

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: February 6, 2018 7:43 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, February 6, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 16 Results



Festival Hydro launches safety survey

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Tue Feb 6 2018
 Tone: **Positive**
 Ad Value: \$120
 Reach: 10143 Page: A3

Festival Hydro is getting ready to launch its biannual **Electrical** Safety Survey. A requirement of the **Ontario Energy Board**, the survey basically involves a few questions about ...



Toronto Hydro secrecy vote befuddling, councillor says; Gord Perks wants to know amount being spent to fight Star information request

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 6 2018
 Tone: **Neutral**
 Byline: David Rider Toronto Star Chief

Ad Value: \$17,453
 Reach: 361323 Page: GT2

Councillor Gord Perks thought it should be a "no-brainer" - use the city's **power** as sole owner of **Toronto Hydro** to find out how much taxpayers' money the **utility** is spending on **Bay** St. lawyers ...



Cold feet on carbon taxes

The Globe and Mail - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$8,375

Reach: 309154 Page: A12

Say what you will about Patrick Brown, the ousted former leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives: At least his **plan** for a carbon tax dragged the party kicking and screaming into the 21st century on **climate** policy. Under ...



Brown's exit leaves candidates to struggle with his 'guarantee'; Party that hates raising taxes needs carbon tax cash to pay for its promises

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$11,680

Reach: 114846 Page: A4

All the Progressive Conservative party's leadership candidates are skeptical of carbon taxes, seeking support from party members who hate them even more, but their party is counting on billions of dollars in carbon tax money to pay for its election ...



Mulroney prepared to change the Progressive Conservative platform

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$9,876

Reach: 361323 Page: A9

Caroline Mulroney is leaving the door open to changing the Progressive Conservative platform for the spring election if she's elected party leader March 10. Saying many Conservatives feel "left out," Mulroney told supporters Monday night she needs ...



They'll be the debt of us; Liberals go on \$7-billion election-year spending spree

Ottawa Sun - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,870

Reach: 45442 Page: A10

How bad is Kathleen Wynne's credit-card addiction? Prepare to be depressed. **Ontario** Liberals ran deficits in 11 of their past 14 budgets, almost 80% of the time, a new Fraser Institute report by Ben Eisen reminds us. Liberal deficits ...



Ontario Conservatives supply good news/bad news jokes

Shoreline Beacon - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jim Merriam

Ad Value: \$330

Reach: 3769 Page: A9

Patrick Brown was forced to resign as leader, just months before the next

election and that's bad news. No, that's good news because Conservatives will set all their many differences aside and work together in semicrisis mode to bring the election ...



Make Ontario anti-tax again

National Post - Tue Feb 6 2018

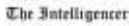
Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Christine Vangeyn

Ad Value: \$10,234

Reach: 159480 Page: FP11

The next leader of the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives needs to take a page from Saskatchewan's playbook, and be a national leader against carbon taxes. Striking down the Kathleen Wynne capand-trade carbon tax is an obvious start. ...



Ontario loves scandalous Liberals

The Belleville Intelligencer - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$211

Reach: 9723 Page: B2

Although it is nice to see someone finally being found guilty of a serious crime regarding the \$1 billion politically motivated **gas** plant boondoggle, we are left wondering why no politician in the McGuinty/Wynne Liberal government has ...



Are Ontario's nuclear emergency plans dead in the water? - NOW Magazine

nowtoronto.com - Mon Feb 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

An accident at Pickering could poison Lake Ontario and downstream communities as far away as Montreal, yet a provincial study promised in 2013 to look at the risks has yet to materialize



New grant will help reduce utility costs for patients receiving home hemodialysis

www.newswire.ca - Mon Feb 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

new grant is now available for people with chronic kidney disease in Ontario who manage their hemodialysis treatment in their own homes.



Council wants MOECC manager at turbine meeting

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: \$531

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

Saugeen Shores council is inviting Ministry of Environment and **Climate Change** district manager Rick Chappell to a **public** meeting about the Unifor **wind turbine** at Gobles Grove. The ...

Taxpayers left in wind



Stratford Beacon-Herald - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Stapleford

Ad Value: \$100

Reach: 10143 Page: A5

It was ominous when we saw the collapse of a **wind turbine** last week, wondering if this is a harbinger of things to come. The shattered debris got me to thinking - we have all bought electronics and on our bill is a ...

Family feels 'abandoned'



The Chatham Daily News - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$771

Reach: 15320 Page: A3

Jessica and Paul Brooks are among 14 property owners living within the **North Kent 1 Wind Farm** area who believe the vibrations caused by construction activity to erect the industrial **wind** turbines damaged their water ...

Is Unifor turbine operating in compliance?; Neighbours suffer health issues and noise like 'circling Chinooks'



Shoreline Beacon - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: \$569

Reach: 3769 Page: A4

Ministry of Environment and **Climate Change** (MOECC) Manager Rick Chappell will be in the hot seat -if he accepts an invitation to a face-to-face **public** meeting in the Saugeen Shores council chambers to talk about ...



