

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: May 11, 2018 7:59 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, May 11, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, May 11, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 24 Results



SHHH. WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT IN ONTARIO

The Globe and Mail - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Greg Michalenko

Ad Value: \$6,375
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A14

Doug Ford, in the first "leaders debate" of the **Ontario** election (which excluded the leader of the Green Party), once again said he would fire the head of **Hydro One** and repeal carbon taxes (Party Leaders Face Off In ...



Ford promises a tax cut for Ontario's middle class if elected

The Globe and Mail - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$3,750
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A12

Doug Ford says he would implement a tax cut for the middle class if his Progressive Conservatives form government after Ontario's June 7 election. He says the measure would save taxpayers as much as \$786 annually. Mr. Ford says those earning ...



Pledge Of Money 'In Your Pocket'; PC leader promises a tax cut for the middle class

Toronto Sun - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Joe Warmington

Ad Value: \$3,285

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

Doug Ford says everywhere he goes, the problem is the same. "People are having trouble paying their bills," he said. He's already announced plans to cut income tax for people making minimum wage and this time, his reductions are for the middle ...



National carbon tax is needed now

Toronto Star - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: Neutral

Ad Value: \$4,762

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A12

Carbon pricing, the national divider, Harper, May 9 Tim Harper is right, the biggest cloud of emissions hangs over the House of Commons and is obfuscating everyone's judgment. I always thought our elected MPs and MPPs were there to bring in ...



Doug Ford will win the Ontario election, and he will be a breath of fresh air to all of Canada

nationalpost.com - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Diane Francis

Reach: 607500

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Ontario voters will elect Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford as their next premier on June 7. The reason? It's enough already. Taxes are excessive, debt is too high and fees for everything have ...



Magna CEO uneasy about future, faults government for 'burdens'

London Free Press - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Alicja Siekierska

Ad Value: \$1,701

Reach: 70995 **Page:** NP6

The chief executive of Canada's largest auto parts manufacturer is concerned that government decisions are putting Ontario's ability to remain competitive at risk, at the same time that the United States becomes a more attractive market for ...



Green candidate disses cap-and-trade ; David Robinson critical of Liberal plan and Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault

Sudbury Star - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: Negative

Ad Value: \$960

Reach: 14934 **Page:** A4

David Robinson, the Green Party of Ontario candidate for Sudbury, says Ontario's cap-and-trade scheme is a disaster. "Ontario's cap-and-trade system is simply doomed to fail because people will ...



No matter what the experts claim, this election isn't over yet

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Byline: mcohn@thestar.ca

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The 2018 election was over before it began: Wednesday was merely the formal campaign kickoff to kicking the Liberals out of **power** and electing Doug Ford to the premier's office. So say many pundits, pollsters, and politicians pursuing ...



Tax cut helps answer middle-class woes

Toronto Sun - Fri May 11 2018

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Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,977

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For middle-class people, who wake up every morning and make their way to work, the past 15 years have been a financial slog. **Hydro** bills are higher, auto insurance is higher, housing costs are higher, daycare costs are higher, government ...



Energy debate in Ontario election is about more than dollars and cents

Peterborough This Week - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$71

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

This past weekend, Alan and Linda Slavin lost the **power** at their Otonabee-South Monaghan Township home for close to 20 hours. Despite the **solar** panels on their shed, the couple was at the mercy of **Hydro** One's ...



Despite promises, Ford unlikely to release fully costed PC platform | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford went into this provincial election campaign promising a "solid platform that is fully costed."



Ontario aims to tame the 'Wild West' of 3rd party election advertising | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Ontario Proud, the province's most popular political Facebook group, is making no effort to hide the fact it buys ads that take some pointed shots at Kathleen Wynne.



Three stars of provincial politics meet in CBC Sudbury election forum | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Provincial candidates from the northeast faced off on Thursday night for the first time in this election campaign.



Andrea Horwath's election campaign focuses on 'change for the better' | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The third time may well prove to be a charm for Andrea Horwath, who both pundits and polls suggest has the most to gain in Ontario's spring election.



Kathleen Wynne offers consistency over change in fight for re-election | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

At a time when polls suggest Ontario voters are clamouring for change, Kathleen Wynne is offering them something far less dramatic: consistency.



Ontario Businesses Eligible for Hydro Refunds, Ahead of Election

www.newswire.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Thousands of Ontario businesses and not-for-profit organizations could qualify for sizeable hydro bill refunds ahead of June's provincial election.



Education, affordable housing discussed at Guelph's all-candidates meeting | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Candidates met for a debate in Guelph ahead of the provincial election.



