend with a mea culpa over hefty **hydro** bills, which she called "a mistake," and pledged to find "more ways to lower **rates**."

Thibeault said he is meeting with a variety of groups, including the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and social service agencies, to get ideas.

"If it's 50 cents or $50, I'm going to continue to work to find a way to help."

Measures so far include waiving the 8-per-cent provincial portion of the **HST** on **electricity** bills starting in January, removing the **debt retirement charge** from bills and scrapping a planned $3.8 billion round of **renewable energy** projects to keep another $2.45 a month from being slapped on **hydro** bills in future.

"We know that's not enough; there's more that needs to be done," Wynne said Monday.

The government is also working with the Ontario Disability Support Plan to get more people who receive social assistance on a program that will give them monthly financial help with their bills, Thibeault added.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said Ontarians shouldn't get their hopes up for a new miracle solution to **hydro** prices from the government, given that a lot of costs are built into the system through long-term **energy** contracts.

"Do I think they can come out with some major silver bullet? For the people of Ontario, I hope so, but I doubt it very much," she said.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown said he would like to see details of existing contracts, particularly with **renewable energy** suppliers, to see if there are any "exit ramps" that could allow the government to cancel them without paying massive penalties.

The premier said the search for ways to lower **hydro** bills is a continuing effort, but that she has not set a specific deadline.

"We'll do it as quickly as we can."

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Wynne presses reset button

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $20,836
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A4

Love means never having to say you're sorry.

That's the storyline in the movies. But it's a different kind of Love Story in politics:

Lack of love means always having to apologize, as Kathleen Wynne has discovered.

Plunging in the polls, the premier offered a weekend mea culpa for messing up since taking **power**. And choked up onstage at her party's convention.

Will Wynne's dramatic apologia provide the political reset she needs to recover? Are there second chances in politics?

It's not the first time Wynne has appealed for forgiveness. She apologized before (and during) the 2014 election campaign for the costly cancellation of **gas**-fired **power** plants by her predecessor.

And it's not the first time she has cried in front of Liberal loyalists. In a heart-to-heart confessional behind closed doors at a caucus retreat earlier this fall, Wynne teared up for letting down MPPs.

Then, as now, the premier appealed for help in reversing her record-low popularity in public opinion surveys - a data point that's now a talking point.

"I want to acknowledge the polling numbers and the pundits," she told the annual meeting of Liberals in Ottawa. "Many people in Ontario are not happy with me right now. I get that."

It's hard to get away from that. Wynne wins the contest for most unpopular premier in Canada, bottoming out at 14 per cent in the last Forum Research poll published in the Toronto Star. Languishing far behind the opposition Progressive Conservatives, her governing Liberals were effectively tied for second place with the NDP.

Wynne's apology may be heartfelt, but it's a hardheaded calculation by Liberal strategists. They see an undeniable disconnect as resentment rises against a premier who seems far removed from people's problems.

And it's getting personal. Internal party polling shows people believe Wynne can't feel their pain, that she's too competitive, too calculating, too political.

They didn't always feel that way. It's easy to forget that Wynne once seemed to voters like a different kind of politician when she took over from a discredited Dalton McGuinty in early 2013: Collaborative - and unafraid to show empathy, vulnerability, humility.

That's not what the party's research shows today, and it found an echo in Wynne's prepared speech this weekend:

"I've spent some time reflecting on why people feel the way they do about me," she mused.

People think, "She's not who we thought she was; she's become a typical politician, she'll do anything to win."

Going forward, "I have some work to do, to prove that I am who I have always been."

Recapturing her honeymoon days with Ontario voters won't be easy. As the face of change in 2013, Wynne could cast herself as an agent of change - and her popularity soared, leading her to win a triumphal majority government in the last election.

Today, leadership "means admitting when a mistake has been made - when I've made a mistake." She promised to do better, without saying how.

Ontario's economic statistics are strong. But Wynne's personal numbers remain weak.

The conventional wisdom - possibly even at the Liberal convention - is that the Progressive Conservatives are destined to win the next Ontario election by default, benefiting from the same appetite for change that helped Donald Trump defeat another woman politician in the U.S. this month. In a hint of her future strategy, Wynne exhorted Liberals to embrace change, while opposing a change in government of the kind that Americans have just seen.

"There is no more important time, my friends, to be a Liberal than right now, in North America."

If voters want change, the challenge for Wynne is to recast herself as an agent of change after so many years in **power**: By the 2018 election, she will have been premier for five years and the Liberals will have held **power** for 15 years.

As a self-styled progressive, Wynne embraces **climate** change and stresses transit spending. As a practical politician, she aims for a balanced budget and promises to curb **hydro** increases. It's an ambitious agenda. But it's hard to be both transformational and transactional at a time when voters lean toward lower taxes and lesser government.

That's how Trump won the presidency and how the Mike Harris Tories won the province in 1995. They made no apologies.

"You're just going to let me cry for a minute," Wynne said this weekend, alternately crying, laughing and apologizing as more than 800 Liberal delegates cheered her on.

It's a tough balancing act - leading and apologizing, being transformational and transactional. What's the tipping point?

At some point in time, no matter how much Wynne loves to apologize, voters may simply want to say: Sorry, time's up - isn't there a better alternative?

Martin Regg Cohn's political column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. mcohn@thestar.ca , Twitter: @reggcohn

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THE DAILY PRESS

Liberals in 'damage control' over hydro costs: MPP

The Timmins Daily Press - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Moore

Ad Value: $517
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A1 / Front

"The first step in dealing with a problem is admitting you have a problem."

That was the tongue-in-cheek response that MPP Gilles Bisson (NDP - Timmins -James Bay) had in regards to Premier Kathleen Wynne's admission this past weekend that soaring **hydro** prices were her "mistake."

The Premier made the comment during a speech at the Ontario Liberal annual general meeting in Ottawa on Saturday. She took responsibility for "for not paying close enough attention to some of the daily stresses in Ontarians' lives" and said it is "unacceptable" that some are having to choose between paying their bills and putting food on the table.

Bisson equates the speech to little more than "political damage control," saying it was more an "exercise in communications than one in helping people."

He also questions why it took so long for such an acknowledgment to be made.

"Where were they over the last number of years that ourselves, the City of Timmins, was struggling, when the Kidd Creek mine's smelter refinery was shutting down?" he questioned. "Workers and citizens across the North have been saying this for a better part of 10 years."

While he does commend the Premier and the government for admitting fault, he suggests the real test will be when it comes time to put words into action.

"The Premier has admitted that they were wrong, I think that's a good thing, but it's going to come down to, what are you prepared to do?" Bisson asked. "We have a number of private contracts that are going to be coming due. Is the government committed to not resigning some of these private **power** deals?" Bisson said some of these questions were raised in the House on Monday by Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

From the MPP's account, no concrete commitments were made. "She asked: 'Are you prepared, Premier, to stop with the privatization of **hydro** one?' She didn't commit to that," Bisson said. "She asked: 'Are you prepared to do something in order to try to undergo some of the problems that you've created, within a generation, that has more than doubled **electricity** prices as a result of these private **power** deals that they've signed?' Again, silence." In a bid a to alleviate some of the burden shouldered by **ratepayers**, the provincial government will be removing the provincial portion of the **Harmonized Sales Tax** charged on **electricity** usage in Ontario come January. This will amount to an 8% **rebate**.

Earlier this year, the Liberals also pledged rebates of about 20% on **hydro** bills for eligible rural residents, including those in Northern Ontario.

But, as Wynne's popularity plummets, the Premier has heard that these rebates are simply not enough.

Trevor Holliday, the leader of the recently formed Northern Ontario Party, is even calling for Wynne's resignation.

"It's about time she accepts responsibility for the **hydro** **rates** getting out of hand," he stated in a release issued Monday. "Delivery costs climbing over $150. The only **rebate** was a joke at $36.

Therefore, she has been causing undue hardship and financial stress on Northern Ontarians. With the cold and snow upon us, more Northerners are feeling the crunch with overpriced utilities and are forced to choose heat or food."

Bisson said if Wynne's Liberals want to make a real difference in **energy** pricing, the first thing they should commit to is halting the privatization of **Hydro** One.

He also suggested making the 8% **rebate** a permanent measure and reevaluating the private **energy** contacts the government has signed.

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Chatham Daily News

Demand for hydro help skyrockets; Assistance from Salvation Army program more than triples

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $430
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

Do you pay for groceries or your utility bill?

That's a decision hundreds of households across Chatham-Kent make every month.

The Salvation Army's Capt.

Stephanie Watkinson says costs associated with housing are eating up local household food budgets.

And that's particularly evident with the number of applications for the **energy** assistance program processed by the Salvation Army.

The organization's LEAP (Low **Energy** Assistance Program) helps people who having problems paying for their **electricity** or **natural gas** bill.

"I was just looking at some interesting stats on how much money we actually spent compared to 2015," Watkinson said. "We spent about

$15,000 (in 2015); this year we've already spent close to $50,000 to help people stay in their homes with their **hydro** paid."

Many of the people turning to the Salvation Army are employed but just can't make ends meet, Watkinson said.

The assistance programs, which take in Entegrus, **Hydro** One and **Union Gas** customers, are financially based. The programs won't help people who have moved and have left behind unpaid bills.

"The demand is overwhelming because people either have to pay their **hydro**, eat, or pay their rent," Watkinson said. "They can't afford all three."

The Salvation Army is also encouraging people to apply for the new **energy** savings program through the province. The Ontario **Electricity** Support Program (OESP) helps lowincome customers of an **electricity** utility. Those customers may qualify for a reduction on their **electricity**.