SUMA to tackle environmental issues, emergency response during annual convention - Saskatchewan - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Feb 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, February 5, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association's (SUMA) annual convention kicked off Sunday in Regina.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Festival Hydro launches safety survey

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$120

Reach: 10143 Page: A3

Festival Hydro is getting ready to launch its biannual **Electrical** Safety Survey. A requirement of the **Ontario Energy Board**, the survey basically involves a few questions about **electrical** safety awareness. In the coming weeks, **Festival Hydro** customers in Stratford, Dashwood, Seaforth, Zurich, Brussels, St. Marys and Hensall will be contacted by Innovative Research Group, a **Toronto**-based strategy firm, and invited to answer these questions.

While some basic information will be requested to help with demographic classification, customers won't be asked for any banking details, home address, account or billing specifics or any other sensitive personal information. The survey, which runs from mid-February to the end of March, will help gauge the **public's** level of **electrical** safety knowledge. The results serve to help **Festival Hydro** measure the effectiveness of its **electrical** safety programs, which are designed to raise awareness and increase prevention of accidents involving **electricity**.

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Toronto Hydro secrecy vote befuddling, councillor says; Gord Perks wants to know amount being spent to fight Star information request

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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Ad Value: \$17,453

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Councillor Gord Perks thought it should be a "no-brainer" - use the city's **power** as sole owner of **Toronto Hydro** to find out how much taxpayers' money the **utility** is spending on **Bay** St. lawyers to fight a **Toronto** Star information request.

But Perks's colleagues did not vote at last week's **Toronto** council meeting on his motion to issue a "shareholder direction," which would have compelled **Hydro** to give them the information, confidentially or otherwise.

That's because Mayor John Tory and his allies backed a competing motion - to ask **Hydro's** board of directors to consider the request, with no compulsion to act and no timeline for response - after Tory's staff lobbied councillors, including on the council floor during a break in debate.

That motion, from Councillor Stephen Holyday who sits on **Hydro's** board of directors, passed 20-18 and made Perks's motion redundant. It would have failed on a **tie** had one more councillor voted against.

At the root of Perks's request are Star freedom of information requests to **Toronto Hydro**. The first, filed a little more than two years ago, asks for information on consultants hired by **Hydro** for behind-the-scenes work on a possible privatization of the century-old **electricity** distributor. Another seeks details on how much **Hydro** has spent on consultants - primarily lawyers from blue chip **Bay** St. firm Norton Rose Fulbright Canada - to fight to keep those details secret.

The Star revealed in October 2016 that two of **Hydro's** privatization consultants - Nick Kouvalis and Bob Richardson - were key figures in Tory's successful 2014 election campaign and are expected to be involved in his 2018 re-election bid.

Sources told the Star in January 2016 that officials in Tory's office were involved in the backroom privatization discussions, although the mayor himself was not included in those talks.

Perks told council: "We're elected to know how the public company that we own in stewardship for the citizens of Toronto, and the electricity ratepayers in Toronto, spends ratepayers' money, and to make sure that the will of this council and the people of Toronto is being met. That's a duty."

In an interview, the Parkdale councillor and frequent Tory critic added: "Council very deliberately decided not to find out how Toronto Hydro is spending public money. They made a deliberate choice to not act in the interests of the people they represent. For some reason many council members, including the mayor, do not want the public to know why Toronto Hydro hired two of the mayor's key campaign staff.

"There are still procedural steps available, but I'm concerned that we won't know the information for months or years."

His push to compel Hydro came after his "administrative inquiry" to Hydro executives via city manager Peter Wallace failed to get consultant spending.

Holyday said in an interview that he was trying to ensure that city council follow the proper procedure.

"I take no position on whether the information should be released," the Etobicoke representative said. "I'm more interested in governance - Toronto Hydro is a corporation and the shareholder agreement sets out its relationship with the city. If city council gives the shareholder (a) direction, it's kind of like council taking over the corporation and it defeats the point of governance."

Holyday, one of Tory's deputy mayors, acknowledged mayor's staff asked councillors to support his motion, but says it wasn't as his behest. Councillors told the Star that Vic Gupta, Tory's principal secretary, and Luke Robertson, director of council and stakeholder relations, asked them to back Holyday.

"I hope (council members) realized that good governance is the right way to do things at council," Holyday said. "I'm glad that (mayor's staff) told people to support it. It's an important decision. I didn't ask them to go shop for votes, no."

Tory's spokesperson Don Peat responded to Star questions for the mayor with a statement: "As the mayor said last week, he supports Deputy Mayor Stephen Holyday's motion to refer the item back to the Hydro board. This was a reasonable and sensible option. We have boards at these corporations for a reason and the mayor believes it is up to board members to make a decision on this information."

Hydro spokesperson Brian Buchan said: "Following the process set out in the shareholder direction, the request of council from last week will be considered by Toronto Hydro's board of directors and they will respond accordingly. I cannot speculate as to any decision they may make."

Councillor John Campbell, who sometimes votes with Tory, said Perks and Tory's staff each tried to persuade him to support their different positions.

The office of Ontario's information and privacy commissioner, which is considering the Star's appeal of Hydro's denial of access to any records, says it expects to release a ruling on those appeals "shortly."

City council will get another chance to ask Hydro questions. After Holyday's motion passed, Perks quickly rose and asked that his earlier inquiry about Hydro's privatization consultant hiring be moved from the purview of executive committee, made up of Tory and his allies, to city council in full.

That motion passed 20-18.

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Cold feet on carbon taxes

The Globe and Mail - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$8,375

Reach: 309154 Page: A12

Say what you will about Patrick Brown, the ousted former leader of **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives: At least his **plan** for a carbon tax dragged the party kicking and screaming into the 21st century on **climate** policy.

