

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: May 16, 2018 8:58 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, May 16, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 39 Results



Power failure: No party in Ontario's election has a plan to fix Hydro One

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: \$15,593

Reach: 309154 **Page:** A1

Doug Ford supporters held a little protest Tuesday morning outside the annual general meeting of **Hydro One**, the giant **Ontario power utility**. They chanted slogans and waved handmade signs. Then ...



Wynne, Horwath call on Ford to calm chants of 'lock her up'

Toronto Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$5,926

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath are condemning the "lock her up" shouts at a Doug Ford rally, warning they recall Donald Trump's polarizing presidential campaign against Hillary Clinton. While Ford distanced himself from his supporter's outburst, ...



PC, NDP leaders call \$25,000 Hydro One bonuses 'unacceptable'

Toronto Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson, Robert Benzie and Kristin Rushowy Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$6,710

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

More raises at **Hydro One** - this time for the chairman and board of directors - have turned the former Crown **utility** into a bigger lightning rod on the June 7 election trail, putting Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne on ...



Hydro One pay hikes 'unacceptable'

Sarnia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$341

Reach: 12173 Page: A5

Premier Kathleen Wynne called raises for **Hydro One**'s board of directors unacceptable Tuesday, while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of the government's privatization of the **utility**. Wynne said her Liberals ...



First Ford Nation conquered the Tories, next is Ontario ; With little talk of policy, personality wins the day. But will it be enough?

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Martin Reg Cohn

Ad Value: \$3,989

Reach: 103267 Page: A8

Here's how Ford Nation wins over a province. By word and song. And (campaign) signs of the times. At a Doug Ford rally, the leader is always late, leaving extra time for his populist anthem to penetrate your being. A throbbing earworm that burrows ...



Raining on Hydro One pay parade; It was pouring horse manure at the AGM

National Post - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$14,037

Reach: 159480 Page: A1 / Front

They say it never rains but it pours. They say it because it's true. Outside the **Hydro One** annual general meeting in downtown **Toronto** Tuesday, it was actually raining. The Progressive Conservative candidate for ...



Shareholders approve Hydro One executive pay plan despite public outcry

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ANDREW WILLIS, TIM KILADZE

Ad Value: \$17,187

Reach: 309154 Page: B1

Shareholders voted 92 per cent in favour of **Hydro One** Ltd.'s executive compensation **plan**, which has faced intense scrutiny during the lead up to Ontario's election campaign. After revealing the results Tuesday, ...



Power Outrage; Ford blasts pay hikes for Hydro One execs

Ottawa Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,617

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

Progressive Conservatives took their protest of **Hydro One**'s \$6-million CEO and its board members' pay increase to the utility's front door on Tuesday morning. "They have the nerve to increase their compensation," PC Leader Doug Ford said. ...



Wynne To Review Directors' Raises

National Post - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$5,024

Reach: 159480 Page: A5

Premier Kathleen Wynne called raises for **Hydro One**'s board of directors unacceptable Tuesday, while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of the government's privatization of the **utility**. Wynne said her Liberals ...

Shareholders approve Hydro One executive pay plan despite outcry; Chair of Hydro One, re-iterated the board believes CEO Mayo Schmidt's pay is 'appropriate' for a utility with ambitions to expand in Ontario and outside the province

theglobeandmail.com - Wed May 16 2018, 5:14am ET

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Andrew Willis and Tim Kiladze

Reach: 1188000

Shareholders voted 92 per cent in favour of **Hydro One** Ltd.'s executive compensation **plan**, which has faced intense scrutiny during the lead up to Ontario's election campaign. After revealing the results Tuesday, ...

Ford Raining On Hydro One Pay Parade

The Sault Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$1,946

Reach: 17077 Page: A8

They say it never rains but it pours. They say it because it's true. Outside the **Hydro One** annual general meeting in downtown **Toronto** Tuesday, it was actually raining. The Progressive Conservative candidate for ...

Ontario debt looms large in this election

Richmond Hill Liberal - Mon May 14 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$364

Reach: 80047 Page: 1

The issue that overshadows a long list of missteps by this Liberal government in the upcoming **Ontario** upcoming election is a staggering level of debt which the media, strangely, seems to largely ignore. That world record debt for a ...

Ontario Progressive Conservative party's hydro plans questionable

Aurora Banner - Mon May 14 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$208

Reach: 57606 Page: 1

The Progressive Conservatives planned outline for **hydro** has left me having to respond to the untruths within its so called **plan**. Quoting the Fraser Institute as a truth, when in fact the Fraser Institute is politically ...

NDP gaining traction early in campaign

Windsor Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Anne Jarvis

Ad Value:\$10,844

Reach: 54680 Page: A1 / Front

"I've never voted NDP," said a woman in South Windsor, where NDP MPP Lisa Gretzky campaigned Monday. "But I will see," she said. "You've got a great agenda," a man said, sounding surprised after listening to Gretzky. "I would like to see them pull ...



Horwath trying to outdo Wynne

Samia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Bernice Rade

Ad Value:\$372

Reach: 12173 Page: A4

The provincial party leaders are in full swing in their efforts to convince people to vote for their party. Kathleen Wynne is having difficulty in getting candidates to run under the Liberal banner - wonder why? Could it be that people are no longer ...

Candidates square off at first debate in Wellington : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

www.countylive.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, May 16, 2018

OEB is mentioned.

Citizens who have no political party alliance, and those who may be looking to change, may or may not have heard key words that will help direct their provincial election vote next month.

First Ford Nation conquered the Tories, next is Ontario

thespec.com - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 90600

Here's how Ford Nation wins over a province. By word and song. And (campaign) signs of the times. At a Doug Ford rally, the leader is always late, leaving extra time for his populist anthem to penetrate your being. A throbbing earworm that burrows ...

'Change for the better'; Polls suggest Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has most to gain

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Michelle Mcquigge

Ad Value: \$991

Reach: 13178 Page: A2

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. Horwath's New Democrats, long relegated to third-party status in the provincial legislature, are ...

Ontario Writ Drops

CTV NEWS CHANNEL - POWER PLAY WITH DON MARTIN - Wed May 9 2018, 5:00pm ET

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: DON MARTIN

DON MARTIN: All right, to **Ontario** now where it may just be a provincial election but it's got national ramifications as voters choose between very different political leaders to govern **Ontario**. Today the fight for Queen's Park ...



Raises for Hydro One board to be reviewed: Wynne; PC Leader Ford has repeatedly slammed the Liberals over high executive compensation

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: SHAWN JEFFORDS

Ad Value: \$11,500

Reach: 309154 Page: A10

The thorny issue of compensation at **Hydro One** reared its head on the **Ontario** election campaign trail on Tuesday, with the Liberal Premier calling raises for the company's board of directors unacceptable while her ...



Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme sinking Liberals

Ottawa Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$1,521

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

If Ontario's carbon pricing scheme is such a great idea, why aren't Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne, and the NDP's Andrea Horwath, who supports it, praising it to the skies on the campaign trail? Thanks to a new Ipsos-Global TV poll, now we know why. ...



First debate tests candidates; Sarnia-Lambton hopefuls talk nursing homes, deficits, youth and the cost of hydro

Sarnia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Tyler Kula

Ad Value: \$887

Reach: 12173 Page: A1 / Front

The race to June 7 kicked up a notch Tuesday as candidates in the Sarnia-Lambton riding squared off in their first debate. Four candidates - the NDP's Kathy Alexander, Tory Bob Bailey, Trillium candidate Andy Bruziewicz, and Green candidate Kevin ...

Energy shilft not simple

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jim Algie

Ad Value: \$745

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

In commentary for TransCanada Corporation's 2017 year-end report published in February, chief executive officer Ross Girling made a surprising statement about a venerable **Canadian** company known mainly for pipelines when he described the ...

CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Where are the Ontario party leaders today?

thespec.com - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative** Reach: 90600

The main party leaders are doing most of their stumping for the June 7 election in the **Greater Toronto** Area today. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is campaigning in **Toronto**, starting with a stop at a child care ...



The campaign just doesn't matter for Wynne's Liberals any more

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$18,500

Reach: 309154 Page: A10

At the start of a week in which they needed to reverse their negative momentum, the **Ontario** Liberals pulled out the sort of war-room research that powered their past campaigns. With great fanfare, Kathleen Wynne and a pair of her ...

The new math of Liberals and NDP makes no sense

Toronto Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,885

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

What to make of the political spat between Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath over whose math is worse? Premier Wynne is suggesting the NDP leader's campaign platform doesn't add up and that Horwath made a \$3 billion "mistake" while calculating the ...

Doug Ford admits party doesn't have a plan for future of Hydro One | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Doug Ford met with "protestors" outside of Hydro One's annual general meeting and promised once again to fire CEO Mayo Schmidt and the energy giant's board of directors amid raises given to the executive. But as Jamie Mauracher reports, he ...

Kathleen Wynne touts high-speed rail, defends Hydro One sale at stop in London - London | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne visited local marketing strategy company sagecomm on Tuesday, the same day that NDP Leader Andrea Horwath stopped at London's Innovation Works.

Scott Thompson: Who approved Hydro One raises if Ontario still has control? - Hamilton | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Did you get a \$25,000 raise today? Or how about a \$70,000 pay increase? Anyone? That is what the board members of Hydro One and their chair gave themselves Tuesday.

Health care, Hydro One the focus of NDP southwest Ontario platform | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath announced her party's platform for southwestern Ontario in London Tuesday, promising to eliminate hallway health care, put Hydro One back in public hands, and move carefully on high speed rail.

Doug Ford showed up at a hydro rally for 6 minutes | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

It's all about hydro Tuesday morning, with news of Hydro One board members giving themselves raises.

Health care, Hydro One the focus of NDP southwest Ontario platform | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath announced her party's platform for southwestern

Ontario in London Tuesday, promising to eliminate hallway health care, put Hydro One back in public hands, and move carefully on high speed rail.

Fixing Hydro One: where the Ontario parties stand | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Hydro rates, and the privatization of Canada's largest power utility, are a major issue in this election.

PC party targets hydro board salary bumps | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Outrage over Hydro One board members' pay increase | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Ontario party leaders to do most of their campaigning today in the GTA | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

The main party leaders are doing most of their stumping for the June 7 election in the Greater Toronto Area today.