People can apply at www.ontarioelectricitysupport . ca.

The OESP reduces the cost of household **electricity** by applying a monthly credit directly to customer's bill. The credit amount will depend on how many people live in a home and their combined household income. The Salvation Army has locations in Wallaceburg, Chatham, Blenheim and Ridgetown. dgough@postmedia.com

Ontario has advice for other provinces dealing with **hydro** bills. See more on page B2

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Navigant releases its analysis of Hydro One offer | (CHEXTV)

www.chextv.com - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

It's been an hot button issue at Peterborough City Hall for months now. Come December 15th, council will finally decide the fate of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

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PDI sale will cause us long-term harm

Peterborough Examiner - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Fred Irwin Founder

Ad Value: $545
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

Re: Mayor responds to letter with PDI sale questions, Nov. 16 The mayor is selling a bill of goods to the citizens of Peterborough with respect to the sale of PDI to **Hydro** One at a time when he should be planning on how to achieve **energy** security for all citizens in the PDI service area by 2030.

Figuring out **Hydro** One's motivation to purchase PDI has been difficult through all the numbers being pushed around; but it is now clear that it has nothing to do with the mayor's assertion that **Hydro** One can implement "efficiencies realized by virtue of its size." there are no such efficiencies in the decentralized digital technology world. Further, it has nothing to do with providing better service to the customers in this area; or keeping **rates** as low as possible, or even to make a higher profit on the customer base than PDI could make; and most of all, it has absolutely nothing to do with making the PDI customers **Energy** Secure any time soon.

So the **Hydro** One motivation to buy up PDI and other small distribution companies in Ontario with the support of the Ontario government is purely and simply to secure the base load for expensive centralized nuclear **power** ..which is neither green nor renewable in any sense.

This strategy for rural communities and small cities such as Peterborough is completely at the opposite end of the

secure **energy** spectrum offered by two-way decentralized **Smart Grid** Technology.

For now let's appreciate that the City's own Sustainability Plan and **Climate** Change Action Plan call for significantly reduced emissions and food security by 2030. Those goals are not achievable without **energy** security in the same time frame. So far, no one has been able to explain how to achieve **energy** security for the citizens of Peterborough by selling PDI.

There are however a few viable alternatives to the sale of PDI to **Hydro** One that could deliver **energy** security to the citizens in the area by 2030 and provide investment funds for increased economic localization and hence greater prosperity with many more than 30 new sustainable jobs in the community.

A discussion opportunity for these viable alternatives has been formally offered to the mayor by Transition Town Peterborough… so far the mayor has not responded.

Fred Irwin Founder Transition Town Peterborough

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Hydro One will make up for lost revenue from PDI purchase in future

Peterborough This Week · Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: This Week

Ad Value: $18
Reach: 47038

To the editor:

As a **Hydro** One customer, I believe PDI customers in Norwood and Lakefield, should be very concerned about the sale of PDI to **Hydro** One, and should have some say in the matter.

Why? I live four kilometers east of Peterborough, not somewhere way out in the boonies. On my last **Hydro** One bill, the delivery charges alone were 67 cents short of being triple the cost of **electricity** used. Then, of course, we have the glorious **HST** to add to that, which is more than half the cost of **electricity** used.

Unfortunately, the short-sighted ones on City Council that are only thinking about the now, and not the future, of how your kids, grandkids, etc will be able to afford **electricity** once the 10-year cap comes off and **Hydro** One starts to make up for lost revenue.

From what I see and read, it appears to me, that the fix is already in, if not, hold a referendum, or is that too much democracy for you?

Jim Martin,

RR#7 Peterborough

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Our public assets are not for sale; Time to talk honestly about pros, cons of selling of Hydro, Nov. 17

Toronto Star · Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $7,685
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A14

Time to talk honestly about pros, cons of selling of **Hydro**, Nov. 17

I'm following very closely the process by which those elected to serve us are so eager to cannibalize the household furniture to stave off the approaching chill. Businesses have been given carte blanche for years, corporate welfare to ease their efforts in raking in obscene profits, while the 99 per cent have to make sure we return our beer bottles and save coupons just to make ends meet. What is wrong with this picture? The tail is wagging the dog.

To those ennobled elite who toil at Queen's Park, and to our own feckless city council: Our public assets are not yours to sell. Stop giving away what our forefathers dedicated their lives to build and maintain for the benefit of all in perpetuity.

I can't help but think that money is changing hands on this one. I see no indication of due diligence on the part of our leaders at either level. Rather, it appears that those government operatives in this shell game are making every effort to remain wilfully ignorant of the calamitous ripple effect this irresponsible behaviour will have on everyone in this province for years to come.

And, of course, no one will be held accountable when the chickens come home to roost. Cluck, cluck.

T. Leo Keeler, Toronto

Edward Keenan, rightly, suggests that an honest discussion take place regarding the financial capacity of Toronto **Hydro** to execute its mandate of providing stable, predictable and affordable **electricity** to Toronto. Perhaps we should also have an honest discussion on how the financial statements of Toronto **Hydro** are prepared. If there is a funding need for ongoing infrastructure upgrades then why hasn't there been an allocation to a reserve fund to pay for these expenditures? This is a common, and proper method of reporting practiced by most large corporations. Should this allocation result in less profits going to the city, then so be it. Allowing interference by John Tory's so-called "expert advisers" leaves the impression that the books are being cooked for political rather than practical reasons.

Steve Craine, Toronto

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Hydro bungling makes Wynne our Christmas Grinch

The Standard

St. Catharines Standard - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe Potter

Ad Value: $253
Reach: 30196 **Page:** A4

In a time not so long ago, before Dalton McGuinty, the people joyfully celebrated the festive season with brightly coloured lights and decorations. Then came the devious mean **Green Energy Act** and stupid smart meters, which forced everyone to pay unreasonable prices for all their **electricity**.

Everybody recycled their old lights and bought new, highly **energy** efficient LEDs to save money and the environment while still celebrating.

Now, after Premier Kathleen Wynne, the joy has been taken away by the exorbitant price of **power** and replaced with the anxiety of how many lights, when to turn them on and for how long before financial ruin sets in.

Note to Santa: The Wynne government deserves only one lump coal for a present, because they have been so naughty for so long.

Joe Potter

St. Catharines

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Wynne's mea culpa alone won't be enough

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Howard Elliott

Ad Value: $2,423
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A13

When Premier Kathleen Wynne refers to Ontario's high **electricity** prices as her "mistake", she's only partly right. To the extent that rising **rates** are a mistake, they are equally shared with former Premier Dalton McGuinty, who charted the green **energy** course that Wynne disastrously inherited.

If she could be completely forthright, Wynne would acknowledge that **rates** had to increase. The province's **electrical** infrastructure had been ignored by previous governments, and required significant investment. And the province needed to get off its reliance on coal-fired **energy** producing technology, which it has done. (And which is why, in part, we have so many fewer smog days than in the past.)

But **electricityrates** didn't have to increase this much, this fast. They didn't have to get so out of hand that a growing number of families are becoming **energy** poor. There didn't have to be such a price gulf between urban and rural **ratepayers**, with rural getting the shortest end of the stick. For more than a year, the alarm as been sounded: Residential **electricity** **rates** are getting out of hand, and some intervention is needed. That Wynne took this long to publicly acknowledge that is a big part of her sin.

Now she has acknowledged her mistake. Will that be enough to rescue, or significantly change, or government's disastrous trajectory?

Not by itself, but it's a good start. All cynicism aside, it's not every day you hear a government leader acknowledge a mistake, let alone one this serious. Yes, Wynne was driven in part by necessity, with her personal popularity being at record lows and the government's not far behind. Still, Wynne's mea culpa has to be seen as good news, assuming it's more than words. What comes next? What will the premier do to ensure some pressure is removed from residential and commercial **ratepayers**? And not just who qualify for government assistance programs, which are necessary. But the so called middle-class are suffering as much as anyone, and don't qualify for assistance.

Any relief measures need to be broad and significant. Otherwise they won't help politically, but more importantly won't be enough to reduce the real suffering many families are enduring.

Wynne also has to worry about what happens when **cap-and-trade** protocols come into effect, since they, too, will have an impact on home heating prices and **gas** prices. And she needs to do something about unrealistically high prices paid to green **energy** generators.

Ontario is not alone. The essential switch away from carbon to **renewable energy** sources is a bumpy road in any jurisdiction making the effort to change. But Ontario's road at present is too bumpy. Wynne's taking responsibility is a start, but what the government does next will tell the rest of the story.

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Wynne urged to resign

NORTH BAY NUGGET

North Bay Nugget - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $127
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

The leader of the Northern Ontario Party is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to resign.

In a release Monday, Trevor Holliday said he has been pointing out the ways that Wynne has been destroying Northern Ontario.

"He feels it's about time she accepts responsibility for **hydro** **rates** getting out of hand. Delivery costs climbing over $150. The only **rebate** was a joke at $36," states the release. "Therefore she has been causing undue hardship and financial stress on Northern Ontarians."

Northerners are feeling the crunch even more now the the cold and snow has arrived, said Holliday, noting "over-priced utilities" are forcing people to choose between heat or food.

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Ontario Energy Minister alleged to have sought ‘benefits ’ to run for Liberals: report - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault allegedly asked for a job guarantee in exchange for running for the Liberals in last year’s Sudbury by-election, a federal prosecutor told CBC News.

