

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: February 7, 2018 7:54 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, February 7, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 13 Results



Festival Hydro Begins Phone Survey - My Stratford Now

www.mystratfordnow.com - Tue Feb 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, February 6, 2018
 OEB is mentioned.

Festival Hydro wants to know if you're keeping electrical safety in mind.



End the secrecy

Toronto Star - Wed Feb 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$9,958

Reach: 361323 Page: A12

It's bad enough that **Toronto Hydro**, the city's publicly owned **power** provider, has been working for two years to suppress information on an abandoned push to privatize the company. The **ratepayer**-funded ...



Assembly Moves Towards Intervention With Hydro One - KINY

www.kinyradio.com - Tue Feb 6 2018

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Assembly Members are concerned that if the city doesn't participate in negotiations now, it hurt hurt rate payers in the future.



Ontario loves scandalous Liberals

North Bay Nugget - Wed Feb 7 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: \$202

Reach: 11505 **Page:** A5

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Conservative carbon tax reversal still possible in Ontario

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Caroline Mulroney touts major change for party in first campaign event | CTV News

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As pipelines create provincial rifts, Trudeau needs to unite Canada

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Martha Hall Findlay is president and CEO of the Canada **West** Foundation Are we a country? At issue is far more than the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, or a spat between provinces. A fundamental underpinning of our confederation is at ...



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Government needs to stop the charade around energy development – The Oshawa Express

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Energy East is mentioned.

The charade taking place now concerning the Kinder Morgan pipeline should not be fooling anybody who has paid attention to the actual desires of (Alberta Premier Rachel) Notley, (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau, and (BC Premier John) Horgan.



Do Notley and Trudeau really want a pipeline built — or are they quietly glad BC is blocking it? - The Rebel

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On Trans Mountain, Trudeau needs to become a leader for all of Canada - The Globe and Mail

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Full Articles



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It's bad enough that **Toronto Hydro**, the city's publicly owned **power** provider, has been working for two years to suppress information on an abandoned push to privatize the company. The **ratepayer**-funded agency should, by default, be open and transparent.

But more troubling still are the repeated failures of our city's political leadership even to encourage the company's board to do the right thing.

Take the unfortunate fate of city Councillor Gord Perks' motion, tabled last week, to force **Toronto Hydro** finally to release information about a behind-the-scenes privatization push in 2016, the subject of a longstanding Star freedom of information request, and about how much money the company has spent since then to oppose that request.

These are not insignificant details. The arm's-length agency hired lobbyists, at some **public** expense, in its unsuccessful effort to encourage council to support a privatization **plan**. At what cost did it pursue this, without any **public** mandate? And how much has it spent since then on consultants, including blue chip **Bay** St. law firm Norton Rose Fulbright Canada, in fighting the Star's push for transparency?

These are the questions Perks sought to answer with his motion, yet sadly it never got to a vote. Instead, council approved, 20 to 18, an alternative motion put forward by Councillor Stephen Holyday, who sits on **Hydro Toronto**'s board of directors, and with the active support of Mayor John Tory. That motion calls on the agency merely to consider the request for transparency. It does not even compel a response.

The stated reason for undermining Perks' effort was that Holyday wanted to ensure the city did not compromise the independence of the arm's length agency by big-footing its board into disclosing the information. "I take no position on whether the information should be released," Holyday said. "I'm more interested in governance."

There is some irony in citing good governance as a reason not to fight for

transparency, a central tenet of good governance. But in any case, surely councillors could have at least used moral suasion to encourage the board to come clean. Surely they could have made their request harder to ignore.

The mayor, in particular, should tread carefully here, given his interests in this case. The Star revealed last year that some of Tory's senior staff and advisers led the push toward a partial sale of the **utility** and that **Toronto Hydro** hired two former senior Tory advisers to lobby council to consider a sell-off.

The mayor's office, invoking the governance issue, called Holyday's motion the "reasonable and sensible option." But Tory must also be aware of the appearance that he may have other reasons not to want this information to come to light.

