John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: December 13, 2016 8:53 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Ceiran Bishop; Christine Long; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: FW: OEB Morning News Summary - Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Good morning,

Here is the OEB news summary for Tuesday, Dec. 13.

OVERVIEW

Keith Leslie wrote a piece for The Canadian Press yesterday about The Auditor General's Report and the OEB's response to a call to clarify Global Adjustment on hydro bills. Leslie uses the OEB's response directly from the AG report to form his story and state the board is rejecting the call from the AG. Leslie did not contact the OEB for comment on this prior to publishing the story. It was picked up by a large number of local outlets across Ontario in addition to a number of national outlets including Global, CTV and The National Post. It was also updated later in the evening, which quotes Dan Moulton from the Minister's office, who said the Ministry would not be asking the OEB to break out the charge. The updated version of the story can be read here: http://globalnews.ca/news/3121962/ontario-energy-board-rejects-auditors-call-to-clarify-global-adjustment-on-hydro-bills/?sf46275827=1 This article was also highly shared on social media, including by several members of the media (see below).

PC Energy Critic John Yakabuski was also quoted yesterday saying the OEB's response to the Auditor General's request is "dismissive and insulting to the intelligence of consumers" and also called for cap and trade to be broken out on natural gas bills. He also criticizes the OEB's independence. His comments can be viewed here: http://www.iheartradio.ca/newstalk-1010/news/ontario-energy-board-will-not-break-down-your-electricity-bills-1.2269340

The Toronto Sun's Anthony Furey wrote another piece on hydro, focusing on how high energy prices hurt people even more during the Christmas/winter season because families have to keep the house warm and feed the kids while they're home from school during the break. He interviews volunteers from the Heat Bank Haliburton, a community initiative delivering wood to neighbours who can't pay their energy bills. They tell stories from winter 2015, where the Heat Bank saw residents burning their furniture and wearing snowsuits indoors to heat their homes. The article also mentions a Facebook group called Ontario Proud, which has been posting videos and content about the energy issue in Ontario and getting a lot of traction. The Facebook page can be visited here: https://www.facebook.com/OntarioProud/

FLAGGED FOR DISCUSSION

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

- CP Story on Global Adjustment
- Anthony Furey Story

SOCIAL MEDIA

The following are a sample of tweets that were sent out by media and others after Keith Leslie's story was published. Other media also retweeted and shared the story. Lorrie Goldstein's tweet received 59 retweets and more than 100 total engagements.

Lorrie Goldstein @sunlorrie
What a totally useless body: Ontario Energy Board rejects clarifying global adjustment charge https://t.co/0lZ1UNDRK8 #onpoli

Reply / **Retweet** / **Like** 2016-12-12 17:47:17

NEWSTALK1010 @NEWSTALK1010
PC energy critic: The OEB is insulting your intelligence https://t.co/GOiBNvemQzhttps://t.co/zFjD0AUHU1

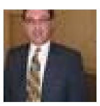
Reply / **Retweet** / **Like** 2016-12-12 16:54:56

Keith Leslie @CPnewsboy
Update from @CdnPress Ontario Energy Bd won't break out the Global Adjustment charge on electricity bills. #onpoli https://t.co/HWk3FY0zL4

Reply / **Retweet** / **Like** 2016-12-12 15:52:35

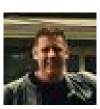
Francesca Dobbyn @Francesca__ah_
RT @CTVBarrieNews: Ontario Energy Board has decided it will not be showing you the cost of the “global adjustment fee” on hydro bills.https…

Reply / **Retweet** / **Like** 2016-12-12 21:32:24



Mike Anton (@mahabs4life)

2016-12-12, 7:42 PM
So much for transparency? Ontario Energy Board rejects clarifying global adjustment charge | Ontario | New torontosun.com/2016/12/12/ont…



Platypusfetch (@MGrassie)

2016-12-13, 8:31 AM
Read this and then answer; In your opinion, is the #OntarioEnergyBoard doing their job? ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Industry/A…

From: Infomart Newsletters
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 7:58 AM
To: Jeff Blay
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, December 13, 2016

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016
Edited by: Lyan Khazanchi (**Lyan.Khazanchi@ontarioenergyboard.ca**)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 20 Results

Clarify hydro bills? No, says OEB

www.thespec.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

The Ontario Energy Board is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on electricity bills.

CTV Toronto: Board won't show cost on hydro bill | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Peterborough mayor lays out the reasons why councillors voted to sell PDI

www.mykawartha.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

Mr. Flanagan, Thank you for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns.In response I offer the following. While Hydro One had historical customer service problems, the statistics collected by the Ontario Energy Board show that the ...

Public can scrutinize power line plan - Chronicle Journal: Local News

www.chroniclejournal.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

The next stage in a process scrutinizing a proposed $500-million, high-voltage transmission line between Thunder Bay and Wawa powers up next week.