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The Sudbury Star

Comments 'disgraceful'; Sudbury MPP's lawyer takes exception to prosecutor's suggestion his client asked for 'benefits' to run for the Liberals

Sudbury Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Star Staff

Ad Value: $1,974
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A1 / Front

The lawyer for Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault has reacted angrily to suggestions he "sought certain benefits" to run in the 2015 Sudbury byelection.

"The Crown has chosen to sully Mr. Thibeault's reputation without ever naming him as the target of its investigations, without ever charging him, and, most importantly, knowing that he will have no trial where he could mount a proper defense," Ian Smith said in an emailed statement.

"The unfairness of the situation is obvious and supremely frustrating."

Smith was reacting to comments made earlier Monday by federal prosecutor Vern Brewer to Sudbury reporters outside of court.

Brewer is prosecuting two Ontario Liberals on Election Act bribery charges.

But while the two Liberals face bribery counts under the act, Thibeault, now Ontario's Energy minister, does not.

"The section makes it an offence to offer, not necessarily to receive (a bribe)," Brewer said.

The charges against Pat Sorbara, Premier Kathleen Wynne's former deputy chief of staff, and Sudbury Liberal operative Gerry Lougheed stem from allegations the pair offered a would-be candidate a job or appointment to get him to step aside in the 2015 byelection in Sudbury for the premier's preferred candidate.

That preferred candidate was Thibeault, who was then a New Democrat MP for Sudbury, and he ultimately won that byelection for the provincial Liberals.

One of the charges against Sorbara is over an allegation she promised to get

Thibeault "an office or employment" to induce him to become a candidate.

After Sorbara and Lougheed's first court appearance Monday, Brewer expanded on the allegation as it relates to Thibeault. "The allegation in respect to that count relates to our allegation that Mr. Thibeault sought certain benefits, offers or job or employment as part of his conditions to run as (an) MPP," he said.

The opposition parties called for Thibeault to step aside after it was revealed that one of Sorbara's charges related to an offer allegedly made to him. Thibeault has refused, since he isn't under investigation and faces no charges. Thibeault has said the premier did not offer him a cabinet position in exchange for running, nor did Sorbara make him any offers. A spokesman said Monday that Thibeault had nothing to add to his previous statements.

In his statement, Smith said Thibeault had done wrong and criticized Brewer's comments, calling them "disgraceful."

"I have seen in media reports (Monday) afternoon comments attributed to the Crown prosecutor in the case against Pat Sorbara and Gerry Lougheed," Smith. "Those comments, made outside of court to reporters, allege that Mr. Thibeault sought 'benefits, offers, jobs or employment' as a condition of running as the Liberal candidate in the 2015 Sudbury b-election. Those comments are false. Mr. Thibeault neither sought nor was offered a bribe.

"There are a number of problems with the comments made by the Crown prosecutor today ... the prosecutor chose to make his remarks outside of court to reporters instead of respecting the sub judice rule, which recognizes the impropriety of out-ofcourt comment on a prosecution which is before the courts ... "These comments are disgraceful and ill-considered, yet will probably cause Mr. Thibeault serious reputational damage in respect of which he will consider all of his legal options. Unlike the Crown, however, Mr. Thibeault and I will respect the sub judice rule and will not comment further on the matter other than to reiterate that Mr. Thibeault has done absolutely nothing wrong."

For her part, Sorbara has said she believes the charges against her will not succeed and she is "shocked" by any suggestion she has done something wrong. Sorbara recently took a leave of absence from her job as Wynne's deputy chief of staffto become the Ontario Liberals' CEO and 2018 campaign director, posts she resigned from when the charges were laid.

Lawyers for Sorbara and Lougheed appeared on their behalf in Sudbury on Monday for their first court appearance and the case was adjourned to Dec. 14.

Ontario has given carriage of the case to the federal prosecution service.

Brewer, of the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, said outside court that he and the defence lawyers made an application to have the matter heard by a judge instead of a justice of the peace.

"It's the first prosecution we're aware of under this section and there are significant and complex legal issues," he said.

Lougheed's charge and a second charge against Sorbara are over an allegation they offered Andrew Olivier, a previous Sudbury provincial Liberal candidate who intended to run for the party again in the byelection, a job or appointment to get him to step aside for Thibeault.

Wynne has said that discussions with Olivier were about trying to keep him in the party fold, and that there was no quid pro quo because she had already decided to appoint Thibeault as the candidate before she, Sorbara and Lougheed spoke with Olivier.

Lougheed had also been charged criminally in the Sudbury byelection investigation, with one count of counselling an offence not committed and one count of unlawfully influencing or negotiating appointments, but those charges were stayed earlier this year.

Lougheed's lawyer, Michael Lacy, said his client has maintained "he didn't do anything that would attract a culpable finding." sud.editorial@sunmedia.ca

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Liberals exhale in relief over Ottawa-Vanier win

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $660
Reach: 9181 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Liberals have some ground to stand on as they fight toward re-election in 2018: Ottawa-Vanier.

Their candidate in Thursday's byelection, Nathalie Des Rosiers, handily defeated Progressive Conservative challenger André Marin.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet were able to go into their annual convention in Ottawa on the weekend without having to ask themselves what the hell they were going to do. That was the terror Marin and Tory Leader Patrick Brown had hoped to induce by at least making a fight of it.

Did the win save Wynne's job amid terrible approval ratings for the government and for her personally?

"I'm thrilled to have Nathalie coming with us to Queen's Park," Wynne said, when asked that question a bunch of different ways.

The win validates the Liberal message that Ontario has turned the corner after a bad recession and slow recovery, said Marie-France Lalonde, MPP for Ottawa-Orléans. The provincial government is building schools and expanding hospitals. "That is who we are," she said.

She took a veiled shot at the PCs for their candidate in the night's other byelection in Niagara West-Glanbrook. Sam Oosterhoff, who won a smashing victory, is a 19-yearold pro-life social conservative. "We are inclusive. We are the party of diversity. We're not going to judge you on who you are, your beliefs," Lalonde said.

The legend was that if the Liberals, federal or provincial, were ever wiped out, like the federal Progressive Conservatives were after Brian Mulroney, Ottawa-Vanier would be one of the seats they would have left. They've won it in good times and bad, by tens of thousands of votes.

But this is 2016. Wynne's government is broadly unpopular. Voters are angry about pocketbook issues like rising **electricity** prices. The Progressive Conservatives netted a confident battler for a candidate in André Marin, a guy who made his name as provincial ombudsman specifically fighting for individual Ontarians screwed by the system.

Byelections, it can't be said enough, are notorious for bringing out protest voters while people satisfied with the status quo stay at home. Who runs the government isn't at stake.

And Des Rosiers, as sterling as her résumé is (she's been a law dean twice, head of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, an advocate on multiple fronts), is not retired MPP Madeleine Meilleur. Meilleur is Vanier through and through.

If the Tories had taken Vanier, they'd have dealt the Liberals a crippling blow. The Liberals had to stop them.

Both parties pulled out every stop. Brown, who won the PC leadership by endless campaigning in every unlikely corner of the province, returned to Ottawa every weekend to knock on doors with Marin.

Wynne had the busiest month of visits to Ottawa she's had as premier, doing little direct campaigning but finding reasons to make government announcements in Ottawa that she'd typically make in Toronto (like promising to allow speed cameras in school zones) or to "highlight" the effect of Liberal spending across the province (new daycare spaces at a school! a new unit at a hospital!).

Marin's main message was that **electricity** is too expensive, killing businesses and hope. Lalonde said she heard very little about that as she knocked on doors. **Hydro** prices have soared particularly in rural Ontario, where many people pay a lot for longdistance transmission and heat their homes **electrically**, but much less so in dense downtown districts.

Ottawa-Vanier was a riding the Liberals had to win to keep from self-destructing, and they did. dreevely@postmedia.com

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Why hydro bills are so high in Ontario - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

Premier Kathleen Wynne grabbed some attention this weekend by admitting a mistake.

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CTV Toronto: Wynne says she'll help with hydro | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

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Chatham Daily News

Frustration with Union Gas I'm on a disability pension, and recently had to

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Roy Lumley

Ad Value: $161
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A6

repair my furnace. But the technician called **Union Gas** to have the **natural gas** turned offover a couple issues, one being I have no ductwork at the moment installed.

My account with **Union Gas** is in a substantial surplus position. They are automatically paid a set amount every month from my bank account.

What's frustrating is that **Union Gas** has the authority to come into your home and shut off the **gas** to your furnace, knowing you are receiving a disability pension, and yet there is nothing to force **Union Gas** to immediately release that surplus so you can get your furnace repaired and turned back on.

Union Gas has told me they have company standards and they must be followed; there is nothing to allow me access to that money within 24 hours.

Well, winter is now here and I have been without heat for a week now. My next expense will be fixing broken waterlines, and all because of red tape and money issues that could have been resolved if **Union Gas** would immediately release the surplus money from my account.

Roy Lumley

Wallaceburg

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Wynne's carbon tax another Liberal cash grab

The Daily Observer

Daily Observer (Pembroke) · Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Strong

Ad Value: $222
Reach: 6045 **Page:** A5

As one looks back on what's taken place with the Ontario Liberals addressing **climate** change, including the producing and billing of **electricity**, the people of Ontario must address the facts along with the Liberals' proven dysfunctional leadership.

We need to aggressively challenge this carbon tax including having Kathleen Wynne's Liberals charged before they take even more money from the hardworking people of Ontario.