Horwath touts platform for southwestern Ontario | Brantford Expositor

www.brantfordexpositor.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Supporters crowded into an eatery in the Paris Winkey Mills on Tuesday to cheer Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, who used the campaign stop in Brantford-Brant riding to tout the party's southwestern Ontario platform for the June 7 provincial ...

Peak demand report cards imminent in Ontario - REMI Network

www.reminetwork.com - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Many larger commercial electricity customers in Ontario are awaiting their first peak demand report cards, due to be delivered by May 31. Instead of a grade point average, though, they'll receive a mathematical factor to calculate their share of ...



Trans Mountain, Trudeau and the B.C.-Alberta feud: A guide to the story so far; Get caught up with The Globe's latest coverage of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline project, and the fight it has provoked among First Nations and the governments of Rachel Notley, John Horgan and Justin Trudeau

theglobeandmail.com - Wed May 16 2018, 6:58am ET
Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 1188000

TABLE OF CONTENTS What is Trans Mountain?(#pipeline) . Who's for it, who's against(#position) . Alberta-B.C. trade at a glance(#trade) . How Alberta can punish B.C.(#alberta) . How B.C. can punish Alberta(#bc) . What's at stake for ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Power failure: No party in Ontario's election has a plan to fix Hydro One

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: \$15,593
Reach: 309154 Page: A1

Doug Ford supporters held a little protest Tuesday morning outside the annual general meeting of **Hydro** One, the giant **Ontario power utility**. They chanted slogans and waved handmade signs. Then the man himself emerged from a big black car to deliver his standard attack on **Hydro** executives for "feathering their nest" and "gouging the taxpayers."

Mr. Ford had made **Hydro** One the centrepiece of his campaign to unseat Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne in **Ontario's** June 7 election. The Progressive Conservative Leader has vowed to fire **Hydro** One's chief executive, calling him the "six-million-dollar man" because of his generous salary. "Kick the fat cat," said one of the signs at his rally. "Clean up the **Hydro** mess," said another.

It's obvious why Mr. Ford is making such a fuss about **Hydro** One. **Electricity** prices have become a big issue in **Ontario**, and they should be. The province's prosperity depends on having a safe, reliable and affordable source of **power**. The **electricity** system has been woefully mismanaged for years.

Climbing costs hurt business and annoyed consumers. An election campaign is just the time to talk about the **Hydro** mess and what to do about it. Sadly, the solutions being bandied about by the major parties in this campaign of bad options are poor.

Start with Ms. Wynne's Liberals. Although the roots of the **Hydro** One mess go back decades, her party bears a heavy responsibility for today's state of affairs. The push by a Liberal government to promote **renewable-energy** production cost billions more than it should have. A craven decision to cancel two controversial **natural-gas electricity** plants added to the tab.

Electricity bills went way up. Facing a voter revolt, the Liberals tried to save themselves by slashing **power** charges and piling the costs on future **ratepayers**. They will pay more so current **ratepayers** can pay less. It is an

outrageous stunt and, if the opinion polls are any indication, voters are seeing right through it.

It is pleasing to think that Mr. Ford might set things straight.

He is a businessman who says he would run government with a view to efficiency and a sharp eye on the bottom line.

And yet his **hydro** program is an exercise in knee-jerk populism. Although the Liberals sold a majority stake in **Hydro One** to the private sector - a decision that, curiously, private-sector guy Mr. Ford condemns - he proposes to fire its respected CEO Mayo Schmidt.

It is the ugliest kind of scapegoating.

Kicking the fat cat will do no good. Mr. Schmidt's salary is a drop in the bucket of **Hydro One** spending. It has nothing to do with the run-up in **electricity rates**. Nor does the tone-deaf decision of **Hydro One** board members to vote themselves a nice raise, as wrong as it may be.

Mr. Ford would make matters worse by cutting **electricity rates** 12 per cent. Charging less for **power** than it takes to produce is hardly the way to put the **hydro** system back on a sound footing.

The NDP's solution is worse still. It would cut **hydro rates** by 30 per cent - exactly how, heaven knows - end the "oversupply of **power**" and aggressively renegotiate "overpriced contracts that line the pockets of rich corporations."

To ice the cake, it would spend billions buying back the share of **Hydro One** that the Liberals sold off. Given recent history, putting government back in charge doesn't seem to be the best way to get the **power** system sorted out.

What Ontarians need is an intelligent **plan** to bring some sense to what should be a straightforward enterprise - delivering **electrical power** through **wires** to homes and industries.

Instead, they must choose among three awful options. One party offers a pointless witch hunt against **Hydro One** leaders, another offers an equally pointless blame-the-rich program of nationalization and cheap **power** for the masses, and the third caused the whole train wreck in the first place.

The choice in this vote is not getting any easier.

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Wynne, Horwath call on Ford to calm chants of 'lock her up'

Toronto Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$5,926

Reach: 361323 Page: A8

Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath are condemning the "lock her up" shouts at a Doug Ford rally, warning they recall Donald Trump's polarizing presidential campaign against Hillary Clinton. While Ford distanced himself from his supporter's outburst, Wynne blamed the Progressive Conservative leader for the "irresponsible rhetoric" in the June 7 election.

Horwath echoed that, urging the Tory chief to calm things down.

"It's unfortunate that those kinds of things are happening on this campaign and Mr. Ford is going to have to deal with his supporters in a way that I hope brings

some respect to the political dialogue and discussion," the NDP leader said Tuesday in **London**.

Wynne said "it's indicative of a style of campaigning ... It's angry. It's divisive.

"It's about slogans and bumper stickers and angry division more than it is about responsible decision-making, principled policies ... that are going to help people," she said.

At a packed Tory rally on Monday night in **Niagara** Falls, a Ford supporter twice shouted "lock her up" in regard to Wynne's handling of **Hydro** One, the **electricity utility** she partially privatized in 2015.

The Tory leader paused and chuckled as he was addressing some 300 partisans at the rally. He did not admonish the man at the time despite saying in the speech he intends to take "the high road" if the campaign to defeat Wynne gets personal.

But the next morning in **Toronto**, Ford expressed concern at the chant.

"I don't believe in that," he told reporters outside the **Hydro** One annual meeting.

"Let me be very clear: I don't condone that. Simple as that. I don't condone it."

With files from Kristin Rushowy

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PC, NDP leaders call \$25,000 Hydro One bonuses 'unacceptable'

Toronto Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson, Robert Benzie and Kristin Rushowy Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$6,710

Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

More raises at **Hydro** One - this time for the chairman and board of directors - have turned the former Crown **utility** into a bigger lightning rod on the June 7 election trail, putting Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne on the defensive again.

Her main rivals said Tuesday the \$25,000 boost to part-time directors, who will earn \$185,000 a year, and a \$70,000-increase to \$330,000 for the chair, show the company, owned 47 per cent by the province, is out of control.

"That's unacceptable," Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford fumed on Dundas St. in the rain outside **Hydro** One's annual meeting of shareholders.

"This is a waste of taxpayers' money. This is the reason the board's going, the CEO's going," added Ford, who has previously vowed to fire the board and oust \$6.2-million-a-year CEO Mayo Schmidt over bonuses and changes that made it easier for them to get lucrative severance payouts if dismissed without cause.

Schmidt, whom Ford has repeatedly dubbed "the six-million-dollar man," said incentive pay for him and other executives was up because profits have been increasing - with a 33-per-cent rise in the first quarter alone - and \$89 million in cost savings found last year.

Schmidt, who is entitled to \$10.7 million in severance if he's fired, suggested it would be a mistake for a Ford government to mess with success at **Hydro** One, which is about to grow when the takeover of U.S. **energy** company Avista is completed later this year.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, who has promised to buy back all the shares the government sold to restore full **public** ownership, also called the raises for the board "unacceptable."

"There are people in **Ontario** that live on less than \$25,000 a year - lots of people," she said in **London**. "These kinds of raises ... are completely out of whack and out of touch with what a **public utility** would and should do."

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Hydro One pay hikes 'unacceptable'

Sarnia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$341

Reach: 12173 Page: A5

Premier Kathleen Wynne called raises for **Hydro** One's board of directors unacceptable Tuesday, while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of the government's privatization of the **utility**.

Wynne said her Liberals had ordered a **review** into compensation at **Hydro** One upon learning of raises for executives and board members, including a \$70,000 raise for the chair of the board and \$25,000 raises for other board members. The results of that **review**, she said, are expected to lead to some changes.

"We've made it very clear that the compensation package that was brought forward was unacceptable," Wynne said at a campaign stop in **Waterloo**. "So that is exactly why the **review** is happening. We forced that **review** to happen. We made it clear and the **review** is happening."

Wynne emphasized that the **review** is examining compensation for all board members, not just executive compensation as had been suggested in April. The pay increases have been in effect since January.

The province's largest **electricity transmission** and **distribution** provider, **Hydro** One was partially privatized in November 2015, with the government saying it planned to use the sale of shares to fund transit and infrastructure projects. By December 2017, the province had sold off 53 per cent of its stake in the company. The partial sale has garnered the Liberals largely negative headlines, with critics linking the sale to high **hydro rates** and high executive salaries.

Wynne defended the move. Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford reiterated his promise to fire **Hydro** One's board of directors and the CEO - who would receive at least \$10.7 million in severance - and predicted he'll have no trouble finding replacements.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has promised to restore the company to **public** ownership if she forms government after the June 7 election.

At a rally in **London**, Horwath said the pay hikes at the **utility** underscore the need for her **plan**.

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First Ford Nation conquered the Tories, next is Ontario ; With little talk of policy, personality wins the day. But will it be enough?

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Martin Reg Cohn

Ad Value: \$3,989
Reach: 103267 Page: A8

Here's how Ford Nation wins over a province.

By word and song. And (campaign) signs of the times.

At a Doug Ford rally, the leader is always late, leaving extra time for his populist anthem to penetrate your being. A throbbing earworm that burrows deep inside your consciousness.

The **crowd** is warmed up to overheating as the anthem choruses, "For the people! Hey!" The lyrics loop over and over: "For the people! Hey!"

Ford himself is now in the hall, making his way through Ford Nation. OPP bodyguards deploy in the cavernous airport conference **centre** as the leader of **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives poses for smiling selfies with adoring supporters before taking the microphone.

"My friends, people across **Ontario** are coming together," Ford proclaims in his deliberate delivery, a man in command of his audience - his friends.

Ford fires up the **crowd** with stirring rhetoric about **hydro** rip-offs, a promise to rip up **Ontario's** sex education curriculum, a pledge to axe any carbon tax, and a vow to cut taxes for the people.