Does Doug Ford know how to pass a bill? | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

With the first full day of campaigning done, the real race starts. There are signs of movement — and it's not just the whistle stops the leaders are making. The NDP has actually inched past the Liberals for the first time in the CBC's poll ...



In top 10 election issues, Ontario voters don't trust the Liberals: Ipsos poll | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

When it comes to which political party they think would best deal with the many issues facing Ontario during the 2018 election, voters at least know who they

don't trust: the Liberals.



Regional Optimistic Report for Bruce Power News Centre News

www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Bruce Power's Life-Extension Program will have far-reaching, positive impacts on jobs and Ontario's economy, an updated report finds.



Fiscal uncertainty

Brantford Expositor - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Brian Moore

Ad Value: \$109

Reach: 29497 Page: A4

Past Conservative governments have closed hospitals, cut funding to education, eliminated requirements to protect drinking water, closed **Service Ontario** offices, divided **Hydro** into parts (generation, delivery, ...



Nuclear risks overstated

Owen Sound Sun Times - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: John Barrett

Ad Value: \$198

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

The op-ed "Safety, not salary" (May 7) exaggerates the risks posed by **nuclear energy**. The probability of a Fukushima-like event in **Ontario** is extremely low. Despite this, following Fukushima, the **Canadian** ...



As renewable energy costs fall, natural gas producers buy in | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

As falling costs for wind and solar energy threaten the dominance of oil and gas, oil and gas companies are increasingly getting into the renewables business, oil executives were told Wednesday.



Company Behind Proposed Natural Gas Power Plant in New Orleans Tied to Astroturfing Campaign | DeSmogBlog

www.desmogblog.com - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 11, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Share Entergy New Orleans, the company that recently won approval to build a controversial \$210 million natural gas power plant in the city, confirmed that actors were paid to show support for this project at public meetings. Though Entergy claims ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



SHHH. WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT IN ONTARIO

The Globe and Mail - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Greg Michalenko

Ad Value: \$6,375

Reach: 309154 Page: A14

Doug Ford, in the first "leaders debate" of the **Ontario** election (which excluded the leader of the Green Party), once again said he would fire the head of **Hydro** One and repeal carbon taxes (Party Leaders Face Off In First Provincial Election Debate - May 8).

Under 40-odd years of Conservative governments, **Ontario Hydro** accumulated a debt of \$36-billion and a prospective bill of billions more to refurbish aging nuclear plants.

In the early 1990s, then-NDP premier Bob Rae tried to put **Ontario electrical** generation onto a desperately needed new course.

Maurice Strong, with his considerable international experience in business and governance, took on the challenge. He recruited a board of enlightened individuals, reduced the bloated **Hydro** workforce by thousands, and began addressing crucial **energy**-planning issues posed by the ominous warning signs of **climate** change.

Things began to look up.

But when Mike Harris became premier, Mr. Strong - with his selfimposed nominal salary of \$1 a year - and the board of **Hydro** were fired, a new head was hired at a million-plus salary, and the proposed miracle cure of privatization was attempted.

Since then, under the McGuinty and Wynne governments, **electricity** policies have drifted erratically, debt has increased, rural areas have turned against **wind** generation in reaction to fumbled top-down policies, **hydro rates** have ballooned, and nuclear waste is still accumulating with no protective disposal facility in sight.

We're in a real mess. Mr. Ford's superficial pop solutions can only become a continuation of 25 years of failure.

And the accumulating environmental debts? Shhh: We don't talk about such things.

Greg Michalenko **Waterloo**, Ont.

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Ford promises a tax cut for Ontario's middle class if elected

The Globe and Mail - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$3,750

Reach: 309154 Page: A12

Doug Ford says he would implement a tax cut for the middle class if his Progressive Conservatives form government after **Ontario's** June 7 election.

He says the measure would save taxpayers as much as \$786 annually.

Mr. Ford says those earning \$42,960 to \$85,923 a year would benefit the most from the measure.

The PC Leader's promise comes after he announced last month a tax credit for minimum wage earners that would ensure they pay no provincial income tax.

Mr. Ford has also pledged other measures such as reducing **hydro rates** by 12 per cent, eliminating the **cap-and-trade** system brought in by the Liberals and a child-care **rebate** of up to 75 per cent.

Mr. Ford kicked off the campaign yesterday by promising \$5-billion for subway construction in **Toronto** and a general preference for underground transit.

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Pledge Of Money 'In Your Pocket'; PC leader promises a tax cut for the middle class

Toronto Sun - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Joe Warmington

Ad Value: \$3,285

Reach: 171076 Page: A5

Doug Ford says everywhere he goes, the problem is the same.

"People are having trouble paying their bills," he said.