Every week it seems there are news reports of financial blunders, scandals and coverups that Ontario's citizens will be paying for decades to come. The Liberals continue increasing the debt of this once great province with every budget they introduce.

Rather the imposing a carbon tax, haven't Ontarians paid enough in the name of greenhouse **gas** reduction? Shouldn't Ontario be "exempt" from this Wynne cash-grab tax? It's common knowledge that Ontario has the highest cost for **electricity** in Ontario in North America.

In January, our **natural gas** bills will have a hidden carbon tax that will also have **HST** added. Thus, we must pay our bills while having no idea of how much the carbon tax is.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says that in six years, the average household will be paying $2,569 annually in various carbon taxes. That's not surprising. Since coming to **power** 13 years ago this month, this Liberal government has imposed a heath tax, the **HST**, doubled most if all licence fees, wasted over a billion dollars on a **gas** plant closure, and has greased the palms of the unions it deals with.

The general consensus when this topic comes up is: "What can we do about it?" Honestly, folks, something must be done. In fact, it should have been done yesterday.

Robert Strong

Chatham

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Provinces fall in line with Ottawa's carbon plan; Saskatchewan is lone holdout as Nova Scotia, Manitoba agree to adhere to federal government's ambition to curb emissions

The Globe and Mail · Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: $15,562
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B1

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's plan for a pan-Canadian **climate** strategy got a major boost Monday when governments in Nova Scotia and Manitoba announced their intention to adopt carbon pricing in their provinces.

However, less than three weeks before a first ministers' **climate** summit, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall threatened Monday not to sign any deal unless Ottawa withdraws its carbon-pricing plan.

The Liberal government has come under fire since the U.S. election from critics who argue Canada should not proceed with carbon pricing because U.S. president-elect Donald Trump has pledged to reverse direction on **climate** policy south of the border.

Conservative opposition critics say the divergence would cause competitiveness issues for Canadian business.

But Ottawa is proceeding with its long-planned strategy, including an announcement Monday to phase out the use of traditional coal-fired **power** plants by 2030, with some exceptions for provinces that can demonstrate equivalent emissions reductions while keeping a coal facility open.

"Tackling **climate** change is both a challenge and a huge opportunity," Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said Monday in announcing the coal plan. "This opportunity will attract the investments required to build a clean-**energy** economy that will position Canada for great success in generations to come."

Saskatchewan's Premier Wall has slammed the federal government for proceeding with its carbon-pricing plan despite a Trump presidency, and on Monday, he condemned its proposed coal regulations.

"These actions have severely undermined the December meeting and have exposed the Prime Minister's disingenuous commitment to federal-provincial collaboration," he said in a statement. "We will continue to strongly oppose any attempt to impose a federal carbon tax on Saskatchewan and will not support any agreement at the December [first ministers'] meeting unless the proposed federal carbon tax is withdrawn."

However, Mr. Wall now appears to be the lone opposition voice.

Last month, provincial environment ministers stormed out of a federal-provincial-territorial meeting in protest over Mr.Trudeau's unilateral announcement on carbon pricing. Only Saskatchewan is now refusing to adopt its own plan.

The federal plan would require provinces to impose a $10 per tonne tax in 2018, rising to $50 by 2022, or adopt a **cap-and-trade** plan that meets or exceeds Ottawa's 2030 targets.

British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec - four provinces that represent 80 per cent of Canada's GHG emissions - all have implemented or announced either a carbon tax or a cap-andtrade plan. Two other provinces, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador, say they are working on carbon-price plans of their own.

Nova Scotia had previously warned that it would not accept a proposal to close all coal-fired generating stations by 2030, nor would it accept a carbon pricing plan that would drive up fuel costs for motorists. But on Monday, Premier Stephen McNeil announced agreements with Ottawa on both measures.

On carbon pricing, Mr. McNeil said his province will adopt a cap on emissions in the various sectors - **electricity**, auto, heating - but that the government will initially provide some free allowances to meet the caps and avoid a price spike.

In an interview, the premier said Nova Scotia has already cut emissions by 30 per cent so is being recognized for past action to meet Ottawa's national emission targets.

"There will be no price shock to Nova Scotians as a result of our internal **cap-and-trade** system," the premier said.

On **coal-fired electricity**, the Nova Scotia and the federal government agreed to reach an "equivalency agreement" that will allow the province to keep some plants open well past 2030, but will achieve emission reduction levels consistent with a full phase-out.

In a Speech from the Throne on Monday, the government of Manitoba Progressive Conservative Premier Brian Pallister said it would introduce a "made-inManitoba carbon pricing and **climate** plan" - though it is not clear whether the Manitoba effort will meet Mr. Trudeau's minimum price threshold.

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Feds move to phase out coal

Ottawa Sun - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $928
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A10

The Liberal government is moving to phase out the use of **coal-fired electricity** in Canada by 2030 as part of its overall clean-**energy** strategy.

The goal is to make sure 90 per cent of Canada's **electricity** comes from sustainable sources by that time - up from 80 per cent now, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said today.

Coal **power** in Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia accounts for 10 per cent of Canada's total greenhouse **gas** emissions.

Under the federal plan, provinces can choose to phase out coal entirely and replace it with lower-emitting sources - as Alberta is doing - or they can use carbon capture and storage technology, McKenna said.

The move is expected to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions by more than five megatonnes by 2030 - the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars offthe road. This is in addition to the 10 megatonnes that Alberta's early phaseout of coal represents.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall said his province would evaluate the environmental and economic impact of the federal announcement.

Buthealso accused the federal government of violating - for the second time - its commitment to work with the provinces to develop a pan-Canadian approach to **climate** change that would be discussed and finalized at a first ministers' meeting next month.

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Canada accelerates phasing out of coal; Critics say plan will create competitive imbalance with U.S.

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Josh Wingrove Bloomberg

Ad Value: $12,447
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government is speeding up Canada's planned elimination of traditional coal-fired **power** plants, doubling down on green pledges as its top trading partner moves in the opposite direction.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said Monday the country would phase out traditional coal **power** by 2030, an acceleration of existing measures that the government says affects four facilities in Canada not already facing retrofit or shutdown by then.

They include two facilities in Nova Scotia-owned Nova Scotia **Power**, an Emera Inc. subsidiary, and one each in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick owned by provincial crown corporations.

Canada, which already draws 80 per cent of its **electricity** from non-emitting sources, is pressing ahead with plans to cut greenhouse **gas** emissions amid warnings from Trudeau's political opponents that doing so will create a competitive imbalance with the neighbouring U.S., where president-elect Donald Trump wants to back out of **climate** pledges and boost coal production.

"Phasing out **coal-fired electricity** and expanding clean **power** sources will create new jobs and opportunities," McKenna said Monday, speaking to reporters in Ottawa.

Eliminating smog caused by coal **power** generation will also reduce health impacts, she said.

Trudeau has unveiled a series of environmental measures in recent months, including a minimum price on carbon and expanded funding for marine protection. His centrist Liberal Party is trying to balance demands of environmental advocates with spurring Canada's sluggish economic growth.

The change essentially requires coal plants to meet a tougher emissions standard - 420 metric tons of carbon dioxide per gigawatt hour - more quickly than previously scheduled, unless they adopt carbon-capture technology to cut emissions.

If they convert to **natural gas**, they need only meet a 550 metric ton standard until 2045, when the tougher standard kicks in.

McKenna also said she'd work with provinces on equivalency agreements, leaving the door open to keep coal plants running if emissions cuts are found elsewhere.

The move will see Canada generate 90 per cent of **electricity** from non-emitting sources by 2030, McKenna said.

It will also cut emissions by five metric megatons, the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars off the road, according to government estimates.

Coal **power** represents about 8 per cent of Canadian greenhouse **gas** emissions, the government said. It accounts for about 11 per cent of the country's **electricity**, concentrated mostly in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and also in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, according to a report issued Monday by the Pembina Institute, an environmental think tank.

Alberta and Saskatchewan are major oil producers reeling from the impacts of a commodities slump. Alberta has already pledged its own coal phase-out, while Saskatchewan is balking at Trudeau's earlier announcement of a minimum carbon price.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall criticized Trudeau for again pre-empting a December meeting with provincial leaders, where a pan-Canadian **climate** strategy is due for discussion.

"These actions have severely undermined the December meeting and have exposed the Prime Minister's disingenuous commitment to federal-provincial collaboration," Wall said in a statement.

"We will continue to strongly oppose any attempt to impose a federal carbon tax on Saskatchewan and will not support any agreement at the December meeting unless the proposed federal carbon tax is withdrawn."

Ontario - Canada's most populous province - phased out coal over the past decade. Air quality has improved while **electricity** **rates** in the province have roughly doubled. McKenna said the government was "working to ensure" the coal phase-out in other provinces does not increase **rates** and provided no further details.

The federal government didn't announce new funding for provinces to shut down coal **power**. Earlier this month, however, it announced billions in new funding for unspecified green infrastructure, as well as the creation of an infrastructure bank.

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Help the climate and our health by phasing out coal

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $3,226
Reach: 114846 **Page:** A9

The following is an edited excerpt from a Pembina Institute report, released Monday, entitled Out with the coal, in with the new.

As the world ratifies the Paris Agreement and works to reconcile existing **climate** plans with the long-term need to decouple greenhouse **gas** emissions from economic growth, the pace of coal plant closures has begun to define **climate** leadership. In order for countries like Canada to live up to the ambition of the Paris Agreement, they must work to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, and **power** their economies through clean **energy**. Because of this, an accelerated phase-out of coal-fired **power** is a critical piece of Canada's **climate** action puzzle. Limiting the role of coal-fired **power** and promoting clean alternatives on Canada's grid will ensure the process of electrification results in maximum emissions reductions for the country, and would support the country's long-term **climate** ambitions.