If he feels it would be wrong, for governance reasons, to force the board to disclose the documents in question, he should at least use his position of moral leadership to explicitly encourage the company to come clean. It is in all of our interests that this information about the use of **public** funds be released so that we might consider whether they were truly used for the **public** good.

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To the editor: Although it's 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 incidents of 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 Liberal 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 Kathleen 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 fiscally irresponsible and scandal-ridden gang.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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Conservative carbon tax reversal still possible in Ontario

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To the editor: One must remember our now premier has been in cabinet since 2003 and must be held accountable.

A look at the Liberal record: They added the **HST** on just about everything we purchase, including home heating fuel, then they added a carbon tax on just about everything we buy, including a 4.3 cent a litre carbon tax to home heating oil and **gasoline**. Then we must pay **HST** on top of the carbon tax so now we are paying tax on a tax.

When the Liberals took office, our provincial debt was roughly \$138 billion. Today our provincial debt is close to \$312 billion and is predicted to rise to \$370 billion by 2020-21.

The Liberals claim they balanced the budget for the first time in a decade but the auditor general says the books are not balanced, which is backed up by the Financial Accountability Office report of a \$4-billion deficit.

Hydro was 4.3 cent a kWh before they took office. Now it is 6.5 cents a kWh on low peak, 9.5 cents on mid peak and 13.2 cents on peak. And this is with the so-called **Fair Hydro Plan** of a 25 per cent discount to produce \$24 billion in temporary **hydro** relief which will cost a minimum \$45 billion over 29 years if the government can balance the budget 29 consecutive years, which will never happen.

Only the Wynne Liberals would spend a minimum of \$45 billion to produce \$24 billion in temporary **hydro** relief. This is a very costly election bribe.

Why did **hydro rates** go up so much? Let's start with the Liberals refusal to buy cheap Quebec **hydro** for pennies a kWh in 2010 as they wanted to be a world-leader in **wind** and **solar power**, which they never achieved, and chose to sign 20-year contracts for **solar power** up to 80 cents a kWh and up to 40 cents a kWh for **wind power** on 20-year contracts.

In 2014 and 2015 **OPG** had diverted or spilled water at our hydroelectric dams to fully supply 350,000 homes each year, but we still paid paid **wind** and **solar** farms not to produce **hydro** while we exported **hydro** for free or at little cost, costing taxpayers \$1.25 billion annually. What is Premier Wynne's answer to this - purchase more excess **hydro** for **Ontario** from Quebec at a cost of \$1 billion a year for seven years, meaning we will be exporting more **hydro** at a loss.

One has to remember our now premier has been in cabinet since 2003 when the Liberals took office, so you decide if she deserves four more years.

Ross Ayotte

Smiths Falls

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Caroline Mulroney touts major change for party in first campaign event | CTV News

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Tone: **Neutral**

Mulroney, who is up against former MPP Christine Elliott and former Toronto city councillor Doug Ford, said she would also support cuts in hydro rates and child care rebates if elected as the next premier.

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PAUL MCDONALD

(Trudeau is more interested in leaving the country than he is accepting responsibility for his government's actions)

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As pipelines create provincial rifts, Trudeau needs to unite Canada

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Martha Hall Findlay is president and CEO of the Canada **West** Foundation

Are we a country?

At issue is far more than the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, or a spat between provinces. A fundamental underpinning of our confederation is at risk and the longer the federal government refuses to fight for it itself, the more our federation is diminished. The consequences for the country are dire.

Our 150th anniversary year had barely ended when the government of British Columbia decided, by refusing to allow the expansion of Kinder Morgan Canada Corp.'s Trans Mountain pipeline, that our constitution does not apply to it. Constitutionally, the project is a federal undertaking. It is national infrastructure, in the national interest.

The B.C. government's action is not only unacceptable, it is more than a little rich coming from a province that, as a condition of joining confederation, insisted on getting national infrastructure - the railroad.

Extending that national infrastructure through British Columbia to the sea allowed B.C. to be the gateway for the rest of Canada to the Pacific and beyond.