Liberals revive Energy East with panel picks

www.ourperth.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

OTTAWA — Federal Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr has moved to revive the stalled review of TransCanada's Energy East pipeline by appointing three new, bilingual, temporary members to the National Energy Board.

Resident still has many concerns over sale of PDI

www.mykawartha.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

I write this letter with great respect for the tough decision you are faced with on selling PDI. I am not in favour of the sale for the following reasons and concerns. My number one issue is a huge mistrust of Hydro One. Their record is terrible ...

Cap-and-trade raising natural gas bills Jan. 1 - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Lyan Khazanchi noted on Tuesday, December 13, 2016
OEB mentioned.

The company that distributes natural gas in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario has applied for a rate increase related to the cost of complying with Ontario's cap-and-trade system.

Sky high energy prices will hurt people this winter | Furey | Columnists | Opini

www.torontosun.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

“Christmas is actually the worst time for these people,” John Teljeur tells me. “It means they have to keep the house warm and feed the kids while they’re home from school.”

Peterborough mayor lays out the reasons why councillors voted to sell PDI

Peterborough This Week - Mon Dec 12 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $121
Reach: 47038

Mayor Daryl Bennett wrote this response to a resident concerned about the sale of PDI. Mr. Flanagan, Thank you for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns.In response I offer the following. While Hydro One ...

HydroOne is not as bad as it seems. It's worse.

Peterborough This Week · Mon Dec 12 2016
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $23
Reach: 47038

To the editor: As a owner of a 10K solar system and a hydro one customer, I want to welcome Peterborough, Lakefield, and Norwood aboard. It's not as bad as you think, believe me it's worse. What puzzles me is Mayor ...

HydroOne Hogwash

Toronto Sun · Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Mark Glatt

Ad Value: $949
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "Reasons not to sell Hydro One" (Fred Hahn, Dec. 9): What pure and utter hogwash! The only reason society has started to "move away from oil and gas" is because jurisdictions like California are forcing ...

Hydro dam project forces expropriation of B.C. farm family

Waterloo Region Record · Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Dirk Meissner

Ad Value: $2,960
Reach: 63465 **Page:** B4

The home of a family staunchly opposed to the Site C dam will be seized under British Columbia's Expropriation Act to make way for the controversial hydroelectric project, says BC Hydro's president and chief executive officer. Jessica McDonald said ...

Energy board snubs watchdog

Toronto Sun · Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,363
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A13

The Ontario Energy Board is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on electricity bills. The global adjustment is levied to cover the gap ...

Ontario Energy Board rejects auditor’s call to clarify global adjustment on hydro bills | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca · Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

TORONTO – The Ontario Energy Board is rejecting a call from the province’s auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on electricity bills.

Energy board refuses auditor's call to clarify bills

National Post - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,762
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A9

The **Ontario Energy Board** is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on **electricity** bills. The charge is levied to cover the gap between the ...

Ottawa announces new National Energy Board members to review Energy East pipeline - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr has announced the appointment of three new temporary National Energy Board members to review TransCanada's Energy East pipeline.

In Inuvik, a lifeline that never arrived; Town of 3,300 faces uncertain future following repeated delays of $7b mackenzie gas project

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jesse Snyder

Ad Value: $13,607
Reach: 114846 **Page:** N4

"I'm older than this town," Fred Carmichael says as he steers his lumbering Ford F-350 truck through a residential neighbourhood of Inuvik, N.W.T. But Carmichael, 81, is among a shrinking generation of Gwich'in who remember when this small northern ...

Auditor general misses the mark on climate change

Toronto Star - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Stewart Elgie, Dave Sawyer and Scott Vaughan Stewart Elgie is a professor of law and economics at the University of Ottawa and director of the Institute of the Environment. Dave Sawyer is president of EnviroEconomics and conducted the economic modelling

Ad Value: $26,897
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A13

Public watchdogs are a hallmark of good governance in Canada. Our constellation of independent bean counters and audit professionals hold governments to account, ensuring they deliver value for money. As governments across Canada implement ...

Trudeau's climate 'deal': all pain, no gain; Canada's climate deal is going to cost Canadians billions - and it won't make the slightest dent in global emissions

theglobeandmail.com - Tue Dec 13 2016, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARGARET WENTE
Reach: 1188000

How much is moral leadership worth? We'll never know for sure. What we do know is that the price tag will be steep. Justin Trudeau's new **climate** deal with the provinces will cost Canadians many, many billions ...

New members of neb may get energy east review on track

National Post - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,855
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP3

The government has appointed three new bilingual members to the National Energy Board in a move that could get the Energy East pipeline review back on track. The appointments by Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr, ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Clarify hydro bills? No, says OEB

www.thespec.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

The Ontario Energy Board is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on electricity bills.

Back to Top

CTV Toronto: Board won't show cost on hydro bill | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

Back to Top

Peterborough mayor lays out the reasons why councillors voted to sell PDI

www.mykawartha.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

Mr. Flanagan,

Thank you for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns.In response I offer the following.