But equally, a national commitment to phase-out coal no later than 2030 will secure other benefits for Canadians. A national phase-out of coalfired **power** by 2030 would avoid 1,008 premature deaths, 871 emergency room visits, and save nearly $5 billion in health outcomes (including health costs) between 2015 and 2035. These health benefits should be considered as a bottom-line that would be surpassed should Canada implement an even earlier phase-out.

Policy action to reduce reliance on coal-fired **power** in the near term secures important health and **climate** benefits, sends clear investment signals for replacement generation, and establishes a foundational building block for long-term climate action.

To implement this commitment, the federal government should incrementally claw back the end-of-life of coal plants in a measured fashion down to 40 years, with no later than a 2030 end-date for unabated coal power. The accelerated phase-out is simply a strengthening of the existing Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Coalfired Generation of Electricity Regulations issued under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). Importantly, the CEPA regime allows for equivalency agreements with provinces that can meet the same GHG reductions through other policy approaches - meaning that a federal commitment of this nature would stay true to the principle of flexibility outlined in the Vancouver Declaration. This can allow for greater flexibility in jurisdictions that have unique circumstances, such as Nova Scotia with its relatively small system, heavy extant reliance on coal power and absence of existing natural gas infrastructure. With the development of the pan-Canadian climate plan, the prime minister and premiers have an opportunity to lock-in important policy that will reduce carbon pollution, and provide health and economic co-benefits to Canadians. No public policy better exemplifies this "winwin" for the climate and for the health of Canadians more than an accelerated phaseout of coal-fired power. We urge federal and provincial policymakers to match leading provincial and international trends and commit to an accelerated coal-phase out by 2030 so the country can reap these important health and environmental benefits.

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Coal country holds out for a revival; Mines out west would gain the most under Trump, though a full restoration to former glory is doubtful

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Virtanen And Matthew Brown The Associated Press

Ad Value: $29,657
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

The hard-eyed view along the Tug Fork River in West Virginia coal country is that president-elect Donald Trump has something to prove: He'll help bring back Appalachian mining, as he promised on the campaign trail. Nobody thinks he can revive it entirely - not economists, not ex-miners, not even those recently called back to work.

But for the first time in years, coal towns are seeing a commodity that had grown scarcer than the coal trains that used to rumble around the clock: hope.

Around here, that hope is measured.

Still, most voters saw Trump as the only choice for president. He vowed to undo looming federal rules and said U.S. President Barack Obama had been "ridiculous" to the industry. Trump told miners in Charleston: "We're going to take care of years of horrible abuse. I guarantee it."

West Virginians went all in, backing Trump and electing a coal mine-owning billionaire, Democrat Jim Justice, as governor.

But a lot of people had gone under already.

"Lost my home, vehicle, everything," Roger Prater said. Wearing the miner's telltale blue pants with reflective strips, he would be heading underground that night. He had been laid off for 20 months but now benefits from a small hiring surge that started before the election.

At 31, Prater said he can get everything back, but he's uncertain for how long.

"In Trump's term, I feel we'll do good, but after that, who's to say?" he said.

That skepticism is supported by industry analysts, who say any recovery won't be centred in the eastern coalfields of Kentucky and West Virginia and will never bring U.S. coal back to what it once was.

Last year, the nation had about 66,000 coal mining jobs - the lowest since the U.S. **Energy** Information Administration began counting in 1978. That's down 20,000 since 2008, and preliminary data show 10,000 more lost this year.

Mines out west stand to gain the most under Trump because of the huge reserves beneath public lands in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado and Utah.

At the Wolf Mountain Coal company near Decker, Mont., superintendent Dave Bettcher said he's been praying Trump can do just that.

Wolf Mountain gets coal from the nearby Spring Creek strip mine, where operator Cloud Peak **Energy** has cut workforce and production.

Bettcher said eight years of anti-coal leadership in Washington have left the industry in peril.

"If he can hold up his end, he's going to help a lot of people," Bettcher said of Trump as a conveyor belt dumped coal into a truck bound for North Dakota.

In January, the Obama administration - prompted in part by concerns about **climate** change - imposed a moratorium on new lease sales pending a three-year review of the federal coal program.

Trump has vowed to rescind the moratorium, which could open huge coal reserves.

Burning them would unleash an estimated 3.4 billion tons of carbon dioxide - equivalent to a year's worth of emissions from 700 million cars, according to Environmental Protection Agency calculations. But Trump has promised, too, to roll back Obama's Clean **Power** Plan, emissions restrictions that would make it more expensive for utilities to use the fuel.

Such proposals would "level the playing field for coal," allowing it to better compete with **natural gas** and renewable energies, said coal analyst Andy Roberts with the firm Wood Mackenzie.

Yet industry executives expect that pressure to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will continue.

"It can't just be, 'We're going to get rid of these regulations and you guys can party until the next administration comes,'" Cloud Peak **Energy** vice-president Richard Reavey said. "There are serious global concerns about **climate** emissions. We have to recognize that's a political reality and work within that framework."

Owners of more than 200 coal plants, almost half the nation's total, plan to retire the facilities by 2025, said Mary Anne Hitt, director of the Sierra Club's anti-coal campaign.

That trend is unlikely to be reversed, she said, with **wind** and **solarpower** becoming more cost effective and **natural gas** offering a cheap alternative. But Hitt said environmentalists would be naive to think they've won.

"The coal industry is going to have friends in high places," she said.

In West Virginia, Justice reopened four of his mines this month, saying they'll provide 375 jobs, before being elected governor. Justice acknowledged during campaigning that the coal business is tough, but said he believes it will help **power** the U.S. economy and West Virginia's future.

On Saturday, Justice said he and Trump talked for 15 minutes about efforts to put miners back to work.

For now, Williamson resembles the small Rust Belt cities of the North after factories closed, leaving empty storefronts and sidewalks. Greg Blankenship from Pike County, Ky., across the river, lost his $50,000-a-year mining job in 2009 and got a lower-paying county job months later. Blankenship hopes Trump's election means he'll be able to go back, but says he knows "the president can't do everything."

Trump won't control the economics of **natural gas** prices or slow global growth, two big factors hurting coal demand, said John Deskins, director of the West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research. Trump will have some control over environmental regulation, but it's unclear how much.

Gary Chapman, 25, has worked right along for almost eight years, surviving seven layoffs, though he'd been down to four shifts a week. He returned to five or six shifts, including overtime, before the election.

"I believe they'll bring a lot of it back," he said. "Do I believe it will be what it used to be? No. It'll never be that again."

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The right move; Dumping coal

Toronto Star - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $10,418
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A14

The Trudeau government has taken important steps to assert Canadian leadership on environmental issues after years of neglect under the Harper government.

It played a key role in negotiating the landmark Paris Agreement on **climate** change and in October, it announced it will impose a national price on carbon starting in 2018. Now, it plans to phase out almost all use of coal to generate **electricity** by 2030, a move that will cut greenhouse **gas** emissions while producing significant health benefits from cleaner air.

The usual suspects are grumbling, but the government deserves credit for pressing ahead on an issue that is arguably the most important this country, and all countries, must face: **climate** change.

The plan to get rid of coal essentially involves speeding up a plan developed under the Conservatives in 2012. It will require the four provinces that still have **coal-fired electricity** plants to shut them down, install carbon-capture technology or achieve equivalent emission reductions elsewhere.

The government says that will have the same greenhouse-**gas** effect as taking 1.3 million cars off the road and will ensure that 90 per cent of Canada's **power** sources are sustainable (up from 80 per cent now). And health groups say eliminating coal burning will prevent more than 1,000 premature deaths and save billions in health costs.

Only Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is griping and he is mostly isolated on this issue, now that Alberta is moving in a more environmentally responsible direction under its NDP government. It would be too much to expect every province to just fall in line.

Other critics say phasing out coal risks putting Canada badly out of step with the United States once Donald Trump is installed in the White House.

It's true Trump has pledged to dump the Obama administration's Clean **Power** Plan, which he calls a "war on coal." That won him support in coal country, but it's far from clear that Trump can actually deliver on his promise to revive the industry and the communities that depend on it.

The fact is coal has been a dying industry for decades as utilities abandon it for cheaper, cleaner-burning **natural gas** and renewable alternatives. There used to be a quarter of a million coal mining jobs in the U.S.; now there are just over 50,000. Even Trump can't do much to prop up an industry in such terminal decline.

In the face of all this, the Trudeau government's plan makes eminent sense. But that doesn't mean there won't be trade-offs and the provinces will have to make sure it doesn't lead to sharply higher **electricity** prices.

For that, they should learn from the mistakes of Ontario. This province did away with coal-fired plants several years ago and moved boldly towards greener **energy**. But it's now all too apparent that the government made a lot of mistakes along the way and the Liberals are paying a high political price - as Premier Kathleen Wynne ruefully acknowledged over the weekend.

All governments must walk a fine line: Take effective action on the environment without alienating the public. The federal government has made a good start on the first part. The second part, as Ontario is finding out, is bound to be more tricky.

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Watch hydro bills as coal phased out: Ontario

InsideTorontocom - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral

TORONTO - Ontario has some advice for its fellow provinces as they move to meet the federal government's newly unveiled goal of eliminating coal-fired **power** generation in Canada by 2030: keep an eye on those **electricity** bills.