Under Mr. Brown, the PCs pledged to replace **Ontario's** current **cap-and-trade** system with a carbon tax that would hit \$50 a tonne by 2022. The party would then plow most of that revenue into other tax cuts and credits.

It was not exactly a bold, visionary approach - the federal government is forcing any province without a carbon price to adopt the same regime this year anyway.

But credit where it's due: The pledge marked an acknowledgment by the right wing of Canada's biggest province that **climate** change is a serious, man-made problem, and that addressing it requires charging for CO2 emissions.

All too predictably, there are already signs that Doug Ford, Christine Elliott and Caroline Mulroney - the contenders so far to replace Mr. Brown - are edging away from this sensible, small-c conservative policy. It has gone down like castor oil with the PC base, who recoil at higher **energy** costs even if they come with tax savings elsewhere.

Mr. Ford, ever the populist shouter, says there would be no carbon tax if he were premier, without explaining how he would sidestep **Ottawa**. ("Just watch me," he said.)

Ms. Elliott has made oddly ambiguous noises about her intentions, saying in the same interview last week that she was "not personally in favour" of a carbon tax and that it is "one of the answers" to **climate** change. "I'm doing my homework," she allowed.

The political rookie in the race, Ms. Mulroney, has come closest to saying she will stick with the party's current policy, but only because **Ottawa** is forcing it down **Ontario's** throat.

This is a sorry state of affairs for a modern conservative party. Carbon taxes are a market-driven way to reduce emissions, and the revenues can be used to lower other taxes.

It shouldn't be too much for the PCs to make an affirmative, non-grudging, conservative case for tackling the epochdefining challenge of **climate** change. Here's hoping one of the leadership hopefuls is up to it.

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Brown's exit leaves candidates to struggle with his 'guarantee'; Party that hates raising taxes needs carbon tax cash to pay for its promises

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$11,680
Reach: 114846 Page: A4

All the Progressive Conservative party's leadership candidates are skeptical of carbon taxes, seeking support from party members who hate them even more, but their party is counting on billions of dollars in carbon tax money to pay for its election promises.

They need the cash even more than the Liberals do. That's an awkward position for a party of tax fighters, and one Doug Ford, Christine Elliott and Caroline Mulroney somehow have to reconcile.

Before Patrick Brown abruptly quit the Tory leadership on Jan. 25 over allegations of sexual misconduct, he had delivered his party a "People's Guarantee" for the provincial election in June. Whoever succeeds him will inherit it, with little time to change its dozens of promises or rerun the detailed accounting work they led to.

Brown had been elected leader without promising a carbon tax and shocked Tories when he announced he supported one at a convention in **Ottawa** in March 2016. In retrospect, that was a critical point for his abbreviated leadership, the moment a lot of conservative Progressive Conservatives began doubting him. But he kept with it.

The Tories' People's Guarantee talks about ditching the provincial Liberals' **cap-and-trade** system in favour of the broader carbon tax the federal Liberals say they'll put on any province that doesn't have a carbon-pricing system of its own by the end of this year. The feds will tax carbon emissions and give the proceeds to the provincial government. The People's Guarantee calls that "opt (ing) in to the federal carbon price backstop."

The federal tax is much, much heavier than the **cap-and-trade** system **Ontario** already has. The current system sells carbonemitting permits in auctions. Those aren't perfectly predictable, but the **Ontario** government projects a take between \$1.4 billion and \$1.8 billion per annum for the next several years.

The Tory **plan** expects that switching to the federal carbon tax would mean \$2.4 billion in extra revenue, after a couple of wobbly adjustment years.

This isn't some gotcha calculation based on numbers from page 31 and page 187 or anything. It's right there in a handy chart that sums up the accounting: "Net New Federal Carbon Price Revenue," it says, with numbers that rise to \$2.405 billion in 2021.

The sooner **Ontario** gets out of the **cap-and-trade** business, a footnote adds, the more money we can expect from the feds.

I'll say that again because I know it's hard to believe: The Progressive Conservatives expect to make about three times as much money off carbon pricing as the Liberals do.

Now, what a PC government would do with all that money is very different. The Liberals have a detailed **plan** to spend their **cap-and-trade** money on green projects, from transit to energyefficiency retrofits to research on low-emission **energy**, totalling \$1.9 billion a year. The Tories would scrap all that.

Instead, they would cut income taxes (\$3.2 billion) and smallbusiness taxes (\$150 million), give parents tax credits for childcare (\$389 million), enhance sales tax credits (\$589 million) and give drivers tax rebates for buying winter tires (\$19 million). Plus a bunch of other little boutique tax cuts and credits.

In all, they want to cut the provincial government's tax take from everything other than carbon by nearly \$4.6 billion. They also have about \$2 billion in new things they want to spend money on, from subsidizing **hydro** bills to improving services

for children with autism.

Put it together and the extra money from the Trudeau carbon tax covers one-third of the Tories' more fun promises.

The People's Guarantee also pledges \$2.8 billion in unspecified cuts - the auditor general will find waste for us and we won't miss it, apparently.

OK, maybe. Regardless, there's already a big dollop of "we'll figure this out later" in there.