For Ford Nation, the words are music to the ear. Not to mention that earworm.

Amid the mesmerizing messaging, however, there are clues that this is not a traditional Progressive Conservative campaign rally. Listen closely, and look at the telltale signs, for this is emphatically a Doug Ford election event.

"It's bigger than one party," the leader stresses, repeating the phrase for emphasis. "This is about the people."

The people, not the party. Another clue comes from the signage at the podium, which makes no mention of the Tories. Instead, a blue, red and white sign at the lectern says it all - all that needs to be said - in big bold letters: "Doug Ford for the people."

And at this event, early in the campaign, the leader exults with Trump-like hyperbole over "the thousands of people here tonight." Except there are not thousands of people (journalists count several hundred in the cavernous venue near Pearson airport).

That's not to say Ford can't draw a **crowd** - never mind that his campaign famously hired professional actors to cheer for him outside a television studio. Tonight's audience is diverse, made up of young and old, white, brown and black, men and women, many drawn from the suburban belt of the GTA that Ford is counting on.

But beyond preaching to the converted, can he convince a broader coalition of voters on June 7 that he deserves to be premier?

In the campaign's early days, Ford seemed content to **coast** to victory with his Conservative core. With a strong grip on most of rural **Ontario**, the Tories have a huge head start over the Liberals (largely confined to the urban and suburban areas), and the New Democrats (vying with the Tories for support in the southwest and **north**).

Many party loyalists - not just red Tories - may be uncomfortable with Ford's disruptive approach. But his campaign is betting on an infusion of new blood from the Ford Nation coalition to exceed any attrition.

Which is why Ford is playing up Ford Nation across the province, while downplaying the PC party he leads. Internal polling shows him ahead of the brand, so he is personalizing his pitch.

With little talk of policy, personality wins the day - or more precisely, the Ford persona inherited from his late brother Rob. But beyond the safe space of a friendly Ford Nation campaign rally, there have been brief glimpses of a different Doug Ford in the campaign's early days. As the campaign unfolds, more people may catch sight of Ford's unscripted, untrammelled musings - like his nativist opposition last week to new immigrant workers in the **north**, where an audience of mayors and reeves groaned and laughed at his ignorance of their need for more foreigners amid declining populations.

For the moment, Ford looks formidable. The Progressive Conservatives have gone all in with Ford Nation, on the premise that Doug Ford is more popular than the party - because he is for the people.

If the people are behind him on June 7, the party will win big with a majority government landslide. But if the people tire of him, or turn against him, the party whose brand he banished will reap the whirlwind.

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

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Raining on Hydro One pay parade; It was pouring horse manure at the AGM

National Post - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$14,037

Reach: 159480 **Page:** A1 / Front

They say it never rains but it pours.

They say it because it's true.

Outside the **Hydro** One annual general meeting in downtown **Toronto** Tuesday, it was actually raining.

The Progressive Conservative candidate for premier, Doug Ford, and a handful of supporters (and one protester) with their signs, stood in it, sometimes chanting "Hey hey, ho ho, Mayo's gotta go."

Inside the lobby of the Ted Rogers School of Management, where the Annual General Meeting was being held and where said Mayo - Mayo Schmidt, **Hydro** One CEO and the guy Ford calls "the \$6-million man" because he earned \$6.2 million in salary and bonuses last year - various handlers looked on.

It was pouring in here too.

It was a deluge of horse manure and its cousin, magnificent self-aggrandization.

The AGM was open to the press, with each reporter, it appeared, assigned a handler, who accompanied them to a registration desk and then to a room where we could hear, but not see, the AGM. Several handlers stayed in the room. It felt curiously nostalgic, like being part of the 1972 Team Canada in the old Soviet Union.

Anyway, if **Hydro** One runs its business like it ran that AGM, Schmidt et al should have their salary immediately doubled. That was some well-oiled machine. The

meeting was over, complete with question period, in 57 minutes.

Board chairman David Denison presided.

First, the 14 board members were elected, or rather, re-elected; they were first appointed by the **Ontario** government in 2015, when **Hydro** One was taken private.

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"Any questions from shareholders on the election of board members?" Denison asked and then, pausing a hair of a second, answered himself. "Seeing none," the matter was closed.

Ditto the appointment, or rather reappointment, of the external auditors. "Any questions from shareholders" on that matter, Denison asked, and again, "Seeing none..." Ditto the "Say on Pay advisory vote on executive compensation."

Denison then pronounced that the board believes the compensation paid to Schmidt et al is "appropriate" and asked if the shareholders accepted the board's "approach to executive compensation," or if there were questions.

"Seeing none," he moved on, noting that the province of **Ontario**, **Hydro** One's largest shareholder, had abstained from the vote. That's because, earlier this spring, the board agreed to "**review**" executive and board compensation, and in a quid pro quo, the government decided to abstain.

In any case, the formal part of the meeting lasted 20 minutes.

Then came the question period, wherein Schmidt made the traditional acknowledgement of being on traditional Indigenous territories, gave a brief summary of his philosophy ("I'm no stranger to hard work"), properly sang the praises of the frontline workers who do the treacherous stuff in terrible weather, and threw out some of the astonishing array of numbers he keeps in his head.

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There were, by my reckoning, four questions from the floor. (I assume there was a floor and actual shareholders present; reporters got only audio, not visuals.)

Two were from First Nation shareholders. They didn't ask actual questions, but stood to praise Schmidt.

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National Post cblatchford@postmedia.com

HYDRO ONE FUROR

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Shareholders approve Hydro One executive pay plan despite public outcry

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ANDREW WILLIS, TIM KILADZE

Ad Value: \$17,187

Reach: 309154 Page: B1

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Prices are set by a third-party - the **Ontario Energy Board**.

The cost of **electricity** is a hot button issue in **Ontario**'s election campaign, with a few dozen protesters gathering in the rain outside Tuesday's meeting to watch **Conservative** leader Doug Ford appear on the sidewalk and continue his attacks

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Mr. Denison said directors' fees, frozen for the past three years, continue to rank among the bottom third of what's seen at **Canadian public** companies. As chairman, his **Hydro** One annual compensation rose \$70,000 to \$330,000.

Inside the meeting, shareholders were upbeat: One, Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand **River**, went out of her way to praise chief executive Mayo Schmidt's leadership. And earlier Tuesday, the **utility**, privatized three years ago by **Ontario**'s Liberal government but still 47-per-cent-owned by the province, announced strong financial results, with quarterly profit up 33 per cent year-over-year and raised its common share dividend by 5 per cent.

But on the campaign trail Tuesday, **Ontario** Premier Kathleen Wynne also said raises for the **Hydro** One board are "unacceptable" and will be part of an ongoing **review** of compensation at the **utility**.

Hydro One's board began reviewing pay packages in late April, after Mr. Ford went on the offensive.

Ontario's Liberal government subsequently called the **utility**'s pay schemes, including change of control and severance provisions that came to light in a Globe and Mail report in April, "unjustifiably generous." Mr. Denison said on Tuesday the **review** is still under way and the board has hired **independent** consultants.

The overwhelming majority of shareholders who voted in favour of its compensation scheme was a result that was in line with the previous year's vote.

When asked about Mr. Ford's plans to fire the board and replace him as CEO, Mr. Schmidt listed the **utility**'s accomplishments in the three years since he joined the company and said: "We really do believe that calmer heads will prevail." Ahead of the annual meeting, **Hydro** One released first-quarter financial results, with profit up 33 per cent to \$222-million.

The company also raised its quarterly dividend by 4.5 per cent to 23 cents per share, which means the province will receive more than \$220-million in annual dividends from **Hydro** One. Over the past year, **Hydro** One shares declined from a high of \$23 to \$19 levels, closing on Tuesday at \$19.34.

"The **Ontario** election will contribute to share price volatility over the next month," a Tuesday report from CIBC World Markets analyst Robert Catellier said. "The company is controlling what it can," he wrote, "with operating performance achievements in **customer service**, **service** restoration and cost reduction."

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This **plan** is still on the table, but on Tuesday, management said the main drivers of earnings growth will come from consolidating local **distribution** companies in **Ontario** and cutting costs - the company got rid of 1,000 vehicles over the past year.

Hydro One's domestic growth plans are also facing headwinds.

In April, **Ontario** regulators blocked the company's planned \$41-million acquisition of **Orillia**'s city-owned **power** grid over concerns about the long-term affect on the price consumers will pay for **electricity**.

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Power Outrage; Ford blasts pay hikes for Hydro One execs

Ottawa Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,617

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

Progressive Conservatives took their protest of **Hydro** One's \$6-million CEO and its board members' pay increase to the **utility**'s front door on Tuesday morning.

"They have the nerve to increase their compensation," PC Leader Doug Ford said. "A part-time job - they were making \$160,000. They gave themselves a pay increase up to \$185,000. Who does that?" Calling it a waste of taxpayers' money, Ford vowed he would fire the entire **Hydro** One board and CEO Mayo Schmidt if the PCs form government.

He said such a move would not create havoc at **Hydro** One because there are plenty of people to do their jobs.

The CEO's salary has exploded and now the board members have received \$14 million in "bonuses," while the stock has dropped 14%, he said.

"A part-time job making \$185,000 to show up at what, six meetings?" Ford said.

The board chairman got a \$70,000 increase, bringing his salary to \$330,000, and regular board members saw \$25,000 hikes to \$185,000.

The brass at **Hydro** One has received significant pay increases since the Kathleen Wynne government's sell-off of a majority stake, and since purchasing an American **utility**.

However, the government remains the single largest shareholder.

A statement from **Hydro** One's directors says their compensation had been far below that of peers.

"The changes were intended to bring director compensation halfway to median," the statement said. "Customers pay for board of director compensation at the same level as before privatization.

Our **review** of executive compensation will also look at director compensation."

The never-ending political windstorm around **Hydro** One - Ford wants to can the top tier, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath promises to buy it back, and Wynne is demanding a compensation **review** - appears to be having a negative impact on the share value.

NDP MPP Peter Tabuns said the PC rally was just for show because Ford isn't willing, as the NDP is, to buy back **Hydro** One.

The NDP believe they can purchase it in four to eight years using **Hydro** One dividends paid to the government as a shareholder.

"Doug Ford is a hypocrite on these issues," Tabuns said. "He was (a) senior person at Build **Toronto** when they dramatically increased the pay for executives and gave layoff slips to the front-line staff. He didn't raise a peep when **Toronto Hydro**'s CEO got a big increase in his salary during the (Rob) Ford administration."