He's already announced plans to cut income tax for people making minimum wage and this time, his reductions are for the middle class. At the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton on Dixie Rd. in **Toronto** Thursday, the **Ontario** PC leader made an announcement he said he hopes helps the average family struggling with rising life costs.

"We are going to deliver a targeted tax cut for middle class families," he told reporters. "We are reducing the middle class tax bracket by 20% for anybody earning \$42,960 and \$85,923 and saving you more than \$700 a year."

He told the Sun in the third year of a Progressive Conservative government for many it could be as much as \$786 in annual savings thanks to a reduction of the "second provincial income tax bracket by 20%."

The Tory leader's promise comes after he announced last month a tax credit for minimum wage earners that would ensure they pay no provincial income tax.

The tax cut will "save the average family \$173 a year," Ford said.

He has also pledged other measures such as reducing **hydro rates** by 12%, eliminating the cap-and-trade system brought in by the Liberals and a child care **rebate** of up to 75%.

The goal, he said, is to get more money into the hands of **Ontario** families.

"Our **plan** puts you first," he said. "It's a **plan** for the people. A **plan** that leaves money where it belongs, in your pocket."

Ford said he will find "efficiencies" in day-to-day government operations in order to meet the requirements of the income tax reduction he plans to bring in, rather

than from cuts as many have suggested will be necessary.

The most important thing, Ford added, is families are not put in a position to weigh paying for heat or for food to eat.

"The other parties want to tax more, spend more and force you to pay more," he said.

He said that won't be the case with the PCs, led by him.

Says Ford: "To me there is a better way." [@joe_warmington](mailto:jwarmington@postmedia.com)

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National carbon tax is needed now

Toronto Star - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$4,762

Reach: 361323 Page: A12

Carbon pricing, the national divider, Harper, May 9

Tim Harper is right, the biggest cloud of emissions hangs over the House of Commons and is obfuscating everyone's judgment.

I always thought our elected MPs and MPPs were there to bring in legislation for the good of everyone in every part of the country - to work together to solve whatever crises arise, like the world did for the Ozone problem and the two world wars.

Canada signed on to the Paris agreement. It is long past time for the provinces and territories to ensure that they work with the federal government to meet our international commitments, or we are no longer a country.

We have a **climate** crisis and it is up to our representatives to represent their constituents who want a credible **climate plan** enacted.

Canada's Ecofiscal Commission studies show carbon pricing is the most effective way to change behaviour, at the least cost.

And the most effective carbon pricing is revenue-neutral, with the money going back to the people to let them decide how to cut their **carbon footprint**. True market forces at work. A carbon fee and dividend will do just that. Or, put another way, cash back in everyone's pocket. Who does not want that?

The time for debating/wrangling/arguing is over. It is time for action. Where are our leaders?

Gord Cumming, Georgetown, Ont.

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Doug Ford will win the Ontario election, and he will be a breath of fresh air to all of Canada

nationalpost.com - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Diane Francis

Reach: 607500

Barring unforeseen circumstances, **Ontario** voters will elect Progressive

Conservative leader Doug Ford as their next premier on June 7.

The reason? It's enough already.

Taxes are excessive, debt is too high and fees for everything have increased beyond inflation. For 15 years, **Ontario** has been run by tax-and-spend champions the Liberals and now it's time for common sense, change and discipline once again.

Ford streaks ahead in polling despite dirty tricks that include descriptions of him as a **Canadian** version of Donald Trump. This is both insulting and false: **Canadian** conservatives like Ford are to the left of the Democrats south of the border.

Doug Ford was right: **Toronto** housing won't be affordable unless we develop the Greenbelt business.financialpost.com

Lawrence Solomon: How Doug Ford can end **Ontario's** suffering from expensive **electricity** - instantly business.financialpost.com

Doug Ford is about to change **climate** change policy for the whole country - and it's about time business.financialpost.com

"The Liberals have put us in terrible debt and **hydro** and taxes are through the roof," he said in an interview. "This province cannot compete and we are going to make **Ontario** open to business."

The 15 years has been disastrous because, in part, the Tories have not gotten their act together. But this time, Ford is likeable and credible and, even if he wasn't, polls have shown for quite a while that the Liberals will lose.

Debts are up 300 per cent in 15 years, **Ontario** has the highest sub-national debt in the world, and credit ratings have tumbled as a result, most recently from "stable" to "negative." Interest payments are \$1 billion a month and on this trajectory the province is a Greece waiting to happen.

"We are going to audit everything," said Ford. "We will bring in **independent** auditors to analyze the budget line by line. We are going to find four per cent and cut it. The Auditor General has highlighted the areas of concern."