If a new Tory government just sticks with the provincial Liberals' **cap-and-trade** system instead of opting into the richer federal carbon tax, the \$2.8 billion in magic cuts becomes \$5.2 billion. If Premier Elliott or Mulroney or Ford finds some way out of pricing carbon altogether (let's say Justin Trudeau and the federal Liberals lose **power** in 2019 and no federal backstop is ever created), the hole is \$7 billion. This is real money in a \$150-billion provincial budget, not a rounding error.

Watching the leadership candidates struggle with this isn't pretty.

Ford promises to kill carbon taxes in **Ontario** and make up the lost money in "efficiencies." If Justin Trudeau imposes a carbon tax, he said at his campaign launch rally, Ford will stop it.

"I'll tell the prime minister, well, just the same way his father said it, 'Just watch me.'" This sounds direct, but it doesn't mean anything. If only the government ran on slogans.

Elliott and Mulroney both harrumph about carbon taxes - they're personally opposed to them, they want to be sure you know - but want to talk about carbon pricing more before committing to anything.

"I want to speak to the caucus and the nominated candidates to understand their views of it before we go forward," Elliott told the National Post's Chris Selley.

"As a conservative, I don't like taxes," Mulroney told him, "and the carbon tax is a tax."

But, again, she wants to hear what people think.

Well, sure. All the choices are awful. The possible solutions are deeper spending cuts, cancelling promised tax cuts, raising other taxes, or deficits.

Or stick with Brown's **plan**. The Progressive Conservative party has to decide what it's going to be, and it needs a leader who will tell us.
dreevely@postmedia.com twitter.com/davidreevely

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Mulroney prepared to change the Progressive Conservative platform

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$9,876

Reach: 361323 Page: A9

Caroline Mulroney is leaving the door open to changing the Progressive Conservative platform for the spring election if she's elected party leader March 10.

Saying many Conservatives feel "left out," Mulroney told supporters Monday night she needs more input before making any decisions on the People's Guarantee booklet of promises rolled out in November by former leader Patrick Brown, who resigned late last month amid allegations of sexual impropriety.

"Today's Day 1. I'm going to go out to talk to as many members as possible and find out what they're thinking," she added in a fireside-style chat with federal Conservative MP Lisa Raitt asking softball questions.

Queried on Brown's promise of a carbon tax to replace Premier Kathleen Wynne's **cap-and-trade** program to fight **climate** change, Mulroney said, "as a Conservative ... I don't like taxes" and noted there are two options - letting the federal government keep carbon tax revenues or letting **Ontario** control them.

Rules for the leadership race require candidates to support the platform but Mulroney rivals Doug Ford, a former city councillor, and former MPP Christine Elliott have both made statements opposing the carbon tax.

The Mulroney event at a Don Mills meeting hall attracted more than 250 people and politicians on a cold night.

They included MPPs John Yakabuski and Jeff Yurek along and city councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, the deputy mayor who is running in the June 7 provincial election against Liberal cabinet minister Michael Coteau in Don Valley East.

Minnan-Wong said he's backing the daughter of former prime minister Brian Mulroney because "she has that star potential I think people will find very attractive."

His dismissed Elliott's argument that she's battle-tested and ready after nine years as an MPP before retiring from politics in 2015.

"Christine Elliott, sure she has the experience, she has the experience of losing twice in leadership campaigns," he added, referring to Elliott's third-place finish behind Tim Hudak in 2009 and runner up to Brown three years ago.

Yurek said Mulroney brings "a difference" to the leadership race.

Despite her political pedigree, upbringing at 24 Sussex Drive, a Harvard education and four kids in private school, Mulroney should be able to connect with voters and is the party's best bet to defeat Wynne, he added.

"Dealing with the day-to-day struggles of raising four kids it doesn't matter where you come from. It's not easy."

Brown quit in the early morning hours of Jan. 25 hours following a CTV report accusing him of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls when he was the federal Conservative MP for Barrie.

Three days later, PC party president and Brown ally Rick Dykstra abruptly resigned over allegations of sexual assault of a Parliament Hill staffer in 2014 when he was the Conservative MP for St. Catharines, a seat he lost in the 2015 federal election.

Both men have denied the allegations, which have not been proven in court. No charges have been laid.

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They'll be the debt of us; Liberals go on \$7-billion election-year spending spree

Ottawa Sun - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$2,870

Reach: 45442 Page: A10

How bad is Kathleen Wynne's credit-card addiction? Prepare to be depressed.

Ontario Liberals ran deficits in 11 of their past 14 budgets, almost 80% of the time, a new Fraser Institute report by Ben Eisen reminds us.

Liberal deficits ranged from \$991 million to \$19.3 billion annually and averaged \$8.6 billion annually while Wynne and Dalton McGuinty held office.

Over the same period, Liberal program spending - excluding debt - increased from \$70 billion to \$130 billion, an 84.6% increase, almost double the 44% growth necessary to offset inflation and population growth.

And now, in an election year, Wynne's government has massively hiked spending - by \$7 billion over last year.

It's difficult to see that as anything but the craven, self-serving tactic of a government that cares primarily about clinging to **power** and little about the damage living beyond our collective means causes the province, or the debt it's heaping on future generations.

Over the past several months, the Wynne government has rolled out a succession of free-for-all campaign promises - free tuition, **hydro rate** cuts, free prescription meds for youth.

They are, of course, not free, and in fact come with an onerous price tag.