Ford said it's too premature to commit to buying back **Hydro One** because he hasn't had a good look at the government's books.

"(The NDP) **plan** is to continue spending money, taxing people. I'm there to save the taxpayers money, lower the **hydro rates**, lower taxes on people, putting money back into people's pocket instead of the government's pocket," Ford said.

Ford said he would not have done what Wynne did and sell **Hydro One** - "our best asset," something she did without even mentioning it in the election.

In a statement, **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** said the PC leader is hurting the value of **Hydro One** with his "careless, confrontational" statements.

"As the largest single shareholder in **Hydro One**, the government of **Ontario** was dissatisfied with the specific proposals for executive compensation when they were brought forward by the board," Thibeault said.

"We expressed our dissatisfaction clearly and succeeded in securing from the board a commitment that a **review** of the compensation model would be conducted relying on additional third-party experts." aartuso@postmedia.com

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Wynne To Review Directors' Raises

National Post - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$5,024

Reach: 159480 Page: A5

Premier Kathleen Wynne called raises for **Hydro One**'s board of directors unacceptable Tuesday, while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of the government's privatization of the **utility**.

Wynne said her Liberals had ordered a **review** into compensation at **Hydro One** upon learning of raises for executives and board members, including a \$70,000 raise for the chair of the board and \$25,000 raises for other board members. The results of that **review**, she said, are expected to lead to some changes.

"We've made it very clear that the compensation package that was brought forward was unacceptable," Wynne said at a campaign stop in **Waterloo**. "So that is exactly why the **review** is happening. We forced that **review** to happen. We made it clear and the **review** is happening."

Wynne emphasized that the **review** is examining compensation for all board members, not just executive compensation as had been suggested in April. The pay increases have been in effect since January.

The province's largest **electricity transmission** and **distribution** provider, **Hydro One** was partially privatized in November 2015, with the government saying it planned to use the sale of shares to fund transit and infrastructure projects. By December 2017, the province had sold off 53 per cent of its stake in the company. The partial sale has garnered the Liberals negative headlines, with critics linking the sale to high **hydro rates** and high executive salaries.

Wynne defended the move.

"We made a decision that the deficit of infrastructure building in this province was critical," she said. "(It) was not going to allow for the economic growth that we needed. So the change in ownership of **Hydro** One was part of that and we have been able to move forward with a huge infrastructure build in the province."

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford reiterated his promise to fire **Hydro** One's board of directors and the CEO - who would receive at least \$10.7 million in severance - and predicted he'll have no trouble finding replacements.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has promised to restore the company to **public** ownership if she forms government after the June 7 election.

At a rally in **London**, Horwath said the pay hikes at the **utility** underscore the need for her **plan**. "It's obvious that **Hydro** One should not be in private hands because the decisions that are being made there are being made in the interests of private shareholders and/or private board members," she said. "It shows that they are completely out of touch with the people of **Ontario**, that they don't care, they don't have to be in touch with the people of **Ontario**, because they're not accountable to the people of **Ontario**."

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Shareholders approve Hydro One executive pay plan despite outcry; Chair of Hydro One, re-iterated the board believes CEO Mayo Schmidt's pay is 'appropriate' for a utility with ambitions to expand in Ontario and outside the province

theglobeandmail.com - Wed May 16 2018, 5:14am ET

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Andrew Willis and Tim Kiladze

Reach: 1188000

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Opinion: When it comes to proposed **Hydro** One solutions, voters must choose between three poor options www.theglobeandmail.com

Ontario election guide: What you need to know before you vote
www.theglobeandmail.com

Inside the meeting, shareholders were upbeat: One, Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand **River**, went out of her way to praise chief executive Mayo Schmidt's leadership. And earlier Tuesday, the **utility**, privatized three years ago by **Ontario's** Liberal government but still 47-per-cent-owned by the province, announced strong financial results, with quarterly profit up 33 per cent year-over-year and raised its common share dividend by 5 per cent.

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The government initially threatened to vote against **Hydro** One's compensation under what's known as a non-binding "say-on-pay" initiative, then opted to abstain once the **review** was announced.

The overwhelming majority of shareholders who voted in favour of its compensation scheme was a result that was in line with the previous year's vote. When asked about Mr. Ford's plans to fire the board and replace him as CEO, Mr. Schmidt listed the **utility's** accomplishments in the three years since he joined the company and said: "We really do believe that calmer heads will prevail."

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Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Shareholders approve **Hydro** One executive pay **plan** despite outcry www.theglobeandmail.com

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Ford Raining On Hydro One Pay Parade

The Sault Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: \$1,946

Reach: 17077 **Page:** A8

They say it never rains but it pours.

They say it because it's true.

Outside the **Hydro** One annual general meeting in downtown **Toronto** Tuesday, it was actually raining.

The Progressive Conservative candidate for premier, Doug Ford, and a handful of supporters (and one protester) with their signs, stood in it, sometimes chanting "Hey hey, ho ho, Mayo's gotta go."

Inside the lobby of the Ted Rogers School of Management, where the AGM was being held and where said Mayo - Mayo Schmidt, **Hydro** One CEO and the guy Ford calls "the \$6-million man" because he earned \$6.2 million in salary and bonuses last year - various handlers looked on.

It was pouring in here, too. It was a deluge of horse manure and its cousin, magnificent self-aggrandization.

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Ontario debt looms large in this election

Richmond Hill Liberal - Mon May 14 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$364

Reach: 80047 Page: 1

The issue that overshadows a long list of missteps by this Liberal government in the upcoming **Ontario** upcoming election is a staggering level of debt which the media, strangely, seems to largely ignore.

That world record debt for a sub-sovereign state - a \$320-billion debt (\$185 billion of which was incurred by Liberal government) - will enslave Ontarians for generations to come.

There is more: Ontarians fork out \$12 billion annually for interest on that debt, of which about \$7.5 billion is attributable to the **Ontario** Liberals.

About \$5 to \$7 billion will get you a new **Toronto** subway every year or pay for all the needed health and other essential services we desperately need. We could go on and on - \$30 billion for deferred **hydro rates** that will be gifted to our children and grandchildren to pay for, etc.

The auditor general of **Ontario** wrote a scathing report on how this government handles its accounting. You could also write about that.

Last year, Finance Minister Sousa promised three years in a row of balanced budgets. This promise went out the window, replaced by a **plan** to spend \$20 billion over the next three years.

Riding, riding, riding into the valley of record debt is pure folly.

Aldo Dolcetti

Richmond Hill

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Ontario Progressive Conservative party's hydro plans questionable

Aurora Banner - Mon May 14 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$208

Reach: 57606 Page: 1

The Progressive Conservatives planned outline for **hydro** has left me having to respond to the untruths within its so called **plan**.

Quoting the Fraser Institute as a truth, when in fact the Fraser Institute is politically conservative and libertarian. My **hydro rates** have not gone up by 71 per cent since 2008, but have been stable and gone down by 20 per cent, by utilizing **time-of-use** wisely.

Where does the PC get the tripling of **electricity rates**, as I mentioned my **rates**

have not increased but have decreased by being mindful of the **time of use**?

Scrapping the **Green Energy Act**, why? It has and will save billions through reduced health care and environmental costs because of the shift from polluting fossil **fuels** to clean renewables.

The report claims that 75,000 jobs had been lost from **Ontario electricity rates**. I wonder if the report stated the fact that **Ontario** attracted nearly \$12 billion in private-sector investment in **wind** and **solar power** since 2010. Nor are the tens of thousands of jobs at any of the dozens of **renewable energy** manufacturing plants now operating in **Ontario** ever discussed.

S.R. Jamieson Aurora

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NDP gaining traction early in campaign

Windsor Star - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Anne Jarvis

Ad Value: \$10,844

Reach: 54680 Page: A1 / Front

"I've never voted NDP," said a woman in South Windsor, where NDP MPP Lisa Gretzky campaigned Monday.

"But I will see," she said. "You've got a great agenda," a man said, sounding surprised after listening to Gretzky.

"I would like to see them pull it off," retired autoworker Ken Kavanaugh said. "Something new, not the status quo. I'm open to seeing what they could do."

It's early, only one week into the official campaign, but this provincial election has changed.

The NDP has surged to second place in the polls, and it has the momentum. Initially framed as a race between the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, it's shaping up to be a race between the Conservatives and the NDP.

There's even speculation about the possibility of an NDP government or an NDP-led coalition.

Could Windsor and **Essex** County go from three thirdparty MPPs to three government MPPs? "It's all positive," said Windsor-Tecumseh NDP MPP Percy Hatfield, citing a better platform vetted by former federal parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page and a better organized campaign.

There has been a surge in volunteers and requests for signs at Gretzky's campaign office.

"There's a tremendous amount of optimism in terms of where this campaign could go for us," said Gretzky's campaign manager, Kieran McKenzie.

"At this point (NDP leader) Andrea Horwath is where she wants to be - on the rise and not being written off," said former Windsor-Riverside MPP Dave Cooke, a senior cabinet minister in **Ontario**'s first NDP government in 1990.

"The columnists are talking about her as a legitimate candidate. If I were still a candidate for the NDP, I'd be pretty darn happy with how the campaign has started."

Poll Tracker, which aggregates all publicly available polling data, shows the Conservatives still lead with 40.8 per cent support.

The NDP are second with 30.7 per cent, and the Liberals third with 23.5 per cent.

Look a little closer at several recent polls, and it's even more interesting. Conservative support has fallen by 0.7 per cent and Liberal support by 1.4 per cent. But NDP support has risen by 3.6 per cent.

And Conservative support, while considered the most solid and easily enough to form a majority government, hadn't moved much in weeks before falling slightly.

Has it peaked already? More people name the NDP as their second choice in several polls.

And 78 per cent of Liberals motivated by a desire to stop controversial PC leader Doug Ford said they'd switch to the NDP if it appears that party can stop him, according to a poll by Pollara Strategic Insights for Maclean's. All this means that NDP support could continue rising and Liberal support could continue falling.

The **public** elementary school teachers'union, which represents 81,000 teachers and has supported the Liberals for more than a decade, just endorsed the NDP.

What's behind the party's rise? The last election was Premier Kathleen Wynne's first as party leader. She came across as progressive and full of integrity.

Now it seems like the Liberals will do anything to get re-elected, from deficit spending to buying peace with unions.