Ford promises tax cuts to low income individuals, relief for corporations and will roll back Bill 148, which gives Cadillac benefits to part-time workers that's forced businesses to cut 90,000 jobs directly.

And scandals remain top of mind in **Ontario**, such as the payment of \$1.3 billion to cancel two **gas** plants to win seats in a couple of ridings (that sent Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty's top aide to jail recently); an \$8-billion e-health fiasco; budget overruns of \$8 billion squandered on a **smart meter** scheme and a Presto transit payment system; and another \$1.1 billion spent beyond the budget allocation for the Pan Am Games.

"Fifteen years ago there were six Deputy Assistant Ministers of Health in **Ontario** and now there are 21," he said. "Then there are well-paid consultants and the **Green Energy Act**, a scandal, that's made us uncompetitive. Who's getting rich? The Liberal insiders."

Ford is an enthusiastic campaigner who presses the flesh constantly.

"I spoke with the largest greenhouse operator in Canada, exporting billions of vegetables to the U.S. every year, and plans his next expansion in Ohio for the first time due to lower **energy** and other costs and streamlined approvals," he said.

Another example he cited was a businessman in **London** who spent \$1 million

and seven years to get permits to build a recycling plant and "cannot afford to build another one in **Ontario**."

Asked about Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ford said, "I'll gladly work with him, of course, because I have to. We may disagree but that's how it works."

If he wins, **Ontario** will contest the carbon tax - along with Alberta and Saskatchewan - imposed by **Ottawa**.

"This is the worst tax a government could place on companies and people. **Ontario** businesses must pay \$469 million to buy carbon credits that don't even exist from California and Quebec. It makes no sense."

Ford will be a breath of fresh air to Ontarians and Canadians - a no-nonsense and fiscally responsible leader who will dial the province back to **centre**.

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Magna CEO uneasy about future, faults government for 'burdens'

London Free Press - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Alicja Siekierska

Ad Value: \$1,701

Reach: 70995 Page: NP6

The chief executive of Canada's largest auto parts manufacturer is concerned that government decisions are putting **ontario**'s ability to remain competitive at risk, at the same time that the united states becomes a more attractive market for investment. speaking at an annual shareholder meeting in Markham, ont., on Thursday, magna International Inc.'s chief executive Don Walker said that initiatives such as **ontario**'s **cap-and-trade** program, as well as rising **electricity** costs and new labour legislation are making it increasingly tough to remain competitive against other jurisdictions that don't face "all these burdens." "I'm worried about what's going on in Canada," he told staff and shareholders in Markham. "I get very frustrated when I see the decisions being made that put undue administrative costs and inefficiencies on our plants, specifically here in **Ontario**."

He specifically pointed to **Ontario**'s Bill 148 -the **Fair** Workplaces, Better Jobs Act - as an example of how the government is affecting business competitiveness. While he said Magna has not shifted investment out of **Ontario**, he added that if competitive advantages such as the low dollar disappear, "I think we're going to be in trouble." Magna has its headquarters and dozens of plants in **Ontario**.

The company's chief financial officer Vincent Galifi said the U.S. has become an increasingly attractive jurisdiction for investment because of its more competitive tax system. "If I look at after-tax returns, the U.S. now has an advantage," he said.

He warned that major changes to **automotive** provisions in NAFTA, including hiking Mexican wages, could lead to a loss of jobs and shifting production outside of **North** America.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland echoed Walker's sentiments a day earlier, voicing concerns that some of the **rules** being considered in the NAFTA talks could damage the auto industry.

Magna also released its first-quarter results Thursday, raising its year-end guidance as it reported record sales of \$10.8 billion, up 21 per cent from a year earlier. Its net income hit \$660 million, or \$1.83 per share, up from \$577 million, or \$1.51, at the same time last year. Withfiles from The **Canadian** Press

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Green candidate disses cap-and-trade ; David Robinson critical of Liberal plan and Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault

Sudbury Star - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$960

Reach: 14934 Page: A4

David Robinson, the Green Party of **Ontario** candidate for **Sudbury**, says **Ontario**'s cap-and-trade scheme is a disaster.

"**Ontario**'s **cap-and-trade** system is simply doomed to fail because people will resist a government that raises the price high enough to shift away from carbon **fuels**," Robinson said. "**Glenn Thibeault** (the **Energy** minister and **Sudbury** MPP) knows this. He wasn't comfortable with the federal NDP's **cap-and-trade** policy, and that was one of the reasons he says he quit the New Democrats and joined the Liberals.

"Ironically, three years later, he's the **minister of Energy** charged with pushing this same scam at the provincial level."

According to Dianne Sax, **Ontario**'s environmental commissioner, the province's longterm **energy plan** will fail to help **Ontario** reduce carbon emissions and that radical changes to their **plan** were needed.