The province's Liberal government likes to boast that shutting down coal plants has all but eliminated Ontario's once-ubiquitous smog days, making life easier for people with asthma and other breathing problems.

But it cost billions of dollars to build new transmission lines and replace coal with **power** from **natural gas**, **wind**, **solar** and biomass projects - not to mention maintaining a fleet of expensive nuclear reactors that still supply about half of Ontario's **electricity**.

Electricity rates for homes and small businesses in Ontario jumped 70 per cent between 2006 and 2014 as coal was being phased out.

The province's auditor general said the Liberal government's planning and implementation of new **power** generation as it moved to replace coal cost consumers an extra $37 billion during that time - including an extra $9.2 billion for green **energy** projects - and was expected to cost another $133 billion from 2015 to 2032.

The political fallout from soaring **hydro** bills is still causing problems for Premier Kathleen Wynne's government, which is looking to take steps it hopes will defuse the anger of **ratepayers** before the 2018 election.

Wynne admitted on the weekend that she should have paid closer attention to the impact of the government's programs on **hydro** bills.

"People have told me that they've had to choose between paying the **electricity** bill and buying food or paying rent," Wynne said. "That is unacceptable to me. Our government made a mistake. It was my mistake."

The federal government wants 90 per cent of Canada's **electricity** to come from sustainable sources by 2030, up from 80 per cent now.

Ontario phased out the last of its coal-fired generating stations in 2014, but coal **power** in Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia still accounts for more than eight per cent of Canada's total greenhouse **gas** emissions.

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault urged those provinces Monday to make sure they have a diverse supply mix- **wind**, **solar**, biomass and nuclear **power** - to replace coal-fired generation.

"You need all of those to ensure you can replace the **power** that you're eliminating," Thibeault said.

"But the one thing I would suggest is they can never take their eye off the affordability ball. That's something we could have done a better job at."

It would have been a lot cheaper to just build more coal plants, admitted Thibeault. "We made the choice of clean and green, which to us is the right thing to do."

For decades, Ontario relied on cheap **electricity** to help attract industry and drive its economy, with coal accounting for about 25 per cent of the province's **power** supply by the 1990s.

However, the province's five coal-fired generating plants were Canada's largest source of pollutants that included sulphur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, mercury, arsenic, lead and carbon dioxide.

While the Liberals get credit for shutting down the coal plants, it was former Progressive Conservative Premier Mike Harris who took the first step towards a coal-free Ontario in 1999 by closing the Lakeview Generating Station in Mississauga, one of the biggest polluters in the Toronto area.

That same year, then-Opposition leader Dalton McGuinty promised to phase out coal-fired **power** generation by 2007 if the Liberals won the 2003 election, which they did.

McGuinty's plan, which called for replacing coal with a combination of conservation, **renewable energy**, **natural gas** and nuclear **power**, came from his senior adviser, Gerald Butts, who now holds the same position in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office.

McGuinty was repeatedly forced to delay the ambitious promise; in the end it took until 2014 to close the last of the plants.

But the Ontario Clean Air Alliance said the use of coal had dropped to negligible levels by as early as 2011 - the largest single reduction in greenhouse-**gas** emissions in North America, and the equivalent of taking seven million cars off the road.

"A precedent had been set that demonstrated that it was possible to take meaningful action on **climate** change and air quality without stalling economic growth or lowering quality of life," the group concluded.

By Keith Leslie, The Canadian Press

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Liberals present plan to phase out coal-powered electricity by 2030 - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral

The federal government is speeding up the plan to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030.

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Canada's rejection of coal will clear the air but impact workers and power bills - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna hastened the decline of Canada's coal industry Monday with the announcement of a plan to aggressively phase out coal-fired power plants by 2030, roughly ten years ahead of schedule.

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Ottawa sets sights on coal-fired power

Brampton Guardian - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,890
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The federal Liberal government once again earned the scorn of Saskatchewan's premier Monday with the next phase of its clean-**energy** strategy: pushing provinces to either phase out or clean up their coal-fired **power** plants.

The goal of the Trudeau government is to ensure 90 per cent of Canada's **electricity** comes from sustainable sources by 2030, up from 80 per cent now, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said Monday.

Coal-fired units are among the largest sources of air pollution in the country, including sulphur dioxides, nitrogen oxides and mercury pollutants.

In addition, coal **power** in Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia accounts for more than eight per cent of Canada's total greenhouse **gas** emissions.

Under the new federal plan, provinces can choose to phase out coal entirely and replace it with lower-emitting sources - as Alberta is doing - or they can use carbon capture and storage technology, McKenna said.

At least in the case of Nova Scotia, however, the federal push seems like more of a gentle nudge.

The government is also permitting "equivalency arrangements" to support the transition from coal towards cleaner **electricity** sources. Nova Scotia will be allowed to use coal-fired plants beyond 2030 in recognition of the work the province has done to reduce greenhouse **gases**.

McKenna characterized it as working on tailor-made approaches to phasing out coal with the four affected provinces.

"Different provinces have different solutions," she told a news conference in

Ottawa. "We are making sure that the solutions make sense for **ratepayers**, for workers and for the residents of the province."

Later in the day in Halifax, McKenna was alongside Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil as he announced plans to adopt a **cap and trade** system for industry, with the details to be worked out by 2018.

The province opted for **cap and trade** after McNeil had made it clear that he wanted no part of a proposed carbon tax, saying it would be too expensive for his province's mainly rural economy.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall, another provincial leader who's no fan of the carbon-tax idea, said his province would evaluate the environmental and economic impact of the federal announcement.

But he accused the Liberals of violating - for a second time - a commitment to work with the provinces on a pan-Canadian approach to **climate** change that would be discussed and finalized at a first ministers' meeting next month.

"These actions have severely undermined the December meeting and have exposed the prime minister's disingenuous commitment to federal-provincial

The federal plan is expected to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions by more than five megatonnes by 2030 - the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars off the road. That's in addition to the 10 megatonnes that Alberta's early phase-out of coal represents.

"This opportunity will attract the investments required to build the clean-**energy** economy that will position Canada for great success in generations to come," McKenna said.

Monday's announcement came as the Pembina Institute released a report saying the phase-out of all coal-fired **power** facilities by 2030 would cut 10 years from a previously established federal timeline, which would have allowed some facilities to continue operating well past 2040.

Accelerating the national phase-out of coal-fired **power** to 2030 would avoid 1,008 premature deaths, 871 emergency room visits and nearly $5 billion in health and lower productivity costs between 2015 and 2035, the report said.

Canada is blessed with an abundance of **hydro**, **wind** and **solar** opportunities, McKenna said. "This has already positioned us as a global leader. We can always do better, though."

Ottawa's position stands in marked contrast to the signals from the incoming U.S. administration, which has indicated strong support for the coal sector.

McKenna said it is important to let the market know that Canada is moving to a low-carbon future. She noted France, Britain, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark have all announced accelerated coal phase-outs.

By Jim Bronskill, The Canadian Press

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orillia packet

Wall blasts Ottawa over plan; Trudeau announces government will phase out coal-fired electricity

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Geoffrey Morgan

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 9181 **Page:** B4

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall accused Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of ignoring commitments to collaborating with the provinces on **climate** change, after Ottawa announced Monday it would phase out coalfired **electricity** by 2030.

"The federal government has now violated that commitment for a second time by making its second major policy announcement in advance of the First Minister's meeting in December - the announcement last month of a national carbon tax and now today's announcement of an accelerated phase out of coal-fired **electrical** generation," Wall said in a statement, moments after Ottawa's announcement.

Environment and **Climate** Change Minister Catherine McKenna said Monday morning that it would require coalfired **electric** plants to either shut down, or eliminate their emissions through carbon capture and storage investments by 2030.

The goal is to make sure 90 per cent of Canada's **electricity** comes from sustainable sources by that time, McKenna said.

The timetable includes an agreement with Nova Scotia to give that province the flexibility it needs to shift directly from fossil fuels to cleaner sources of **electricity**,

rather than switching to **natural gas** in the interim. McKenna is working on an agreement with Saskatchewan.

The announcement is one of a series of measures the federal government is rolling out in advance of a first-ministers meeting with the provinces in early December to determine a broader climatechange plan.

Wall referred to a meeting between Canada's premiers and the Prime Minister in Vancouver in March, at which he said Trudeau agreed "to work together with the provinces to develop a pan-Canadian approach to **climate** change that would be discussed and finalized at the next First Minister's meeting."

He said he would not support any agreement at the December meeting unless Ottawa backs offits carbon tax requirement. Roughly 40 per cent of **electricity** generated in Saskatchewan comes from coal.

The province has installed a carbon capture and storage system at one coal-fired facility in Estevan, Sask.

Coal **power** in Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia accounts for 10 per cent of Canada's total greenhouse **gas** emissions.

Alberta's Environment Minister Shannon Phillips said the federal plan to phase out **coal-fired electricity** helps validate the province's own goal and demonstrates there's no going back.

Phillips said the transition is already underway and that will ensure Alberta's best interests are served.

"Eliminating coal-fired **power** in Canada and around the world is one of the world's best opportunity to improve air quality and fight **climate** change," Pembina Institute executive director Ed Whittingham said in a release.

He praised the federal government's decision and said coal combustion accounts for 40 per cent of the Earth's carbon-based pollution. files from Canadian Press

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THE KINGSTON WHIG STANDARD

Learn from our 'mistake,' province warns; Ontario advises other provinces to keep an eye on hydro bills as coal phased out

Kingston Whig-Standard · Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Keith Leslie

Ad Value: $1,181
Reach: 21850 **Page:** B2

Ontario has some advice for its fellow provinces as as they move to meet the federal government's newly unveiled goal of eliminating coal-fired **power** generation in Canada by 2030: keep an eye on those **electricity** bills.