"People didn't think it was in her DNA, and it turned out it was," said Cooke, still a keen political observer.

And after 15 years of the Liberals and their scandals and skyrocketing **hydro** bills, polls show 80 per cent of voters want change.

"I was always a Liberal," another woman said Monday, "but I don't know. I have to think about change."

Hydro "is crazy," Silvio Venerus told Gretzky.

So far, that change is Ford, but "the more people watch him, the more they're going to hesitate," predicted Cooke. "People want to defeat the Liberal government, but they're not going to be mindless about it."

Ford, who was part of the spectacle when his hard-drinking, crack-smoking brother Rob was mayor of **Toronto**, says he'll cut \$6 billion from the budget, cut taxes for middle-income earners by 20 per cent and spend \$5 billion more on transit in **Toronto**.

He'll do this by finding "efficiencies."

It's like he's winging it. And people fear that "efficiencies" means cuts that will leave blood on the floor.

Then there's Horwath and the NDP.

She's been leader for almost a decade, through two elections, without making much of a mark - until, maybe, now. She's personable. She's the most popular leader.

While Wynne and Ford beat each other up - she compares him to U.S President Donald Trump and he accused her of "shady tricks" - Horwath is offering a

positive alternative.

"While these two argue," she said during the first debate, "our **hydro** bills are going through the roof."

In her latest ad, she smiles and lays out a simple, progressive, positive **plan** for drug and dental coverage for all Ontarians, converting **student** loans to grants so **students** don't graduate with debt and asking the richest to pay more tax to do this.

Not everything in the NDP's platform is believable, like buying back **Hydro** One and cutting **hydro** bills by 30 per cent.

But, said Cooke, who doesn't hold back when his party bungles something, "she makes you feel good. She's got the potential of doing the kind of stuff Trudeau did in the federal campaign. He was the people's candidate. He was optimistic. You watched him when he was with people, and he made you feel good.

"All of us want our politicians to give us a feeling of optimism about the future and that they're approachable people."

Added McKenzie: "The rest of the province is catching up to what we've known down here for a long time."

Windsor doesn't vote for government members at all costs, he said. It votes for people who fight for issues that are important to the community.

He cited Dan's Law, Gretzky's private member's bill calling for **Ontario** to eliminate the threemonth waiting period for home and palliative care for people who move here from other provinces. It was named after Dan Duma, a Windsor autoworker who moved to Alberta when the GM plant here closed but returned after being diagnosed with liver cancer. He couldn't die at home because he couldn't get home care. The province just changed the regulation.

A lot of voters Gretzky talked to want better health care.

Fran Faroni talked about her friend's 98-year-old mother who waited in a hospital hallway for 15 hours. The party's platform for Southwestern **Ontario** includes opening 89 vacant beds at Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare.

It also includes Windsor in the environmental assessment for high-speed rail, twinning Highway 3 and creating a stream within the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to promote manufacturing research and development.

People want a government that will invest in **service** - without the baggage, said Gretzky.

While the polls and endorsements "definitely give us that little extra bounce in our step," said Gretzky, it doesn't change the way NDP candidates are campaigning.

"I just go out and knock on as many doors as I can and say hello and remind them we've been doing what we said we'd do, in my case, standing up for local Windsor issues," said Hatfield.

"We don't take anything for granted," said McKenzie, who ran Gretzky's campaign in 2014, when she knocked off Liberal cabinet minister Teresa Piruzza. "We have work to do in an election, and the work is talking to people as much as we can about the issues they're facing and the things we think could address those problems."

Cooke remembers former Windsor **West** MP Herb Gray, an MP for four decades and deputy prime minister under Jean Chretien, telling him, "You've got to run

every election as if you're going to get defeated. Take voters for granted and you'll be history."

And in this election in particular, "people are really trying to hold parties accountable," said Gretzky.

Said one woman, "I'm watching all the debates so I will know what's going on."
 ajarvis@postmedia.com

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Horwath trying to outdo Wynne

Sarnia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Bernice Rade

Ad Value: \$372

Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

The provincial party leaders are in full swing in their efforts to convince people to vote for their party. Kathleen Wynne is having difficulty in getting candidates to run under the Liberal banner - wonder why? Could it be that people are no longer fooled by all the "freebees" she is promising in her attempt to buy votes with taxpayers' money? Or could it be that people are disgusted with what her party has done to this once most prosperous province? Since it would be difficult for her to campaign on her record, she has chosen to attack her opponents instead.

Andrea Horwath is trying to outdo Wynne with even more promises of free everything. But nothing is free! Already heavily burdened taxpayers are paying through the nose and can't dig any deeper into their pockets. She says she'll pay for her freebees by imposing heavier taxes on the wealthy. Businesses are struggling to pay their taxes, hydro and other requirements imposed on them by the Liberals. They can relocate and be welcomed across the border where doing business is not as costly and a businessman (oops - person) has a chance to make some profit.

In my not so humble opinion, Horwath's proposals are not doable, but she is travelling the province hoping to convince that voters that she is the best choice.

Apparently, she has the teachers' union on side, promising them what they want. Promises, promises! An NDP government would be more of the same - maybe even more-so.

Doug Ford's opponents compare him with President Trump. They say he'll cut services and take away the services voters enjoy. He insists that health and education are priorities and that he can find efficiencies that will substantially cut costs without cutting services.

Undoubtedly, there is a lot of unnecessary spending that can be cut. The provincial government cannot continue on the free-wheeling spending spree. The province's credit rating has already declined, and the huge deficits cannot continue to grow indefinitely.

The opportunity to change things in Ontario will be on June 7.

Bernice Rade

Forest

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Candidates square off at first debate in Wellington : Prince Edward County News countylive.ca

www.countylive.ca · Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Citizens who have no political party alliance, and those who may be looking to change, may or may not have heard key words that will help direct their provincial election vote next month.

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First Ford Nation conquered the Tories, next is Ontario

thespec.com · Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 90600

Here's how Ford Nation wins over a province.

By word and song. And (campaign) signs of the times.

At a Doug Ford rally, the leader is always late, leaving extra time for his populist anthem to penetrate your being. A throbbing earworm that burrows deep inside your consciousness.

The **crowd** is warmed up to overheating as the anthem choruses, "For the people! Hey!" The lyrics loop over and over: "For the people! Hey!"

Ford himself is now in the hall, making his way through Ford Nation. OPP bodyguards deploy in the cavernous airport conference **centre** as the leader of **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives poses for smiling selfies with adoring supporters before taking the microphone.

"My friends, people across **Ontario** are coming together," Ford proclaims in his deliberate delivery, a man in command of his audience - his friends.

Ford fires up the **crowd** with stirring rhetoric about **hydro** rip-offs, a promise to rip up **Ontario's** sex education curriculum, a pledge to axe any carbon tax, and a vow to cut taxes for the people.

For Ford Nation, the words are music to the ear. Not to mention that earworm.

Amid the mesmerizing messaging, however, there are clues that this is not a traditional Progressive Conservative campaign rally. Listen closely, and look at the telltale signs, for this is emphatically a Doug Ford election event.

"It's bigger than one party," the leader stresses, repeating the phrase for emphasis. "This is about the people."

The people, not the party. Another clue comes from the signage at the podium, which makes no mention of the Tories. Instead, a blue, red and white sign at the lectern says it all - all that needs to be said - in big bold letters: "Doug Ford for the people."

And at this event, early in the campaign, the leader exults with Trump-like hyperbole over "the thousands of people here tonight." Except there are not thousands of people (journalists count several hundred in the cavernous venue near Pearson airport).

That's not to say Ford can't draw a **crowd** - never mind that his campaign famously hired professional actors to cheer for him outside a television studio. Tonight's audience is diverse, made up of young and old, white, brown and black, men and women, many drawn from the suburban belt of the GTA that Ford is counting on.

But beyond preaching to the converted, can he convince a broader coalition of voters on June 7 that he deserves to be premier?

In the campaign's early days, Ford seemed content to **coast** to victory with his Conservative core. With a strong grip on most of rural **Ontario**, the Tories have a huge head start over the Liberals (largely confined to the urban and suburban areas), and the New Democrats (vying with the Tories for support in the southwest and **north**).

Many party loyalists - not just red Tories - may be uncomfortable with Ford's disruptive approach. But his campaign is betting on an infusion of new blood from the Ford Nation coalition to exceed any attrition.

Which is why Ford is playing up Ford Nation across the province, while downplaying the PC party he leads. Internal polling shows him ahead of the brand, so he is personalizing his pitch.

With little talk of policy, personality wins the day - or more precisely, the Ford persona inherited from his late brother Rob. But beyond the safe space of a friendly Ford Nation campaign rally, there have been brief glimpses of a different Doug Ford in the campaign's early days. As the campaign unfolds, more people may catch sight of Ford's unscripted, untrammelled musings - like his nativist opposition last week to new immigrant workers in the **north**, where an audience of mayors and reeves groaned and laughed at his ignorance of their need for more foreigners amid declining populations.

For the moment, Ford looks formidable. The Progressive Conservatives have gone all in with Ford Nation, on the premise that Doug Ford is more popular than the party - because he is for the people.

If the people are behind him on June 7, the party will win big with a majority government landslide. But if the people tire of him, or turn against him, the party whose brand he banished will reap the whirlwind.

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

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THE SUN TIMES

'Change for the better'; Polls suggest Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has most to gain

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Michelle Mcquigge

Ad Value: \$991

Reach: 13178 **Page:** A2

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.

Horwath's New Democrats, long relegated to third-party status in the provincial legislature, are emerging as an alternative to the deeply unpopular Liberals, who have been in **power** since 2003.

Experts give much of the credit to the 55-year-old party leader, who they say has positioned herself as an effective foil to both the staunch populism of Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford and the familiar talking points of Premier Kathleen Wynne.

For her part, Horwath said her approach in the June 7 election will be to put herself and her personality on full display.

Horwath said the pledges at the heart of the NDP election platform grew from personal experiences on factory floors, in legal clinics and during years of motherhood.

"I think people deserve to know what makes their leaders tick," she said in a recent telephone interview from **Thunder Bay**, Ont. "We've had a premier that said she was one thing and then turned out to be something else. We have somebody in Mr. Ford who's trying to hide from who he is and not let people know exactly what it is he has in store ... It's incumbent upon us to say to people, 'it doesn't have to be that way.'" The platform on which Horwath has pinned her hopes is firmly rooted in traditional NDP ideology.