"As an economist, I know that **consumer** behaviour is influenced by prices," Robinson said.

"As **minister of Energy**, **Glenn Thibeault** knows that **Ontario** isn't on track to meet our greenhouse **gas** emission targets. He knows that the Liberals' cap-and-trade scam isn't going to price carbon high enough to change **consumer** behaviour.

"Thibeault knows that some of the biggest emitters in the province aren't being charged for carbon pollution at all under the Liberal scheme. Glenn and the Liberals' **cap-and-trade** scam locks the province into a failed carbon pricing system. They support **cap-and-trade** because they need new revenue sources to fill government coffers and **service** the debt. And Jamie **West**'s NDP have feebly bought into this scam - hook, line and sinker."

Robinson, a professor of economics at Laurentian University, said the government should be giving every cent earned through carbon pricing back to consumers.

Schedule May 17 Tay Butt, Liberal candidate for Nickel Belt, will open his campaign office alongside MP Marc Serre on May 17 at 6:30 p.m. The office is located at 2924 Highway 69 **North**, Val Caron. For more information, email elect@taybutt.ca or visit www.taybutt.ca. May 22 All-candidates' forum for **Sudbury** and Nickel Belt candidates at the Parkside Older Adult YMCA **Centre** for Life beginning at 7 p.m. Put on by the local chapter of The **Canadian** Association of Retired Persons and Friendly to Seniors - **Sudbury**. May 23 **Greater Sudbury** Chamber of Commerce to host all-candidates' event for **Sudbury** riding candidates, 7-9 p.m. at Collège Boréal.

Visit sudburychamber.ca to find "That's what the Green Party will do through a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend," he noted. "The tax acts as an incentive out more information. May 29 **Greater Sudbury** Chamber of Commerce to host all-candidates' event for Nickel Belt riding candidates, 7-9 p.m. at Cousin Vinny's in Hanmer. Visit sudburychamber.ca to find out more. Candidates Nickel Belt Jo-Ann Cardinal (PC) Tay Butt (Liberal) France Gélinas (NDP, current MPP) Bill Crumplin (Green) **Sudbury** Troy Crowder (PC) **Glenn Thibeault** (Liberal, current

MPP) Jamie **West** (NDP) David Robinson (Green) Mila Wong (Consensus **Ontario**) to shift away from high carbon **fuels**. The dividend puts money in people's pockets and makes shifting away from high carbon **fuels** painless.

"Since consumers are getting a cheque as soon as the price of fuel goes up, they will be much more willing to accept increases. In fact they may push for a higher carbon tax."

Robinson said the Liberal **plan** will not make a dent in reducing emissions - the carbon price simply is not high enough.

"Any economist will tell you the simple fact is that a carbon price has to be high to work," says Robinson. "Without a dividend returned to taxpayers, the Liberals'scheme will never see the price of carbon rise high enough to actually reduce emissions.

The Liberals may say that they need the money to do all sorts of other things that are good for the environment, and it's true that the Liberals are funding some good initiatives through **cap-and-trade** revenues. But these are things that the province should have been doing years ago. Greens will commit to providing a stable revenue source for projects and programs to reduce emissions, rather than treating them as an after-thought as the Liberals seem content to do."

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No matter what the experts claim, this election isn't over yet

thespec.com - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: mcohn@thestar.ca

Reach: 90600

The 2018 election was over before it began: Wednesday was merely the formal campaign kickoff to kicking the Liberals out of **power** and electing Doug Ford to the premier's office.

So say many pundits, pollsters, and politicians pursuing **power**. But beware people in the know, for no one really knows how the votes will add up on June 7.

Public opinion polls cast the Progressive Conservative leader as the front-runner, Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne as a dead duck, and New Democratic Party Leader Andrea Horwath as a dark horse on the move.

But be skeptical of anyone selling certainty in a closely-watched campaign. If politics is broken, polling is beyond repair.

Campaigns matter. Campaigns are also maddening.

Politicians make implausible promises or unsupported accusations. Their pitches rely on hype and hope, fear and frustration.

By all accounts, this is a change election. But be careful what you wish for - change can be unpredictable, and a fresh face isn't always unfamiliar.

While Ford feels new and unblemished, he is arguably as much of a retread as his rivals. Ford ran and lost for mayor in 2014, and bears the scars of his years as a controversial city councillor alongside his brother Rob as mayor (imposing new taxes and collecting a rebuke from the integrity commissioner along the way). He stunned the Tories by coming from behind to win the leadership, suspended the party's platform, renounced its core promises, and is reverting to the PC formula of cutting programs to achieve prosperity - details to come.