Provincial net debt has increased dramatically since the Liberals were elected in 2003, the Fraser report notes, currently some \$302 billion or \$21,500 for every soul in the province. Net debt stood at \$138 billion when the Liberals took **power**.

"Between 2003 and 2015, **Ontario** added more debt either per person or relative to the size of the economy than any other province in Canada and by quite a bit," Eisen said.

Following a period of "modest" spending restraint over the past four years (since the last election) the Liberals have returned in an election year where they're dogged by scandal and lousy poll numbers to spending money they don't have and piling on debt.

"The government, by its own accounting, is adding debt and the pace of debt accumulation hasn't even really slowed down in the past few years," Eisen said.

And that accounting is pretty loosey-goosey.

Ontario's Financial Accountability Office concluded last year that the Liberals were hiding a \$4-billion deficit this year, while claiming they would balance the province's books. The FAO estimated **Ontario's** actual deficits at \$4 billion this year, \$7 billion in 2019, \$9 billion in 2020 and almost \$10 billion in 2021; Provincial Auditor Bonnie Lysk calculated the Liberals' 25% **hydro rate** cut will cost \$4 billion in unnecessary interest payments, improperly took \$26 billion off the province's books and will drive up **rates** for 30 years.

Eisen, in his report "Repeating Past Mistakes? Spending Restraint Critical for **Ontario's** Fiscal Health" suggests the cold, hard facts clearly show the Liberals are living off a credit card.

"No matter how you slice it, no matter whose accounting you want to use, **Ontario's** government is continuing to rack up debt to the tune of about \$10 billion a year," he said.

"So the notion we're making huge fiscal progress is wishful thinking at best."

The most obvious consequence of higher debt is higher debt payments, which are poised to hit \$12 billion annually, eating up eight cents of every dollar in government revenue.

In context, families deal with this issue on a daily basis. The higher your house mortgage the less you have to spend on food, lights and other necessities - in **Ontario's** case, health care, education, transit, social housing and other critical services.

Neither is **Ontario's** economy growing as it should, as the rest of Canada is.

From 2003 to 2015, inflation adjusted per-person economic growth in **Ontario** averaged 0.5% annually, about half the growth **rate** in the rest of Canada.

Meanwhile, **Ontario** now has the highest **hydro rates** in Canada, the highest auto insurance premiums, the highest sub-sovereign debt in the world, and a declining auto and manufacturing sector.

Had the Liberals managed modest restraint over the term of government, more in line with GDP growth and inflation, program spending last year would have been \$20 billion to \$30 billion lower and the government would have been sitting on a \$19-billion to \$28-billion surplus, Eisen calculated in his report.

It was the road not taken, and all Ontarians will wear the price of that for years to come. jawallace@postmedia.com

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Ontario Conservatives supply good news/bad news jokes



Shoreline Beacon - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Jim Merriam

Ad Value: \$330

Reach: 3769 **Page:** A9

Patrick Brown was forced to resign as leader, just months before the next election and that's bad news. No, that's good news because Conservatives will set all their many differences aside and work together in semicrisis mode to bring the election home.

But that's bad news because it can't be done without an interim leader.

That's now good news, since the caucus wasted no time selecting the popular Vic Fideli as interim leader and they're set to go get 'em.

That's bad news because the party brass has thrown another obstacle in the road by deciding on a leadership contest before the June election.

No, that's good news - well actually we'll have to wait and see if there's any way to turn that questionable decision into good news.

The party should have given the interim leader the chance to lead until at least one year after the election.

As far as rural **Ontario** is concerned, Conservatives could run under the

leadership of one of my mules and still be successful.

It's not that the party under Brown was that popular. It's that Kathleen Wynne's approval ratings run somewhere around the temperature in **Ottawa** - minus a lot.

Since the Liberals were elected some 15 years ago the best times for rural **Ontario** have been when Queen's Park has neglected it.

But look out when the empty suits are paying attention. Take the destruction of the horse race industry and the thousands of rural jobs associated with it, as one example.

Then premier Dalton McGuinty put the dream of a super casino in **Toronto** ahead of the interests of horse owners, grooms, tack, feed suppliers and thousands of others who eked out a living **north** of Highway 7.

I believe McGuinty looked out the window of his speeding limo, saw white board fences around horse farms and concluded that they were all established as tax write-offs.

It mattered not a whit that that reasoning could be called a horses patootie and the industry and much of rural **Ontario** suffered as a result.

Then there's the ultimate slap in the face of rural residents, the suspension of any local input on the location of **wind** factories.

In the headlong rush to a green **energy** dream this government turned its back on rural residents in favour of offshore interests in the **wind energy** business.

The list of insults to rural **Ontario** goes on and on. However, there also are a lot of insults to urban residents of the province.

And that's where the unknowns are at play for the June vote.

Wynne and company have been spending wildly on issues such as the minimum wage and free drugs for the young to curry favour with voters.

The premier's lack of popularity in the boondocks will not be overcome by any of this but there is a possibility that urban voters will buy into these changes.

I carry no brief for the **Ontario** PCs. However, the NDP continues to show it doesn't have what it takes to form a government.

We can't afford any more years of Wynne running up huge deficits and selling our heritage the way she sold **Hydro** One.

Challenges or not, the Tories are the only party with any hope of bringing down the government.

Let's hope they don't trip over their own roadblocks.