The document, dubbed Change for the Better, touts free dental and pharmacare for all and promises free child care for families earning less than \$40,000 a year. Other cornerstone pledges include more money for hospitals, higher taxes for those earning \$220,000 a year or more, the return of the partially privatized **Hydro One** to **public** ownership, and a 30 per cent cut to **electricity rates**.

Horwath said the priorities laid out in the platform harken back to her childhood in Stoney Creek, Ont., a suburb of Hamilton where she grew up in a family with strong ties to the manufacturing sector.

Her father Andrew became an auto worker at a nearby Ford plant after immigrating from Slovakia and marrying her mother, Diane. The comfortable income and secure benefits they enjoyed provided stability for her and her three siblings, Horwath said.

Over time, however, she said she has seen that security erode to the point where her son can't count on supports her parents took for granted.

When Horwath moved on to a role as a community development worker at a legal clinic, she said her interactions with everyone from single parents to new immigrants reinforced her belief in social justice.

Many of the NDP campaign pledges have echoes in the Liberal party's most recent budget, a document Horwath dismisses as a late effort to pander to voters who've been largely ignored in the past 15 years.

Her platform, she said, is founded on personal conviction.

"Sometimes those kinds of pieces of what makes a person who they are are not up front and **centre** in politics, but those things really do shape your value system and why you do what you do," she said. "... A lot of the things I feel passionate about come not just because I'm a New Democrat, but they come from who I am as a person."

Making Horwath the face of the campaign may prove to be a savvy strategy in a field dominated by deeply polarizing adversaries, according to one political observer.

University of **Ottawa** political studies professor Genevieve Tellier said that while Ford and Wynne provoke visceral reactions among their opponents and are both deeply disliked in some factions of the electorate, Horwath has consistently ranked as the most popular personal choice for premier even as her party trails the Conservatives in the polls.

Tellier said Horwath has had time to establish herself as a steady hand and consistent communicator during her nine years at the party helm, traits she said may be seen as assets when contrasted with her rivals' ongoing attempts to portray each other as untrustworthy or corrupt.

"It's always a bit easier when you're in the opposition to have this kind of support, but ... it's very consistent," Tellier said. "As a person, she's likable, I

would say.

People are not concerned by her personality."

But despite Horwath's status as a three-time veteran of the campaign circuit, Tellier said some questions remain about her political instincts. The 2014 election was triggered when Horwath withdrew support for a Liberal government she'd propped up for two and a half years, Tellier said. But the contest, in which Horwath ran on a more centrist platform, did not result in more NDP seats in the legislature.

However, McMaster University political science professor Peter Graefe said Horwath gained ground in other respects.

While her centrist platform lost her seats to the Liberals in voter-rich **Toronto**, he said the approach was reflective of her working-class roots and helped her gain credibility and votes in other parts of the province.

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Raises for Hydro One board to be reviewed: Wynne; PC Leader Ford has repeatedly slammed the Liberals over high executive compensation

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: SHAWN JEFFORDS

Ad Value: \$11,500

Reach: 309154 Page: A10

The thorny issue of compensation at **Hydro One** reared its head on the **Ontario** election campaign trail on Tuesday, with the Liberal Premier calling raises for the company's board of directors unacceptable while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of the government's privatization of the **utility**.

Kathleen Wynne said her Liberals had ordered a **review** into compensation at **Hydro One** upon learning of raises for executives and board members, including a \$70,000 raise for the chair of the board and \$25,000 raises for other board members. The results of that **review**, she said, are expected to lead to some changes.

"We've made it very clear that the compensation package that was brought forward was unacceptable," Ms. Wynne said at a campaign stop in **Waterloo**, Ont.

"So, that is exactly why the **review** is happening."

Ms. Wynne emphasized that the **review** is examining compensation for all board members, not just executive compensation as had been suggested in April.

The pay increases at the company have been in effect since January, according to a document to shareholders issued ahead of an annual meeting on Tuesday.

As a private-sector, publicly traded **corporation**, **Hydro One**'s compensation policies are determined by its board of directors.

Shareholder votes on compensation - such as one the government said it was abstaining from on Tuesday - are considered to be non-binding on the board, although directors often take them into account.

The province's largest **electricity transmission** and **distribution** provider, **Hydro One** was partially privatized in November, 2015, with the government saying it planned to use the sale of shares to fund transit and infrastructure projects. By

December, 2017, the province had sold off 53 per cent of its stake in the company.

The partial sale has garnered the Liberals largely negative headlines, with critics linking the sale to high **hydro rates** and high executive salaries.

Ms. Wynne, however, defended the move. "We made a decision that the deficit of infrastructure building in this province was critical. [It] was not going to allow for the economic growth that we needed. So, the change in ownership of **Hydro One** was part of that and we have been able to move forward with a huge infrastructure build in the province." Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford has repeatedly slammed the Liberals over high executive compensation at **Hydro One**.

Mr. Ford, whose supporters rallied briefly outside **Hydro One's** annual general meeting in downtown **Toronto** on Tuesday, reiterated his promise to fire **Hydro One's** board of directors and the CEO - who would receive at least \$10.7-million in severance - and predicted he'll have no trouble finding replacements.

He did not, however, commit to buying back shares of **Hydro One**, saying it would be premature to make a decision on the matter.

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Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme sinking Liberals

Ottawa Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$1,521

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

If **Ontario's** carbon pricing scheme is such a great idea, why aren't Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne, and the NDP's Andrea Horwath, who supports it, praising it to the skies on the campaign trail? Thanks to a new Ipsos-Global TV poll, now we know why.

It found 72% of 1,197 eligible voters surveyed from May 4-7 think carbon taxes are just a tax grab, with 68% saying they're symbolic rather than effective.

This skeptical, and accurate, view of Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme - given that **cap and trade** is just another form of a carbon tax, which raises the prices of goods and services instead of the taxes on them - cuts across party lines.

While 85% of Conservative voters think carbon taxes are just a tax grab, so do 72% of NDP voters and 54% of Liberal voters.

As Ipsos Global Affairs CEO Darrell Bricker said of the poll's findings, the more Wynne and Horwath speak about **cap-and-trade**, the more it helps PC leader Doug Ford, who has vowed to scrap it, "because what it really does is ricochet back on the Conservative voters and give them more passion about supporting a change in government."

What it also means is that Wynne's strategy of trying to sneak carbon pricing past Ontarians has blown up in the Liberals' faces.

Wynne downplayed any suggestion the Liberals were considering putting a price on carbon in the 2014 election.

Shortly after she won a majority government, she said a carbon tax was "not in our **plan**." Then she introduced **cap-and-trade**, a carbon tax by another name, now costing **Ontario** taxpayers \$1.98 billion annually.

The Liberals say the cost of **cap-and-trade** to the average **Ontario** household will be \$285 next year.

But when you divide the \$1.98 billion the Liberals **plan** to make from **cap-and-trade** this year by **Ontario's** 5,169,175 households, according to the latest census, the average cost per household comes to \$383 this year, not \$285 next year.

As for its effectiveness in lowering industrial carbon dioxide emissions linked to **climate** change, here's what **Ontario** auditor general Bonnie Lysyk said about Wynne's **plan** in her 2016 annual report: "Small reductions in emissions in **Ontario** (are) expected to come at significant cost to **Ontario** businesses and households ... **Ontario** businesses are expected to pay up to \$466 million by 2020 to Quebec and California for (carbon) allowances. Based on preliminary estimates ... that amount could rise to \$2.2 billion in 2030 - all of it money that will leave the **Ontario** economy."

While Wynne's **cap-and-trade** scheme, which Horwath supports, is a train wreck, I should point out I disagree with Ford's vow to scrap it without (Ford says he will fight this at the Supreme Court, if necessary.)

I preferred former PC leader Patrick Brown's promise to replace cap-and-trade with a revenue-neutral carbon tax, in which all the money raised would have been returned to the **public** in tax cuts, verified by the auditor general.

Ontario Green party Leader Mike Schreiner supports a similar carbon-pricing mechanism called revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, which is also intended to lower greenhouse **gas** emissions, not raise government revenues.

Either would be preferable to Wynne's cap-and-trade scheme, supported by Horwath, which has been a disaster. lgoldstein@postmedia.com

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First debate tests candidates; Sarnia-Lambton hopefuls talk nursing homes, deficits, youth and the cost of hydro

Sarnia Observer - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Tyler Kula

Ad Value: \$887

Reach: 12173 Page: A1 / Front

The race to June 7 kicked up a notch Tuesday as candidates in the Sarnia-Lambton riding squared off in their first debate.

Four candidates - the NDP's Kathy Alexander, Tory Bob Bailey, Trillium candidate Andy Bruziewicz, and Green candidate Kevin Shaw - took part in a 50-minute question and answer hosted by the Rotary Club of Sarnia.

Candidates responded to questions about their priorities for the province, wait times for nursing home spaces, controlling deficits, small business and minimum wage, local **transportation** options and how to encourage youth engagement in politics.

"I have actually had some incredible conversations with youth over the last several weeks," Alexander said.

"They actually are engaged... I'm hoping we'll be surprised June 7 by the turnout we have."

Bailey, MPP in Sarnia-Lambton since 2007, talked about helping people in the community through his constituency office, and pointed to private member's bills

he introduced that became law, including **Ontario** One Call to help people locate underground infrastructure before digging, and a 25 per cent tax credit for food banks.

He criticized the Liberal government for wasting money, pointing to **Ontario's** \$348-billion debt, and called health care the top provincial priority.

"In my office, we deal with it every day," he said, citing examples such as people going to emergency because they don't have proper dental care.

"I'm glad to hear that is a priority of the PCs because we have yet to hear their platform," Alexander said, touting her party's **plan** to invest in mental health, pharmacare and dental care.

Shaw and Bruziewicz echoed the importance of health care as an election issue.

All the candidates also flagged the cost of **hydro** as a major concern.

"One thing we want to do is create a lot of jobs by helping people with grants and interest-free loans to make homes more efficient," Shaw said.

"The average home could probably reduce their needs by as much as 50 per cent," he said, also calling for using Quebec hydroelectric **power** instead of refurbishing **Ontario** nuclear plants, to save costs.

The Progressive Conservatives, Liberals, and NDP have all had chances in government to create universal pharmacare and dental care, said Bruziewicz.

"We're still talking about it; it should have been done a long time ago."

Hydro infrastructure should be the same as roads - not-for-profit, he said.