The province's Liberal government likes to boast that shutting down coal plants has all but eliminated Ontario's once-ubiquitous smog days, making life easier for people with asthma and other breathing problems.

But it cost billions of dollars to build new transmission lines and replace coal with **power** from **natural gas**, **wind**, **solar** and biomass projects - not to mention maintaining a fleet of expensive nuclear reactors that still supply about half of Ontario's **electricity**.

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The province's auditor general said generous contracts for green **energy** cost consumers an extra $37 billion during that time, and projected they would cost another $133 billion from 2015 to 2032 on top of the amount bills would normally increase.

The political fallout from soaring **hydro** bills is still causing problems for Premier Kathleen Wynne's government, which is looking to take steps it hopes will defuse the anger of **ratepayers** before the 2018 election.

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Numbers behind Canada's coal-fired emissions

Brampton Guardian - Mon Nov 21 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $646
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The federal government wants to phase out the rest of Canada's coal-fired **power** plants by 2030 as part of its clean-**energy** strategy. Here's a look at some of the numbers involved:

- Close to three-quarters of the greenhouse **gas** emissions from the country's **electricity** sector, more than eight per cent of Canada's total emissions, come from coal-burning plants.

- There are 35 coal **power** units across Canada: in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

- The government says that in 2014, coal plants were 10 of the top 17 sources of sulphur dioxide in Canada, 10 of the 14 top sources of nitrogen oxide and three of the top five sources of mercury.

- It says accelerating the phase-out of traditional coal-fired units that do not use carbon capture and storage will cut emissions by more than five megatonnes in 2030.

- Coal produces about 11 per cent of the country's **electricity**, compared with

59.3 per cent generated from water power and 16 per cent from nuclear plants.

- A Pembina Institute study estimates that, in 2014, pollution from coal power resulted in more than 20,000 asthma episodes and hundreds of emergency room visits and hospitalizations, costing the health-care system more than $800 million.

By The Canadian Press

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NP

Trump's 'hoax' approach

National Post - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Judith Curry

Ad Value: $7,297
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

The election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency has alarmed many environmentalists, and has provoked anxiety and speculation about where U.S. climate and energy policy is headed under a Trump administration. Such speculation has been rampant particularly in context of the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Morocco that concluded last week.

The outrage among environmentalists surrounding President-elect Trump relates to his statements that climate change is a "hoax." A "hoax" can be defined as a deliberately fabricated falsehood designed to deceive a large group of people. Perhaps Trump is referring to one of these two hoaxes related to climate change: The attempts by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Obama administration and the media to mislead people into thinking that all climate change and extreme weather are caused by humans. Or, the propaganda from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the U.S. government that has misled people into thinking that the committed emissions reductions will have a beneficial impact on the 21st century climate, even though the government climate model calculations indicate a trivial change in global temperatures from these emission reductions.

Climate has always changed and will continue to do so; the key questions are to what extent humans have contributed to the recent warming, and whether humans can do anything to significantly change the trajectory of future warming by eliminating the emission of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. These are issues that are hotly debated by scientists, engineers, economists and policymakers. So in terms of climate "hoaxes," perhaps it is not Donald Trump's whose pants are on fire.

So what can we expect from Trump's administration on environment, climate and energy? Trump has made some very clear statements on these topics in recent months. Before the election, he answered questions from ScienceDebate. org related to climate change. Trump stated that there is still much that needs to be investigated in the field of climate change. He argued that perhaps the best use of our limited financial resources should be in focusing our efforts on clean water and increasing food production, and on developing energy sources and power production that alleviate the need for dependence

on fossil fuels. "We must decide on how best to proceed so that we can make lives better, safer and more prosperous," Trump said.

Trump's campaign website issued a "Position Statement on Energy" that clearly states his priorities of making American energy independent, creating millions of new jobs, protecting clean air and clean water, and conserving natural habitats, reserves and resources. While his statement did not focus on reducing carbon emissions, he did support the use of **natural gas** and other American **energy** resources that will both reduce emissions, but will also reduce the price of **energy** and increase U.S. economic output. The statement also encourages environmental protection at the state and local level.

Yes, Trump's rhetoric and likely policies on the topic of **climate** change and **energy** signal a change from President Obama's policies. However, with or without President Trump, the Paris agreement on **climate** change will undoubtedly continue to promote progress on reducing emissions and increasing **climate** resilience, within the limits of what nations and individual states in the United States regard as achievable and in their best interests.

Trump's election provides an opportunity for a fresh look at the wicked **climate** change problem by opening dialogue on **climate** science, the issue of the government ruling carbon dioxide an "endangerment" to human health, the social cost of carbon, technologies, and consideration of a broader range of policy options.

Climate activists would do well to find common ground with the Trump administration on topics that he supports: clean water and air; stewardship of federal lands; **energy** independence; and building 21st-century infrastructure. Judith Curry is a professor and the former chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

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Trump win stirs cloud gusts over Ontario Grits

Kingston Whig-Standard · Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: $730
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Liberals fear getting swept away by the same whirlwind that carried Donald Trump to the White House, with the worst gusts coming from high **electricity** prices.

They know they're unpopular. They have believed their efforts to look beyond short-term political advantage will start paying offin time to win re-election in 2018. Now they look at Hillary Clinton and wonder.

They gathered in Ottawa on the weekend for their annual convention. They saved Madeleine Meilleur's old seat in Ottawa-Vanier in this past week's byelection, but got stunned by a teenage Tory in Niagara West-Glanbrook and their provincewide poll numbers are terrible.

"We're going into redoubling mode," Premier Kathleen Wynne said Saturday with Mary Kay Henry, president of the two-million -member U.S.-based Service Employees International Union.

Henry sees Ontario as a beacon for policies good for nurses, publicservice workers and cleaners. Henry talked of Obamacare, the U.S. federal health-care law that has provided health insurance to more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans - but also driven up premiums for millions who had insurance already.

Trump's win is not just a sign of trouble for the Liberals; it could be a problem in itself. Ontario's efforts to expand trade, to expand green **energy**, to attract high-wage employers with government help could be the right long-term policies but be damaging if the Americans go in the opposite direction. They'll be working with governors of Great Lakes states to impress on the new administration how important the cross-border relationship is to U.S. prosperity.

Wynne will go on a listening tour of every riding in Ontario before the next election, she announced, and she wants Ontarians to grill her.

"People have told me that they've had to choose between paying their **electricity** bill and buying food or paying the rent. That is unacceptable to me," she said. "Our government made a mistake. It was my mistake. And I'm going to do my best to fix it."

In the past, governments spooked by **hydro** prices have resorted to short-term moves that make no longterm sense, either freezing prices while the system decays or covering shortfalls out of the provincial treasury. On how she'll do what she says she'll do, Wynne had no specifics. But promised that those will come.

The Liberals have an advantage.

The Tories have to run against the Liberals in a way Republicans didn't have to hew to everything Donald Trump said as he ran for president.

The Tories have always been an unwieldy coalition of smallgovernment libertarians who don't care whom you have sex with, social conservatives who very much do, and rural populists who are OK with government activism as long as it means things like new highways.

In last week's two byelections, they gained a home-schooled teenager in one riding and failed to elect an experienced former provincial ombudsman in another.

Just about the only thing Niagara winner Sam Oosterhoffand Ottawa loser André Marin had in common besides a party banner was a belief **electricity** prices are too high. Guys like Oosterhoffare "a threat to the party," Marin says, poison to Tories' chances in ridings they have to win.

Say what you like of Kathleen Wynne's "activist centrism," the idea government should aim to help everyone in their daily lives. It's expensive, it's intrusive, it's ineptly applied, it's dreamed up by people who get anxious when they're out of sight of the CN Tower. OK. It is at least a coherent vision of what government is for and Wynne doesn't have to sell it to her fellow Liberals.

She'll take any advantage she can get.

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NP

Climate muddle runs deep; Liberals tout clean growth but achieve neither

National Post - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Terence Corcoran

Ad Value: $10,079
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

In announcing a national coal phase-out Monday, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna claimed to have "a vision of a cleangrowth economy." Unfortunately, it's a vision unaccompanied by a clear grasp of how to achieve a clean and growing economy. Instead, the move shows a government in the thrall of green activists wielding dubious statistics on the health benefits of eliminating coal, and a government that seems to think it can change the world.

The Liberal **climate** policy muddle runs deep. Start with the blatant contradictions over the use of carbon pricing, a hard economic concept its eco-fiscal proponents said would let the market solve the carbon emission problem. Tax it and they will stop.

That's now a national farce, since McKenna announced that the government will instead regulate coal out of existence in most of Canada by 2030 rather than let carbon pricing do the job. To speed the transition, the government will apply another non-market scheme and direct the new Canadian Infrastructure Bank to finance **gas**-fired **electricity** plants to replace coal. Is **gas** so uneconomic it needs government-backed bankers to fund it?

And then, to further undermine the carbon price mechanism, the government will amend the Canadian Environmental Protection Act to regulate the emissions of the new **gas**-fired plants that will replace Canada's 34 coal-generating stations. Maybe the new bank is needed to cover the risk created by the carbon tax and new regulations?