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Make Ontario anti-tax again

National Post - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Christine Vangeyn

Ad Value: \$10,234

Reach: 159480 Page: FP11

The next leader of the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives needs to take a page

from Saskatchewan's playbook, and be a national leader against carbon taxes. Striking down the Kathleen Wynne cap-and-trade carbon tax is an obvious start. **Cap-and-trade** is overly bureaucratic, sends billions of dollars out of the province, to Quebec and California, and lacks transparency as it doesn't appear on **Ontario's** rising **energy** bills.

But **Ontario** families and businesses who pay for cap-and-trade deserve more than just its repeal. They deserve a commitment that the next premier will fight a deficit-laden federal government that wants to impose a carbon tax on them.

The Trudeau carbon tax as currently designed would actually cost more than the current problematic cap-and-trade tax. Experts predict that by 2022, cap-and-trade will cost households \$300 per year, while a higher federal carbon tax will cost households \$707 per year. For households with children, that cost rises to around \$900 per year.

When the PCs' former leader Patrick Brown announced that he would support a so-called "revenue neutral" carbon tax, it was without any consultation with grassroots party members. Instead, it was a **plan** concocted by backroom players who were somehow convinced that running on a pro-tax platform would make the PC party more electable.

Yet, the Brown carbon tax **plan** was unpopular with the PC base, and a poll last year found that voters were 58-per-cent less likely to support a candidate who supports a Brown-style direct carbon tax. This distaste was especially pronounced among PC and undecided voters. Hardly a winning strategy.

Continuing to promote the Brown fallacy of "revenue neutrality" will have devastating consequences for the PCs, and for **Ontario**. By 2022, a federal carbon tax will cost **Ontario** \$5.1 billion per year, and there is no guarantee the money will be returned to the taxpayers who paid it.

The Trudeau government's current carbon-tax **plan** does not require that money collected be given directly back to the provincial governments that do not have their own carbon tax. Instead, the federal government can provide rebates to prescribed individuals and corporations directly. This means an **Ontario** PC government may not have access to the federal carbon tax revenue if it repeals cap-and-trade and allows the federally imposed tax.

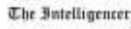
The old Brown election platform could not afford this. It was counting on the federal government imposing a carbon tax, and then providing those new billions in taxpayer money to the PCs to spend on their campaign promises. If the federal government spends that revenue, the PCs wouldn't be able to pursue Brown's promises, and they will have rolled over on the carbon tax for nothing.

With Brown gone, there is a chance for the PC party to dump the carbon-tax albatross and dramatically reduce its expensive campaign promises. This is entirely permitted within the leadership **rules** set out by the PC executive on February 1st. The **rules** require leadership candidates to support the aims, principles and objects of the PC party and the policy resolutions adopted at the recent policy convention. But the Brown carbon tax was never put to a vote by party membership at the fall policy convention, largely because the membership would never have supported it. Instead, a resolution was adopted committing the party to unwinding the **cap-and-trade** carbon tax and committed that all revenue from any federally imposed carbon tax would be returned to taxpayers. Based on the federal legislation, this door may be closed.

All leadership candidates are therefore free to - and must - campaign on a platform of fighting a federally imposed carbon tax, the way Saskatchewan's outgoing premier Brad Wall did and the way new his successor Scott Moe is now doing. **Ontario** should be a leader in our confederation in making **energy** more affordable, not a lemming running towards the same carbon-tax cliff as our prime minister.

Christine Van Geyn is **Ontario** director of the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation.

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Ontario loves scandalous Liberals

The Belleville Intelligencer - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$211

Reach: 9723 **Page:** B2

Although it is nice to see someone finally being found guilty of a serious crime regarding the \$1 billion politically motivated **gas** plant boondoggle, we are left wondering why no politician in the McGuinty/Wynne Liberal government has ever been held accountable for the numerous fiscal mismanagement that have taken place over the 13 years they have run **Ontario**.

For sure, moving the two **gas** plants to save a couple Liberals seats, then erasing any paper trail to destroy any evidence, is one of the most egregious actions by an **Ontario** government in its history. Considering Premier Wynne is now shelling out tens of billions in **Hydro** rebates, to buy back voters, it seems no lesson has been learned. Reckless spending, resulting in **Ontario** now being a have-not province, buried under an \$11 billion annual deficit and \$300 billion debt, has been the hallmark of spend-happy **Ontario** Liberal governments. It seems for many Ontarians they simply cannot get enough of this fiscal irresponsible and scandal ridden gang.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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Are Ontario's nuclear emergency plans dead in the water? - NOW Magazine

nowtoronto.com - Mon Feb 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

An accident at Pickering could poison Lake Ontario and downstream communities as far away as Montreal, yet a provincial study promised in 2013 to look at the risks has yet to materialize

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New grant will help reduce utility costs for patients receiving home hemodialysis

www.newswire.ca - Mon Feb 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

new grant is now available for people with chronic kidney disease in Ontario who manage their hemodialysis treatment in their own homes.

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THE SUN TIMES

Council wants MOECC manager at turbine meeting

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: \$531

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

Saugeen Shores council is inviting Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change district manager Rick Chappell to a **public** meeting about the Unifor **wind turbine** at Gobles Grove.

The **turbine** is the subject of more than 500 noise and health complaints from area residents.

The invitation is the town's latest salvo in a five-year quest for test results to determine if the **wind turbine** is operating in compliance with its MOECC licence.