He also took aim at the media for not giving the Trillium Party enough attention.

"I'm almost ready to pull out of this race because of the media behaviour," he said.

Fanina Kodre of the Century Party was invited to the debate but wasn't in attendance, nor was anyone from the Liberal Party - also invited - which had yet to name a candidate for Sarnia-Lambton as of press time Tuesday.

The deadline is Thursday. A debate hosted by the Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition and Sarnia Lambton Registered Nurses Association of **Ontario** is Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. at the Sarnia Library **Theatre**.

Further debates are scheduled for May 18, 23 and 29.

Alexander ended Tuesday's on a congenial note.

"No one can argue that the four of us don't believe in this community," she said.

"We may be on a different journey... but we all believe in it."
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THE SUN TIMES

Energy shift not simple

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jim Algie

Ad Value: \$745

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

In commentary for TransCanada **Corporation's** 2017 year-end report published in February, chief executive officer Ross Girling made a surprising statement about a venerable **Canadian** company known mainly for pipelines when he described the "cornerstone" role to be played in his company's future by **electricity** generation.

"We continue to pursue opportunities in the **power** generation business as **North** America transitions to less carbon-intense sources of **power**," Girling is quoted to say. He described current trends as "a shift that aligns with our experience in building and operating high efficiency **gas**-fired generation, renewable **power** and nuclear generation in **Ontario**."

I find it surprising, at least, that the CEO of one of **North** America's largest petroleum pipeline operations would place such emphasis on **electricity**. It may be less surprising when taken in context with Canada's constitutional standoff, this spring, among New Democratic Party governments in Alberta and British Columbia and federal Liberals in **Ottawa** about the Kinder Morgan pipeline proposal, not to mention cancellation last year of TransCanada's own **Energy** East proposal. Those events and continuing controversy in the United States over TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline through Nebraska make Girling's message somewhat more understandable.

Controversy continues, of course, about **climate** change and the role played in greenhouse **gas** pollution by the burning of fossil **fuels**. But some petroleum industry leaders, Russ Girling among them, seem prepared to accept that a shift has begun.

Pipeline resistance and recent increases in world oil prices may provide further signs about how it will happen as the **energy** profile of western industrial nations shifts away from petroleum. Royal Dutch Shell has made a point in recent years of highlighting new ventures in non-petroleum, and low-carbon, **energy**.

Among TransCanada's nonpetroleum, **energy**-generation investments, is a 48.4 per cent stake in the world's largest nuclear **power** development, run by Bruce **Power**. It's part of an 18-year-long initiative that emphasizes **natural gas** transport and storage and **electricity** generation that has made TransCanada "one of Canada's largest private sector **power** companies" with 6,100 megawatts of generation.

And yet, the **Canadian** economy remains dependent on petroleum. That is particularly true of agriculture, which relies heavily on diesel and **gasoline** for **transportation** and field work.

Economists at Farm Credit Canada, a federal Crown **corporation**, have identified **energy** pricing among five top economic trends to watch for 2018. In a Jan. 16 report posted to the FCC website, senior economist Leigh Anderson predicted "any significant movement in **energy** markets will impact farm input prices and the value of the **Canadian** dollar."

Anderson was looking at an Alberta government forecast that predicted diesel fuel costs at \$0.98 per litre, up 10 per cent, and **gasoline** up 7.5 per cent to \$0.95 a litre. He relied on prices for **West** Texas Intermediate crude oil in the US\$55 per barrel range for 2018, only slightly above the \$US50 per barrel average for 2017. Since then, however, production limits within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) together with Russian cooperation and low Venezuelan output because of that nation's economic crisis have combined to push oil prices higher than expected.

A February Reuters poll of economists predicted a Brent crude average of \$US63 a barrel for 2018. An April 23, Bloomberg report quotes **GasBuddy**.com petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan's prediction of even higher **gas** prices to come.

A basic shift in **energy** and environmental policy may well have begun. Yet we find ourselves almost entirely dependent on fossil **fuels** with only the vaguest notions about where to find practical, lower carbon options.

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CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Where are the Ontario party leaders today?

thespec.com - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Negative** Reach: 90600

The main party leaders are doing most of their stumping for the June 7 election in the **Greater Toronto** Area today.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is campaigning in **Toronto**, starting with a stop at a child care **centre** before visiting a restaurant.

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford will be making a morning announcement in **Oakville**, Ont., before heading to Mississauga, where he's to tour Fielding Environmental and attend an evening rally.

Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne is scheduled to make an announcement at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Mississauga before heading to Kanata, Ont., where she's to speak at an Iftar dinner.

Hydro One was front and **centre** for the leaders on Tuesday.

Wynne called raises for the **utility**'s board of directors unacceptable, while her rivals slammed the pay hikes as the consequence of her government's privatization of the **utility**.

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The campaign just doesn't matter for Wynne's Liberals any more

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: ADAM RADWANSKI

Ad Value: \$18,500
Reach: 309154 Page: A10

At the start of a week in which they needed to reverse their negative momentum, the **Ontario** Liberals pulled out the sort of war-room research that powered their past campaigns.

With great fanfare, Kathleen Wynne and a pair of her ministers announced on Monday that Andrea Horwath's New Democrats had failed to take into account billions of dollars in recent government spending when costing their platform.

The Liberals' case was a bit confusing and overstated: Even if the error was on the scale they claimed, it didn't quite cause the NDP's entire **plan** to collapse.

Still, the intended effect - the NDP on the defensive, the Liberals again making opponents look like untrustworthy amateurs - wasn't altogether implausible.

Almost immediately, the reaction felt different this time. Ms. Horwath laughed it off, as did many pundits, as desperation from a governing party trailing not just the Tories but the perennially third-place NDP in most polls. Who were the Liberals, at war with **Ontario**'s Auditor-General over their accounting, to pass judgment on others' numbers?

Unless more voters were moved by Ms. Wynne's messaging than it initially appeared, this was the Liberals' plight in a nutshell.

Operationally, they are still strongest among **Ontario**'s parties in some ways - the most seasoned opposition researchers, the best advertising, probably the top voter-identification system.

None of those advantages matter, heading into the June 7 election, if voters simply aren't willing to buy what they're selling. And all indications are that the Liberals have finally reached that point.

Not that Ms. Wynne's campaign team hasn't already tried many strategies to buy new life.

A few months ago, the idea was to eschew the "steady hands" argument incumbent governments often make. Ms. Wynne's strategists explained that, despite economic metrics being strong, many Ontarians felt left behind. Their opinion suggested some respect for Ms. Wynne's toughness, despite her unpopularity.

So despite her government's longevity, the Liberals would run her as a change agent, the leader you'd want in your corner - with policies such as a minimum wage increase, daycare, a basic-income experiment. They went so far as to air a television ad contending life was still tough for too many people.

That made some sense when Ms. Wynne's likeliest replacement as premier was Patrick Brown, who might have been cast as a milquetoast agent of the status quo. It made less sense when he was replaced as Progressive Conservative Leader by Doug Ford.

By the time the campaign began last week, the Liberals' pitch had subtly but significantly changed. In the race's first leaders' debate, Ms. Wynne tried to convey that things were going well enough that it would be a mistake to change course.

Meanwhile, the Liberals tried to define Mr. Ford as too scary to consider seriously.

But here, too, things did not go as planned. The slew of ads they ran introducing Ontarians to the "real Doug Ford" mostly served, Liberal sources say, to drive voters to the NDP.

So just as the campaign officially began, the "real Doug Ford" spots were taken out of circulation. The Liberals shifted to a more positive message about their record - and also to taking sharper aim at the New Democrats. In other words, the party that made mincemeat of opponents in every other election this century now finds itself vigorously defending a status quo it argued months ago wasn't good enough, unable to effectively attack the alternative leading in the polls and stuck taking aim at a third party it was previously able to treat as irrelevant.

Although it's early for obituaries, the grumbling from Liberals outside the upper echelons of Ms. Wynne's campaign team is already audible. They can feel support bleeding away, and nobody seems to know how to stanch it.

But that presumes there is some remedy they just haven't landed on yet. And maybe - after almost 15 years in **power**, and all the baggage that comes with it - it's too late for that.

In the last election, in 2014, Ms. Wynne was able to put a fresh face on an old government after replacing Dalton McGuinty.

Now, she's carrying all the same baggage as him and then some, courtesy of her own controversies - around everything from the privatization of **Hydro** One to byelection manoeuvring - and it's easier for voters just to write her off.

Almost exactly as they made their critique of the NDP platform, the Liberals launched a new TV ad about how even though things aren't perfect in **Ontario**, they're pretty good.

It looks nicer than the other parties' ads, as usual. But tellingly, rather than Ms. Wynne on camera, an unidentified woman is delivering the script on her behalf.

All the production values in the world can only go so far if voters just don't want to hear from you any more.

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The new math of Liberals and NDP makes no sense

Toronto Sun - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,885

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

What to make of the political spat between Kathleen Wynne and Andrea Horwath over whose math is worse? Premier Wynne is suggesting the NDP leader's campaign platform doesn't add up and that Horwath made a \$3 billion "mistake" while calculating the cost of her election promises.

This took some gumption, given two **independent** provincial watchdogs recently issued scathing reports revealing Wynne's Liberal government has fudged the province's books by more than twice that amount.

Horwath was quick to say as much. "Wynne's pathetic attempt to discredit the NDP only reminds Ontarians how badly they've been let down by her," she said.

The Premier in turn stuck by her numbers and characterized her dispute with **Ontario**'s auditor and the Financial Accountability Officer as an "accounting dispute."

From where we sit, neither our Liberal Premier nor the province's NDP leader appears particularly good at accounting.

Both are offering similarly reckless plans to borrow money, hike taxes, increase spending by billions and run deficits for years to pay for promises they hope will help get them elected.

Horwath has promised to cut **hydro rates** 30%, to turn all **student** debt into grants, free daycare, free pharmacare, free dental coverage and to buy back **Hydro** One.

Wynne is promising to cut **hydro rates** 25%, to provide free post-secondary education, free daycare, free prescription drugs for youth and seniors, free dental for families without benefits.

Both are proposing to borrow billions they don't have over the next several years and pass that debt onto future generations to pay for campaign promises.

The NDP is projecting billion-dollar deficits until 2023 and perhaps beyond, the Liberals until 2025. That poses a major math problem for the NDP and their ideological cousins the Liberals.