Wynne bears the baggage of five years as premier, weighed down by a further 10 years of Liberal rule that makes her an easy target for decisions good, bad

and ugly - from the **gas** plants boondoggle to privatizing half of **Hydro** One. But her unpopularity has prodded her party to propose a slate of progressive policies - from a \$15 minimum wage to expanded pharmacare and free child care for preschoolers - provided people overlook their surging debt projections (as voters usually do).

Horwath hopes to leapfrog from last place into government as the default choice among voters disaffected with the other two parties. Untested in government, she benefits from the other two leaders attacking one another. But Horwath has been around as leader far longer than her two rivals, having assumed the NDP mantle nearly a decade ago without making much of a mark in provincial politics (apart from her disastrous 2014 election gambit, when she tried to lure PC voters but lost loyalists along the way). Now she is reverting to a progressive platform that promises expanded child care, pharmacare and denticare.

Green party Leader Mike Schreiner gets the least exposure, having been excluded from the televised debates. That's too bad, given Ford's costly promise to take **Ontario** out of the fight against global warming by dismantling programs that make polluters pay.

Ford is a flashpoint, Wynne a lightning rod, and Horwath is offering shelter in a storm. Yet beyond their bitter personal rivalries, their competing promises don't add up:

Ford promises to find \$6 billion in painless cuts; Wynne plans a deficit of \$6.7 billion; Horwath pledges to buy back more than \$6 billion in **Hydro** One shares. All three leaders' political ambitions are exceeded by their policy ambitions.

It's easy enough to pick holes in each party's **plan** (the Tories haven't yet presented one). Tempting as it is to write them all off as incoherent or untrustworthy, that would be a campaign cop-out.

By dint of desperation or inspiration, democracy is about choosing, not just complaining. An election is not a referendum on the party in **power**, but a contest among rival parties competing anew for **power**.

Elections require careful comparisons, even if that means deciding on the lesser of three or four evils. The alternative is apathy and abdicating your vote - which means letting others decide for you.

Tune in and stay tuned. No matter what people say, the campaign has just started - and with four long weeks still to go, it is far from over.

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

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Tax cut helps answer middle-class woes

Toronto Sun - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,977

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

For middle-class people, who wake up every morning and make their way to work, the past 15 years have been a financial slog.

Hydro bills are higher, auto insurance is higher, housing costs are higher, daycare costs are higher, government fees for licences and other services are higher, taxes are higher, and the list goes on and on.

Collectively, we are not better off than we were before the Liberals took **power**. Not by a long shot.

Especially when it comes to taxes.

In 2004, the **Ontario** Liberal government collected \$19 billion in income tax from **Ontario** workers.

This year, provincial revenue from personal income tax will hit \$35.6 billion - an 87% increase since the first Liberal budget.

Ontario's population grew 16% over that time, from 12.3 million to 14.2 million.

Inflation increased 28%. And family incomes, although they are higher, have lagged behind the rest of the country over that time and growth doesn't come close to offsetting what government takes.

Ontario's financial accountability officer in his recent, scathing report on provincial finances, noted there's little room left for the Liberals to tax more (though current government budget plans **plan** to hike income taxes collected to \$40 billion by 2020-21.)

Public services, over that time, have not improved 87% and, in fact, we've seen a decade and a half of waste, scandal and diminished services. We've seen growing wait lists and hallway medicine, school kids struggling with math, the need for mental health services ignored until an election year.

And for average families, growing annual tax and user fee hikes.

Ontario now spends \$140 billion on **public** services, so money shouldn't be an issue. It's how it's been spent, and the government's growing addiction to debt (which has grown from \$138 billion to \$325 billion - a 135% increase over 15 years).

Premier Kathleen Wynne's **plan** is to continue borrowing money and spending it to make life more affordable for some - through free daycare, free prescription drugs, a 25% **hydro rate** cut.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath has the same **plan**, but she'd spend more than Wynne.

Ontario PC leader Doug Ford proposes to cut taxes 20% for those earning \$42,960 to \$85,923. It works out, he says, to as much as \$786 a year in savings.

And he's previously promised to eliminate income taxes for minimum wage earners.

Tax cuts are not a panacea.

They won't cure all the ills of rising affordability issues for **Ontario** families.

But they are a help, and a start.

They have both the Liberals and the NDP warning a tax cut will lead to drastic **service** reductions. Well, cuts are coming no matter what because as the FAO reported, there's a \$15-billion gap between Liberal revenue and spending plans after the election, and again, the NDP proposes to spend more than the Liberals.

It's a political con, and a desperate one.