Council made a unanimous request on Jan. 29 for Chappell to hear from them residents' concerns about night-time urban noise and indirect health effect complaints.

Councillors also want Chappell to explain the MOECC decision to not regulate those health effects -dizziness, vertigo, tinnitus, headache and nausea -and the noise.

The complaints, the MOECC decision to require mandatory testing, and legislative changes at Queen's Park that now ban turbines like the Unifor one are "very frustrating" for Coun. Dave Myette, who presented the motion, which was written by absent Coun. Mike Myatt.

Myette wants Chappell to explain why promised MOECC testing has not been fulfilled, and "why we continue to have people suffering on a daily basis."

"It is just another episode of a long series of bureaucratic shuffling the cards and nothing is coming up or being done," he said, adding the entire bureaucracy, from the premier on down, is hesitant or refuses to deal with **wind turbine** issues in Port Elgin or elsewhere in **Ontario**.

Mayor Mike Smith echoed the frustrations of his council, noting he'd met twice with the Environment minister, written letters, authorized freedom of information requests, and asked Unifor to halt **turbine** operations until test results are available -all to no avail, in light of the provincial government's **Green Energy Act**, which promotes **wind turbine** use.

"It's frustrating ... we will have the opportunity to express our feelings about the **Green Energy Act** later this year," Smith said, alluding to the June 7 provincial election.

Before the council debate, Greg Schmalz, founder of S.T.O.P. (Saugeen **Turbine** Operation Policy) spoke at the open forum session on behalf of residents "suffering" because of the **wind turbine** that sounds like "circling Chinook helicopters.

"We all want to arrive at solutions to problems or we wouldn't be doing what we are and it's very frustrating to have this regulatory confusion, but hopefully we will have less when Rick Chappell is questioned," Schmalz said, highly critical of a report later on the agenda from the **Ontario** Ombudsman in response to town demands for answers after years of MOECC inaction on complaints.

A letter from an **Ontario** Ombudsman investigator said it understands the **turbine** testing has been lengthy and with repeated delays, and that the MOECC told Unifor it expects a full acoustic audit to be completed, and the results shared with the town, in order to determine compliance with MOECC noise

guidelines.

Deputy-mayor Luke Charbonneau said he was "fairly disappointed" with the Ombudsman's report, which just reiterated past history in the file, and complained the MOECC doesn't have an issue with provincial **turbine** legislation that created a Catch-22, making it impossible for communities with concerns to get redress.

"The ministry can't prove that a **turbine** is non-compliant without an audit, and can't demand an audit until they prove the **turbine** is noncompliant," Charbonneau said.

Mayor Smith said determining **turbine** compliance will dictate what happens next.

"People come to us expecting protection, and for us to do something -asking the manager to come is us trying to do something, but we don't have the sticks or **power** to do what is needed," Smith said.

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Taxpayers left in wind

The Beacon Herald

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Stapleford

Ad Value: \$100

Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

It was ominous when we saw the collapse of a **wind turbine** last week, wondering if this is a harbinger of things to come. The shattered debris got me to thinking - we have all bought electronics and on our bill is a disposal/recycling fee that we pay up front. A shattered **wind turbine** is a different animal and I'm wondering what the disposal fee was that **hydro** users paid on their bills for each and every **turbine**.

Who cleans this up and how quickly? What is so ironic in the Liberals'reckless pursuit of green **energy** and recycling is that the carbon fibre blades cannot be recycled and will never disintegrate in the landfill they are destined for. Where are our disposal fees going?

David Stapleford

London

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Family feels 'abandoned'

Chatham Daily News

The Chatham Daily News - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$771

Reach: 15320 **Page:** A3

Jessica and Paul Brooks are among 14 property owners living within the **North Kent 1 Wind Farm** area who believe the vibrations caused by construction activity to erect the industrial **wind** turbines damaged their water wells.

They are also among some property owners in the area who have found out, in writing, the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change doesn't share this belief.

A press conference was held at the home of the Brooks, who are members of the grassroots citizen group Water Wells First, to discuss the impact this will have as they continue to grapple with their continued reliance on a portable water tank because their well remains clogged with sediment.

Now they fear the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change's finding that the developer of the project, Korean industrial giant Samsung **Renewable Energy** and its American partner, Pattern **Energy**, means the developer no longer has to provide them with that water tank.

"I was surprised at how shocked and devastated I was," Jessica Brooks said about receiving the ministry report, which states the pile driving involved in erecting the turbines is not to blame for the problem experienced with their well.

"I think part of me was hoping my government would step up and do the right thing," Brooks added.

"We don't know why it's not their fault, but it's not their fault," she said of the Environment Ministry's defence of the **wind** developer.

For well over a year, Water Wells First has raised the alarm that pile driving into the Kettle Point black shale, known to contain harmful heavy metals, including arsenic, mercury and lead, will cause serious problems.

Brooks also finds it disturbing the report they received from the ministry is filled with references to water testing and sampling and vibration monitoring conducted by the **wind** developer's own consultants.

"I feel abandoned by my government," she said, adding gov-ernment is supposed to protect its citizens - and it's not.

The ministry correspondence to the Brooks states that after reviewing the reports from the **wind** developer's consultants, "the ministry concludes that any piledriving-induced vibrations that may have reached your well would have been less than other common daily sources, and would not have caused the water quality issues you are experiencing."

The Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change suggests that advice be obtained from a licensed well contractor to evaluate the condition of the well and to provide recommendations to resolve the water quality issue.

Water Wells First spokesperson Kevin Jakubec told reporters six families have received a similar letter and report from the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change and more are expected to arrive.

He pointed to the results of an **independent** analysis of the Brooks'water done by RTI Laboratories in Michigan, which showed the level of black shale prior to pile driving was a mere 47 particles per millilitre, a normal amount. However, he noted that soared to nearly 682,000 particles per millilitre during pile driving, many of which are so microscopic in size that they can't be seen with the naked eye.

Jakubec is calling area Progressive Conservative MPPs Rick Nicholls and Monte McNaughton to "immediately confront the minister of environment and demand a full background of this MOECC decision to accept Samsung's reporting on face value.

"It is unethical for a ministry - a branch of government - to allow a polluter to self police itself when human health is at stake," he added.

Water Wells First is getting support from **Essex** MPP Tara Natyshak, who has sent a letter to both the provincial environment and health ministers calling on the **Liberal** government to "immediately undertake a healthhazard investigation

at the **wind** farm site."

Citing that the NDP believe water is a **public** trust, Natyshak said the party has called for a provincial water strategy that would ensure government policy puts the **public** interest first, ahead of commercial interests that threaten the **public's** access to clean and safe drinking water.

His letter adds it is "unacceptable that Samsung, with the approval of the provincial government, seems to be treating **North** Kent as a sacrifice zone, as it uses disruptive construction methods that may be affecting the local water table and the health of residents who depend on it."

The citizen group Wallaceburg Area **Wind** Concerns also issued a statement Monday demanding the Environment Ministry take action.

"The ministry response to the damaged wells in **North** Kent is not good enough," said spokesperson Violet Towell.

She noted her group fears the same water-well problems will arise when construction begins on the Otter Creek **Wind** project, which is being built on the same Kettle Point black shale geology.

If the situation doesn't change, Jakubec said all options are on the table from legal action, such as a judicial **review** of the ministry's decision to civil disobedience if water tanks are removed from properties where wells have been impacted.

He said the ministry "seems incapable of admitting they made a mistake and are unwilling to correct that mistake." [@DailyNewsES](mailto:eshreve@postmedia.com)

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Is Unifor turbine operating in compliance?; Neighbours suffer health issues and noise like 'circling Chinooks'

Shoreline Beacon - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: \$569

Reach: 3769 **Page:** A4

Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change (MOECC) Manager Rick Chappell will be in the hot seat -if he accepts an invitation to a face-to-face **public** meeting in the Saugeen Shores council chambers to talk about operations of the Unifor **wind turbine** in Gobles Grove, the source of 500-plus noise and adverse health complaints from area residents.

The invitation is the Town's latest salvo in a frustrating five-year quest for test results to determine if the **wind turbine** is operating in compliance with its MOECC licence. At the Town's Jan. 29 council meeting, a unanimous request to Chappell to hear from council, firsthand, residents' concerns with night-time urban noise and indirect health effects.

Councillors also want Chappell to explain the MOECC decision to not regulate those health effects -dizziness vertigo, tinnitus, headache and nausea -and the noise, described as the sound of "circling Chinook helicopters" by one **turbine** opponent.

The complaints, the MOECC decision to require mandatory testing, and legislative changes at Queen's Park that ban turbines like the Unifor one due to **power** output and lack of buffer from homes, are "very frustrating" for Coun. Dave Myette, who presented the Motion, written by absent Coun. Mike Myatt. Coun. Myette wants Chappell to explain why promised MOECC testing has not been

fulfilled, and "why we continue to have people suffering on a daily basis."

"It is just another episode of a long series of bureaucratic shuffling the cards and nothing is coming up or being done," he said, adding the entire bureaucracy, from the Premier on down, is hesitant or refuses to deal with **wind turbine** issues in Port Elgin, or anywhere else in **Ontario**.

Mayor Mike Smith echoed the frustrations of his council, noting he'd met twice with the Minister, written letters, authorized Freedom of Information requests, and asked Unifor to halt **turbine** operations until test results are available - all to no avail, in light of the PC government's signature legislation, the **Green Energy Act** that promotes **wind turbine** use.

"It's frustrating. we will have the opportunity to express our feelings about the **Green Energy Act** later this year," Smith said, alluding to the June 7 provincial election.

Before the Council debate, Greg Schmalz, founder of S.T.O.P. (Saugeen Shores **Turbine** Operation Policy) spoke at the Open Forum session on behalf of residents who have, and are, "suffering" because of this **wind turbine** tat sounded like "circling Chinook helicopters.

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"The Ministry can't prove that a **turbine** is non-compliant without an audit, and can't demand an audit until they prove the **turbine** is non-compliant " Charbonneau said.

After the meeting, Mayor Smith said determining **turbine** compliance will dictate what happens next. He said the most frustrating part of the issue is knowing that two people were forced to move from their homes near the Unifor **turbine** because of health issues.

"People come to us expecting protection, and for us to do something - asking the Manager to come is us trying to do something, but we don't have the sticks or **power** to do what is needed," Smith said.

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SUMA to tackle environmental issues, emergency response during annual convention - Saskatchewan - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Feb 5 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association's (SUMA) annual convention kicked off Sunday in Regina.

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