Governments, like people, can't live forever on a credit card.

Ontario's Financial Accountability Officer said as much in a recent report, noting the Liberals will need to slash spending by 8% or \$15 billion to address the growing gap between government income and spending to balance the province's books by 2025.

The NDP, with similarly unsustainable deficit spending plans and revenue constraints, will be in a similar boat.

Both parties have lavish election spending plans.

Neither has a **plan** that actually adds up.

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Doug Ford admits party doesn't have a plan for future of Hydro One | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford met with "protestors" outside of Hydro One's annual general meeting and promised once again to fire CEO Mayo Schmidt and the energy giant's board of directors amid raises given to the executive. But as Jamie Mauracher reports, he admitted the Ontario PC Party still does not have a plan for the future of the company.

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Kathleen Wynne touts high-speed rail, defends Hydro One sale at stop in London - London | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne visited local marketing strategy company sagecomm on Tuesday, the same day that NDP Leader Andrea Horwath stopped at London's Innovation Works.

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Scott Thompson: Who approved Hydro One raises if Ontario still has control? - Hamilton | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Did you get a \$25,000 raise today? Or how about a \$70,000 pay increase? Anyone? That is what the board members of Hydro One and their chair gave themselves Tuesday.

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Health care, Hydro One the focus of NDP southwest Ontario platform | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath announced her party's platform for southwestern Ontario in London Tuesday, promising to eliminate hallway health care, put Hydro One back in public hands, and move carefully on high speed rail.

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Doug Ford showed up at a hydro rally for 6 minutes | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

It's all about hydro Tuesday morning, with news of Hydro One board members giving themselves raises.

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Health care, Hydro One the focus of NDP southwest Ontario platform | CBC News

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Tone: **Neutral**

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath announced her party's platform for southwestern Ontario in London Tuesday, promising to eliminate halfway health care, put Hydro One back in public hands, and move carefully on high speed rail.

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Fixing Hydro One: where the Ontario parties stand | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro rates, and the privatization of Canada's largest power utility, are a major issue in this election.

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PC party targets hydro board salary bumps | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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Outrage over Hydro One board members' pay increase | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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Ontario party leaders to do most of their campaigning today in the GTA | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Wed May 16 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The main party leaders are doing most of their stumping for the June 7 election in the Greater Toronto Area today.

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Horwath touts platform for southwestern Ontario | Brantford Expositor

www.brantfordexpositor.ca - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Supporters crowded into an eatery in the Paris Winkey Mills on Tuesday to cheer Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, who used the campaign stop in Brantford-Brant riding to tout the party's southwestern Ontario platform for the June 7 provincial election.

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Peak demand report cards imminent in Ontario - REMI Network

www.reminetwork.com - Wed May 16 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Many larger commercial electricity customers in Ontario are awaiting their first peak demand report cards, due to be delivered by May 31. Instead of a grade point average, though, they'll receive a mathematical factor to calculate their share of the bucket of costs known as the global adjustment (GA) for the 12 months beginning July 1.

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Trans Mountain, Trudeau and the B.C.-Alberta feud: A guide to the story so far; Get caught up with The Globe's latest coverage of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline project, and the fight it has provoked among First Nations and the governments of Rachel Notley, John Horgan and Justin Trudeau

theglobeandmail.com - Wed May 16 2018, 6:58am ET

Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 1188000

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What is Trans Mountain?(#pipeline) . Who's for it, who's against(#position) . Alberta-B.C. trade at a glance(#trade) . How Alberta can punish B.C.(#alberta) . How B.C. can punish Alberta(#bc) . What's at stake for **Ottawa**(#feds) . What First Nations are doing(#firstnations) . What if the pipeline isn't built?(#whatif) . Opinion and analysis(#opinion)

Latest news

Alberta's government is targeting www.theglobeandmail.com British Columbians with a pro-pipeline ad campaign as B.C., **Ottawa** and First Nations stake out their legal positions on the Trans Mountain expansion project.

B.C. has asked the province's Supreme Court of Appeal to clarify whether it can limit bitumen shipments across its borders. The federal government plans to intervene, www.theglobeandmail.com with federal Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould saying "we are confident in Parliament's jurisdiction."

The federal government is also taking legal steps of its own to affirm its control over Trans Mountain, with Mr. Carr previously promising www.theglobeandmail.com legislation coming to "enhance" **Ottawa**'s authority over natural resources.

On May 2, a coalition of First Nations leaders, speaking in Gatineau, Que., accused www.theglobeandmail.com the federal government of failing to consult

in good faith with B.C. communities that lie in Trans Mountain's path.

Alberta's government, meanwhile, is preparing www.theglobeandmail.com to give itself wide-ranging authority over fossil-fuel shipments out of the province. If a proposed bill is passed, Alberta could tighten its supply of oil and **gasoline** to B.C. until it relents on the Trans Mountain issue.

What is Trans Mountain?

Pipeline basics: The Trans Mountain pipeline system has carried Alberta's oil to the B.C. **coast** since 1953, and can currently carry about 300,000 barrels of oil per day. The pipeline is owned by the Texas-based company Kinder Morgan, which has been trying since 2012 to build a new pipeline along the existing one, boosting its capacity to 890,000 barrels a day. The \$7.4-billion expansion project would thread about 1,000 kilometres of new pipe from Edmonton to Burnaby, B.C.

On April 16, the Notley government introduced Bill 12, www.alberta.ca the Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act, which gives the province broad authority over how oil is shipped out of Alberta, and to where. If passed, the legislation would:

Force companies to get a licence before exporting fossil **fuels** by pipeline, rail or truck

Let the **Energy** Minister set maximum daily amounts of fossil **fuels** to be exported

Let the **Energy** Minister decide whether export licences are in Alberta's best interests and maintain supply for provincial needs

Fine companies up to \$10-million a day, and individuals up to \$1-million a day, if they break the new law

In theory, the province could use the new law in targeted ways that would tighten oil exports to B.C., driving up prices for fuel and other products.

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What B.C. can do to punish Alberta

British Columbia has promised to seek an injunction against Alberta's Bill 12, which B.C. Attorney-General David Eby has described www.theglobeandmail.com both as an unconstitutional law and "a bluff" that Ms. Notley's government was unlikely to ever use. But in the meantime, B.C. could find ways to retaliate with trade measures of its own, similar to how Alberta once temporarily barred imports of B.C. wine back in February over the Trans Mountain dispute.

Mr. Horgan's government also wants a court reference to clarify whether B.C. can regulate **transportation** of bitumen through the province, but the Premier has said he'll stand down if the court **rules** against him. The province filed its case www.theglobeandmail.com at the B.C. Supreme Court of Appeal on April 26.

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What's at stake for **Ottawa**, and what it could do next

Indigenous issues: Mr. Trudeau's government has repeatedly said Indigenous reconciliation is a priority, but the standoff with B.C. First Nations over pipelines is putting that rhetoric to the test.

Legal authority over **energy**: The Liberals have promised legislation soon to reassert that the federal government has authority over interprovincial pipelines.

But that could have unintended backlashes in other provinces, like Québec, whose political and regulatory roadblocks helped kill the **Energy** East pipeline.

Oil and big business: The Texas oil company has said it needs financial protection for shareholders if Trans Mountain is to go ahead. Mr. Trudeau has said his government is willing to chip in to ensure the pipeline is built. Finance Minister Bill Morneau is entering talks with Kinder Morgan and the Alberta government about Trans Mountain.

Climate change: Supporting Trans Mountain was **Ottawa's** tradeoff to win Alberta's support for a national carbon-pricing **plan** in 2017. Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna is concerned that the Trans Mountain feud imperils Alberta's support for the **climate plan**. A **climate plan** without Alberta would be a fairly toothless one: The province accounted for 38 per cent of Canada's greenhouse **gas** emissions in 2015, the most recent year with available data.

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What First Nations and their allies are doing

Court battles: Several Indigenous nations have launched legal challenges to the Trans Mountain project, vowing to take it to the Supreme Court if necessary. They cite 2014's Tsilhqot'in decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, which expanded Indigenous people's rights of approval over projects on their land.

Getting in the way: The Secwepemc Nation and Greenpeace have teamed up to build tiny homes in the Trans Mountain expansion's path, borrowing a strategy from the Standing Rock **Sioux** people's opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Protests in Burnaby: Scores of people, including federal Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, have been arrested since mid-March in protests at Kinder Morgan's Burnaby Mountain terminal.

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What happens if the pipeline isn't built?

Business: Alberta's oil and **gas** sector had high hopes for Trans Mountain after other major pipeline projects - Keystone XL, **Northern** Gateway and **Energy** East hit political and regulatory roadblocks in Canada and the United States. Now, what looks like a sure bet is a source of ongoing uncertainty, and oil-industry leaders and major **Canadian** banks have warned that it will make Canada look like a less attractive investing destination. Here's a deeper look www.theglobeandmail.com from The Globe's Jeff Lewis, Kelly Cryderman and Shawn McCarthy about what might happen in the oil patch if Trans Mountain falls apart.

Politics: Both Ms. Notley and Mr. Trudeau are running for re-election in 2019. For Mr. Trudeau, the pipeline dispute between Alberta and B.C. is a test of national unity and his government's varied commitments to the environment, Indigenous people and opening Canada's natural resources to global markets. In Alberta, Jason Kenney and the United Conservative Party are ramping up pressure on the Notley and Trudeau governments to force through Trans Mountain no matter what, and failure to do so could weaken both leaders in the province in next year's elections.

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Opinion and analysis John Ibbitson: Trudeau's political future hinges on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion www.theglobeandmail.com Martha Hall Findlay: Federal funding for Trans Mountain pipeline expansion is a Band-Aid fix to a much bigger problem www.theglobeandmail.com Mary Janigan: B.C.

politicians need a history lesson www.theglobeandmail.com Stewart Muir: We need to set aside tanker politics and move forward with the pipeline www.theglobeandmail.com Campbell Clark: Trudeau placed a big strategic bet on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion a long time ago www.theglobeandmail.com David Parkinson: For Trudeau's economic vision to succeed, Trans Mountain can't slip away www.theglobeandmail.com

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Compiled by Globe staff

With reports from Kelly Cryderman, Jeff Lewis, Shawn McCarthy, Brent Jang, Ian Bailey, Justine Hunter and The **Canadian** Press

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Trans Mountain, Trudeau and the B.C.-Alberta feud: A guide to the story so far www.theglobeandmail.com

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