It presumes government has to do everything exactly as it is doing now, that it's impossible to manage a \$150-billion budget better. For instance by not blowing billions upon billions of dollars on a mad, green **energy** scheme, or on cancelled **gas** plants to help win an election, or wasting billions on an eHeath

system that doesn't work.

The premier keeps talking about the "stark choice" Ontarians will face on June 7.

She's right. But it's not about her, or Horwath or Ford.

It's a choice between the unsustainability of rising spending, rising debt and indefensible mismanagement and the reality that we need to get our fiscal house in order, look for ways to do things smarter and better and let people keep more of their own money.

Doesn't really sound like much of a choice. jawallace@postmedia.com

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Energy debate in Ontario election is about more than dollars and cents

Peterborough This Week - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$71

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

This past weekend, Alan and Linda Slavin lost the **power** at their Otonabee-South Monaghan Township home for close to 20 hours.

Despite the **solar** panels on their shed, the couple was at the mercy of **Hydro** One's grid being repaired after a severe **wind** storm on Friday afternoon.

They took the blackout in stride, but they worry about an even bigger issue they want voters to consider when they vote in the provincial election next month - the long-term **plan** for reducing their dependence on fossil **fuels**. They see close ties between the effect on the environment and a healthier economy.

While some boil the **energy** vote down to the cost of **electricity**, the Slavins see putting investments from carbon taxes into green **energy** sources as the wise way of the future.

"The Liberals have done a lot in terms of **climate** change," says Alan, a retired physicist from Trent University.

He notes they closed down coal-fired plants which made for cleaner air and introduced incentives to get citizens to invest in **solar** panels - like his.

However, they also brought in outside **energy** producers that sucked money out of **Ontario** and into the pockets of their shareholders, he adds. And they don't offer enough incentives to get homeowners or builders to make houses more **energy** efficient, his wife quickly adds.

Their political analysis mirrors their views on human habits related to **climate** change. Some people (and parties) ignore the impact of human **energy** consumption on the planet, unwilling to change their habits which only makes the problem worse.

People (and parties) would rather save money up front than put money into a future when carbon-based **fuels** will not be as plentiful.

"We're in a transition time," Alan says. "We have to get off fossil **fuels**. We rely on it for 85 per cent of the world's **power**. We have to do it fast or we're in big trouble as far as the **climate** is concerned. It's like gearing up for World War Two."

They both know that higher **energy** costs will hit poor families hardest. And it's not easy for families to invest in green **energy** while they are paying **electrical**

bills that eat into their budgets, she says.

Linda, a former federal NDP candidate, points out the current NDP platform states it would divert one-quarter of **cap-and-trade** revenue to low-income households. Her husband notes the British Columbian government gave its residents tax breaks equal to their **cap-and-trade** fees, dropping carbon use by 16 per cent.

He cites a study of seven American states that show putting a price on carbon over nine years cut greenhouse **gas** emissions by half, created 14,500 work hours of employment and brought \$4 billion into the economy, largely through investments infrastructure.

An Environment Canada study, done by **independent** researchers, states a carbon tax would not hurt the **Canadian** economy, he adds. In fact, Linda says, investing into carbon-based jobs creates fewer jobs than the same investment into green **energy** or retrofitting houses to be more efficient.

For them, it's not just about the dollars. **Climate** change is affecting weather and tidal patterns, leading to lower crop yields, Linda says.

"It's the first time in human history when we know enough to do something about our future but we're not wired to deal with it," Alan adds. "It's really hard to motivate people."

Meanwhile, the **Electricity** Distributors Association of **Ontario** is predicting that within five years people and governments will begin pooling their **solar** resources to share **power** between adjacent properties.

"The old days of big centralization are changing dramatically," says CEO Teresa Sarkesian.

"People want to take ownership ... This puts the **customer** in the driver's seat and allows us to defer capital investments. The future is very promising."

At the same time, a group of unions and citizens group are lobbying the province to keep **Hydro** One a **public** entity, after selling more than 30 per cent of the **Ontario-wide utility**. They say a majority of **Ontario** residents want **Hydro** One to stay within the hands of publicly accountable people, which reflects the 2016 debate over selling **Peterborough Distribution** Inc. to the partly-privatized **Hydro** One.

"Now that we have information from the Auditor-General about how little the sale of **Hydro** One will generate for the government's infrastructure spending plans, the government should put a stop to this privatization **plan**," says the letter it has posted for Ontarians to send to their MPPs via KeepHydroPubic.ca.

Both Slavins say the issues related to **energy** are complicated and shouldn't be reduced to a single discussion.

"We're accountable to each other," Linda says. "We have to consider cost and **climate**-change benefits. We have to look for parties that understand that. It's an economic and cultural issue ... We have to go beyond our gut instincts to save our planet."