Whatever. Canada now has a coal policy that aims to reduce the use of a cheap and efficient source of **power**, fully funded and installed, and replace it with new plants that will be costly to build. That the costs are significant is indicated by the fact that Nova Scotia will be exempted from the 2030 deadline.

The alleged objective is to help Canada meet its commitments under the Paris **climate** agreement. That agreement, however, is on life-support following global **climate** talks in Marrakech that last week produced little momentum as the world's green activists and bureaucrats reacted to the election of Donald Trump. Canada apparently plans to stick with the Paris deal to the bitter end.

Further making Canada's boy scout coal policy look absurd is the fact that coal will continue to be used by many of the world's major economies well into the future. In the United States, Trump claims he will lift regulations that punish coal, although it is unclear that coal can be competitive with **natural gas**.

India is on a coal expansion binge and China announced earlier this month that it could increase its use of **coal-fired electricity** by 20 per cent over the next five years from 900 gigawatts to 1,100 by 2020. The fouryear 200-gigawatt increase in China's capacity would be greater than Canada's current total **electricity** capacity. But coal only accounts for about 10 per cent of Canada's **electricity** needs, which means that Canada's coal reduction plan will eliminate five megatonnes of carbon emissions over the next 15 years while China adds hundreds of megatonnes over the same period.

China says it aims to reduce coal's share of national **electricity** production to 55 per cent by 2040, down from 84 per cent in 2014. But since China's **electricity** consumption is expected to increase nearly five per cent per year, the country's coal emissions will continue to rise.

Canada's role as a carbon reducer can only be minuscule as a share of global carbon emissions. Most Canadian will be quick to realize - as have the **electricity ratepayers** of Ontario - that phasing out coal is a costly business with zero national benefits. That obvious fact is the main reason governments and activists keep claiming that phasing out coal will save lives and billions in health-care spending.

Leading this health-care claim is the Alberta-based Pembina Institute, which claimed in a report also issued Monday that "a national phase-out of coal-fired **power** by 2030 would avoid 1,008 premature deaths, 871 emergency room visits and save nearly $5-billion in health outcomes between 2015 and 2035."

Such claims are at best dubious. At worse, they are inaccurate statistical manipulations with no substance. Experts in Ontario say such claims about Ontario's coal plants were exaggerated and/or unfounded. Recent studies in Alberta found that the pollution levels in Edmonton, which is only 60 kilometres from Alberta's coal plants, are no greater than most other Canadian cities and lower than many of the world's leading cities in Europe and the United States.

Warren Kindzierski, associate professor of public health at the University of Alberta, says the level of overall air pollution in Edmonton has been unchanged in 17 years and is not a threat to citizens. "The levels are not very high" and only a "very small" proportion of pollution could be traced back to the coal plants located in Edmonton's backyard. In a paper posted this month in the science journal Environmental Pollution, Kindzierski and his associate concluded the levels of a key pollutant - fine particulate matter (PM2.5) - in Edmonton were below U.S. regulatory levels and "were well below acceptable and safe levels of risk recommended by regulatory agencies."

In an interview Monday, Kindzierski said "The long and the short of it is that shutting down coal plants will not make one bit of change regarding particulate matter." But phasing out coal will make a big economic difference, the costs of which now loom before Canadians as the Trudeau government chases its **climate** tail around in search of a policy that has no coherence.

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Federal infrastructure bank to build electricity connections between provinces | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

The Trudeau government intends to use its new infrastructure bank to finance a "nation-building effort" to build clean electricity systems between provinces and territories.

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Pan-Canadian power grid in the cards?

Brampton Guardian - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $2,428
Reach: 120000

OTTAWA - The Trudeau government intends to use its new infrastructure bank to finance a "nation-building effort" to build clean **electricity** systems between provinces and territories.

But does that mean the decades-old dream of a pan-Canadian **power** grid is finally about to become a reality?

Not likely.

Sergio Marchi, president of the Canadian **Electricity** Association, says the technological know-how to transmit **electricity** for vast distances across the country doesn't yet exist and, even if it did, would be prohibitively expensive.

More likely, Marchi believes the bank could be used to develop regional **energy** "interties" - connections between two **electricity** systems - between provinces.

For instance, he said it could finance the infrastructure needed for British Columbia to transmit its abundant **hydro** **power** to Alberta, which is trying to shift off **coal-fired electricity**, or for Manitoba to transmit its **hydro** to Saskatchewan, which gets more than 40 per cent of its **energy** from coal-fired **power** plants.

Similarly, he said more of Quebec's **hydro** could be transmitted to Ontario or to the Atlantic provinces.

"I think regionally and picking our spots, I think that's very doable," Marchi, a former federal cabinet minister, said in an interview.

"And so we already think that the federal and provincial governments on some of these interties are looking at that very thing and we're expecting the budget to unveil that."

Creating a national **energy** grid, enabling some provinces' surplus **hydro** **power** to be transmitted across the country instead of south to the United States, has long been touted as a nation-building project, a way to strengthen east-west ties that bind Canada together and to counteract the pull of north-south ties.

The possibility that the federal government might be considering financing a pan-Canadian **energy** grid was raised Monday by Environment Minister Catherine McKenna when she announced the accelerated phase-out of **coal-fired electricity** by 2030 as part of the federal strategy to combat **climate** change.

"The Government of Canada will support this transition by using the Canada Infrastructure Bank to finance projects such as commercially viable clean **energy** and modern **electricity** systems between provinces and territories," she said in a news release.

The release included a quote from Dominic Barton, chair of the federal advisory council on economic growth, calling connecting the provinces with a clean **energy** system "a nation-building effort" that will position Canada to "compete for significant global investments in our **power** sector." Barton's growth council is one of the biggest champions of the need for an infrastructure bank.

The Trudeau government is planning to launch the bank next year, with $15 billion in direct federal investments and another $20 billion in repayable contributions, loans and loan guarantees. It hopes to leverage up to $5 in private investment for every $1 in government funding.

Government officials say no decisions have yet been made on specific projects to be financed through the bank.

But asked about the possibility of using the bank to finance a national **energy** grid, a spokeswoman for Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi, like Marchi, talked instead about interties.

"We see great potential for the Canada Infrastructure Bank to help support green infrastructure such as intertie and commercial scale **renewable energy** projects," Kate Monfette said in an email.

She added that Natural Resources Canada is "in the process of evaluating strategic grid inter-connections" and that work will "help provinces prioritize their grid infrastructure decisions."

Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr has long been an advocate of an east-west **power** grid. But Marchi said his association has advised the minister to think instead about regional inter-connections. And in the group's discussions with Carr, McKenna and their advisers, he said it's become clear that high-level discussions on the issue are already well under way between Ottawa and the provinces.

Opposition parties have pounced on the government's plans to use the infrastructure bank to leverage private investment for major projects, predicting that investors' demand for a high **rate** of return will mean additional costs to build infrastructure and inevitably result in road and bridge tolls and other user fees.

But the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities says there are not enough details yet about how the bank will operate to be able to make such predictions.

"I don't know how anybody knows that now until we can see actually what comes out of it," Clark Somerville said in an interview.

The federation has been promised it will be consulted on the details, which are expected to be unveiled in the next federal budget in a few months, he added.

In the meantime, Somerville said municipalities welcome creation of the bank as another tool in their tool box for financing costly infrastructure projects.

Led by the federation, some 100 municipal leaders from across the country are in Ottawa this week to lobby ministers and MPs on the need to rely on municipalities' expertise in designing the second phase of promised infrastructure funding. The government is promising to devote $186 billion over the next 12 years during the second phase, which includes the infrastructure bank.

By Joan Bryden, The Canadian Press

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Oil consumption outlook fuels further pipeline debate | Mining & Energy | Business in Vancouver

www.biv.com - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Neutral

Despite a current short-term glut, the long-term global demand for natural gas will increase 50% over the next 25 years, at the expense of coal, as demand for energy grows by 30% in developing economies, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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Site plan calls for 12 turbines north of Wallaceburg

Chatham Daily News

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Nov 22 2016
Tone: Positive
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $226
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

A **wind** farm proposed for north of Wallaceburg released its site plan recently, giving area residents an idea where **wind** turbines are to be located.

According to the draft site plan, the project will include 12 **wind** turbines.

The Otter Creek **wind** farm project will now submit an application to the Ministry of Environment for a **renewable energy** approval (REA).

The Otter Creek **Wind** Farm project is a partnership among **Renewable Energy** Systems Canada (RES) and Boralex Inc., as well as Walpole Island First Nations. The project was one of five **wind** farm projects approved by the province earlier this year.

The project, which would have a generating capacity of up to 50 megawatts, is bounded by Stewart Line and McCreary Line to the south, Whitebread Line and Kent Line (west of Mandaumin Road) to the north, Mandaumin Road to the east and Payne Road to the west.

Of the 12 locations, one **wind turbine** is proposed to be west of Highway 40. Five are between Highway 40 and Forhan Road. Three are east of Kimball Road and west of Pretty Road. Three more are planned to go just east of Brigden Road Chatham-Kent gave municipal approval to the project in August 2015. Annual tax revenue to Chatham-Kent is expected to be about $50,000. Chatham-Kent has been granted an option to partner and participate in the project up to 15 per cent of the limited partnership interests following commercial operation.

The project is expected to be operational by late 2019.

Ownership of the project has RES with 51 per cent, Boralex with 38.5 per cent and Walpole Island with 10.5 per cent.

Although Walpole Island has a stake in the **wind turbine** project, the entire project is proposed to be in Chatham-Kent.

The Otter Creek **wind** farm area is north of Wallaceburg and just below the Lambton County border.

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