Vancouver would not exist in any way resembling its success today without that connection from the rest of Canada. Grain, wood, fish, minerals, livestock, manufactured products and, yes, oil and **gas** - without the ability to transport the fruits of our labours across the country and beyond, in multiple directions, neither B.C. nor Canada as a whole would be as successful as we are, collectively, today. The key word is "collectively."

The drafters of our constitution 150 years ago understood the local pressures politicians faced, the temptation to succumb to them, but at the same time, the need to protect the national interest. Section 92 of the constitution sets out all of the provincial powers, but specifically reserves to the federal Parliament key jurisdiction over shipping lines, railways, canals, telegraphs and other works or undertakings (including, today, pipelines) that connect one province with any other, or beyond. They recognized that, as important as local matters can be (and how tempting they can be for political gain), they cannot be allowed to usurp national interests.

Someone needs to remind British Columbia - and all Canadians - of that. And that someone needs to be the federal government. The Prime Minister was recently quoted as saying, "I'm not going to opine on disagreements between the provinces." This is not - and must not be portrayed as - a battle between two provinces. This is about Canada. It is unfair, inappropriate and sets a dangerous precedent to have one province, in this case Alberta, defend what is in the national interest.

This is not just because the whole country benefits economically from our **energy** industries.

This is because issues of national interest warrant national action.

The consequences, if the federal government fails to take firm action now, will affect far more than any one industry or region.

This project and too many others have run into delay after delay after delay. Some for good reasons, and improvements have been made. That is how the system is supposed to work. But after all of the delays, all of the community-benefit money committed, all of the years of work to ensure economic participation by virtually all of the Indigenous communities involved (and obtaining their support) - it would be completely understandable if Kinder Morgan, as with the proponents of **Energy** East, simply gave up.

We cannot let that happen.

Not only would losing this particular piece of infrastructure have immediate negative consequences for the country, it would set a devastating precedent. Special-interest groups would feel empowered to ignore the law.

And the message to any potential investor, domestic or foreign, would be that, like the so-called banana republics of the past, Canada cannot be trusted. The certainty so crucial for investment, already questionable, will be gone.

The Prime Minister has also suggested that if British Columbia prevents the pipeline expansion, the federal government will scrap the promised \$1.5-billion Ocean Protection **Plan**. This is a mistake. First, because insisting on building something that is in the national interest should not need such a quid pro quo. But Canada's coastlines need the protection **plan**, regardless of whether project is completed.

We need both. Neither should be dependent on the other.

The federal government has said it supports the Trans Mountain expansion But words alone are insufficient. It must act - and act now. This is about far more than a pipeline. It is whether we will stand up for some of the most basic elements of being a country. The federal government's job - the Prime Minister's job - is to protect and defend Canada, the prosperity of Canadians and to act in Canada's national interest. The country needs you to do so. Now, before we do our country irreparable harm.

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Let the oil flow

National Post - Wed Feb 7 2018

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Recent articles in the National Post address the current situation regarding the Trans Mountain Pipeline as an economic necessity for all of Canada. As a resident of Quebec, I couldn't agree more.

The production and responsible **distribution** of oil and **gas** to all parts of our Country would result in tremendous economic benefits for all Canadians. The previous Harper government made an honest attempt to facilitate these projects but was frustrated at every turn by radical environmentalists, Indigenous activists, self-serving provincial governments and an unsympathetic press. Unfortunately, no more so than in Quebec where they demonized the **Energy** East Pipeline project even though they experienced a terrible tragedy with oil transported by train. Quebec would rather import oil from Venezuela and the Middle East and have it shipped up the Saint Lawrence by large tankers. An ecological disaster waiting to happen.

The only pipeline that Quebec will tolerate is the one where massive equalization payments flow through from **Ottawa** courtesy of Western Canada's wealth. So, contrary to Mr. Iverson, Justin Trudeau isn't showing any leadership on this matter by holding a town-hall meeting in B.C. where he couldn't even stand down a few hecklers. I can assure you that if Trudeau tried to use constitutional powers to force Quebec on any pipeline project, he would make his father's infamous National **Energy** Program look like a mere irritant. Ed Lacelle, Gatineau, Que.

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Government needs to stop the charade around energy development – The Oshawa Express

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