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Despite promises, Ford unlikely to release fully costed PC platform | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford went into this provincial election campaign promising a "solid platform that is fully costed."

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Ontario aims to tame the 'Wild West' of 3rd party election advertising | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario Proud, the province's most popular political Facebook group, is making no effort to hide the fact it buys ads that take some pointed shots at Kathleen Wynne.

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Three stars of provincial politics meet in CBC Sudbury election forum | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Provincial candidates from the northeast faced off on Thursday night for the first time in this election campaign.

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Andrea Horwath's election campaign focuses on 'change for the better' | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The third time may well prove to be a charm for Andrea Horwath, who both pundits and polls suggest has the most to gain in Ontario's spring election.

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Kathleen Wynne offers consistency over change in fight for re-election | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

At a time when polls suggest Ontario voters are clamouring for change, Kathleen Wynne is offering them something far less dramatic: consistency.

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Ontario Businesses Eligible for Hydro Refunds, Ahead of Election

www.newswire.ca - Thu May 10 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Thousands of Ontario businesses and not-for-profit organizations could qualify for sizeable hydro bill refunds ahead of June's provincial election.

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Education, affordable housing discussed at Guelph's all-candidates meeting | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Candidates met for a debate in Guelph ahead of the provincial election.

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Does Doug Ford know how to pass a bill? | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

With the first full day of campaigning done, the real race starts. There are signs of movement — and it's not just the whistle stops the leaders are making. The NDP has actually inched past the Liberals for the first time in the CBC's poll tracker.

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In top 10 election issues, Ontario voters don't trust the Liberals: Ipsos poll | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

When it comes to which political party they think would best deal with the many issues facing Ontario during the 2018 election, voters at least know who they don't trust: the Liberals.

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Regional Optimistic Report for Bruce Power News Centre News

www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Bruce Power's Life-Extension Program will have far-reaching, positive impacts on jobs and Ontario's economy, an updated report finds.

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Fiscal uncertainty

Brantford Expositor - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Brian Moore

Ad Value: \$109

Reach: 29497 Page: A4

Past Conservative governments have closed hospitals, cut funding to education, eliminated requirements to protect drinking water, closed **Service Ontario** offices, divided **Hydro** into parts (generation, delivery, regulation) so that each part could increase its fees, and sold a major highway. Is it realistic to expect another Conservative government would be any different? Ford says he can find \$6 billion in future Conservative budgets. Past Conservative actions have had damaging consequences. Which pain are you willing to bear, or is there an alternative to this destruction?

Brian Moore

Brantford

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THE SUN TIMES

Nuclear risks overstated

Owen Sound Sun Times - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: John Barrett

Ad Value: \$198

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

The op-ed "Safety, not salary" (May 7) exaggerates the risks posed by **nuclear energy**.

The probability of a Fukushima-like event in **Ontario** is extremely low. Despite this, following Fukushima, the **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission inspected Canada's nuclear **power** plants and revised standards to improve reactor defense and emergency response. Changes to regulation and licensing were also made to ensure better disaster preparedness and mitigation.

The CNSC's Fukushima Task Force Report stated that the tsunami risk at the Darlington, Pickering, and Bruce **Power** generating stations is very low, given their location on the Great Lakes. The geological stability of the underlying **Canadian** Shield also minimizes the risk of earthquakes and tsunamis.

As for cyberattacks on nuclear **power** facilities, there is no risk to the operations of nuclear **power** plants because the reactors and control rooms are not connected to the Internet. Nuclear **power** plants are some of the best protected infrastructure systems. They are designed to be disconnected from the Internet and other **networks**, preventing hackers from accessing plant operations or safety systems. Globally, the nuclear industry has a strong safety culture of continuous improvement. Safety is always the No. 1 priority. And nuclear ranked as the safest source of **power** in a 2012 Forbes report based on fatalities per kWh. John Barrett, President and CEO **Canadian** Nuclear Association **Ottawa**

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As renewable energy costs fall, natural gas producers buy in | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu May 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

As falling costs for wind and solar energy threaten the dominance of oil and gas, oil and gas companies are increasingly getting into the renewables business, oil executives were told Wednesday.

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Company Behind Proposed Natural Gas Power Plant in New Orleans Tied to Astroturfing Campaign | DeSmogBlog

www.desmogblog.com - Fri May 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Share Entergy New Orleans, the company that recently won approval to build a controversial \$210 million natural gas power plant in the city, confirmed that actors were paid to show support for this project at public meetings. Though Entergy claims it was unaware of the situation, a public relations firm it hired

had paid freelance actors to testify in favor of the project at public meetings.

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