While Hydro One had historical customer service problems, the statistics collected by the Ontario Energy Board show that the company has corrected this situation over the last couple of years. Its customer service metrics for the last two years are comparable to the stats for PDI

Back to Top

Public can scrutinize power line plan - Chronicle Journal: Local News

www.chroniclejournal.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

The next stage in a process scrutinizing a proposed $500-million, high-voltage transmission line between Thunder Bay and Wawa powers up next week.

Back to Top

Liberals revive Energy East with panel picks

www.ourperth.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**

OTTAWA — Federal Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr has moved to revive the stalled review of TransCanada's Energy East pipeline by appointing three new, bilingual, temporary members to the National Energy Board.

Back to Top

Resident still has many concerns over sale of PDI

www.mykawartha.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**

I write this letter with great respect for the tough decision you are faced with on selling PDI.

I am not in favour of the sale for the following reasons and concerns.

My number one issue is a huge mistrust of Hydro One. Their record is terrible as outlined by the Ontario Ombudsman and Ontario Provincial Auditor's report which were issued in 2015. They cited poor customer service, high rates and reliability issues.

Back to Top

Cap-and-trade raising natural gas bills Jan. 1 - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**

The company that distributes natural gas in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario has applied for a rate increase related to the cost of complying with Ontario's cap-and-trade system.

Back to Top

Sky high energy prices will hurt people this winter | Furey | Columnists | Opini

www.torontosun.com - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: **Neutral**

“Christmas is actually the worst time for these people,” John Teljeur tells me. “It means they have to keep the house warm and feed the kids while they're home from school.”

Back to Top

Peterborough mayor lays out the reasons why councillors voted to sell PDI

Peterborough This Week · Mon Dec 12 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $121
Reach: 47038

Mayor Daryl Bennett wrote this response to a resident concerned about the sale of PDI.

Mr. Flanagan,

Thank you for taking the time to write and for expressing your concerns.In response I offer the following.

While Hydro One had historical customer service problems, the statistics collected by the Ontario Energy Board show that the company has corrected this situation over the last couple of years. Its customer service metrics for the last two years are comparable to the stats for PDI. Network reliability statistics for the Hydro One distribution network in the Peterborough area is comparable to the statistics for reliability for the PDI network (number of outages, duration of outages) according to information compiled by Navigant on behalf of the City.

The stories in the newspaper illustrate a much larger trend that affects more than Hydro One customers. The cost of electricity is too high for some residents to afford and the existing programs to help the most vulnerable in our communities to afford their electricity bills aren't as effective as they need to be. This is an income redistribution/social assistance issue. Disconnections are a last resort after repeated failures by customers to pay their bills. These are companies that have expenses. They are required to work with customers to try to resolve payment difficulties, however if it can't be resolved disconnection is a final resort. Interestingly and out of necessity, PDI cuts off power to a larger percentage of its customer base than Hydro One does.

PDI had 889 disconnections in 2015, or 2.45% of its customer base. Hydro One disconnections affected 0.78% of its customer base.

The issue of penalties for failure to meet any terms of the agreement was raised at the last public meeting on this matter. City staff assured Council that there will be penalties as part of the legal agreement, should Council decide to proceed.

The Ontario Energy Board does have the final say on the distribution, as you note. However the Ontario Energy Board also has final say on the transaction agreement. The initial five years with the 1% rate reduction and five year freeze along with the commitment for the second five year period with increases capped at inflation would be included in the application to the Ontario Energy Board for the sale of PDI to Hydro One. An external, independent expert in the sector has advised that this offer will meet the mandate of the Ontario Energy Board, which wants to keep rates low for customers. This part of the offer would see distribution rates increase by 6% over that 10 year period under Hydro One compared to 28% increase expected under PDI for that same period.

The one year guarantee is to provide job security, along with the transfer of seniority. How many jobs are guaranteed at all for any length of time? This is a one year location guarantee with the full expectation that all employees will be kept on. What the guarantee allows for is that if a position in PDI doesn't fit within the job mapping for Hydro One, that employee will have the location guarantee and the time to either transition to another similar position in Hydro One in Peterborough or choose to pursue other opportunities in the company. At the last couple of public meetings, a Hydro One worker who transitioned with the Woodstock power company mentioned how Woodstock finished its first year with Hydro One earlier this year and all of the Woodstock employees are still in Woodstock with Hydro One, except two, including her, who chose to pursue opportunities elsewhere with the company. Hydro One said this is fully the expectation with PDI as they will need all the PDI employees. The offer provides for maintaining the existing 70 **Hydro** One employees in Peterborough, maintaining the 60 PDI employees plus creating an additional 30 new positions at the new Regional Operations Centre to provided services in this part of the province.

Hydro One sees value in acquiring PDI as it will be able to create efficiencies and savings across its network in this region by utilizing the PDI network. It would be acquiring $70 million worth of assets for $105 million. Its investment would be about $35 million above the value of the assets. A company that has 1.35 million customers creates certain efficiencies across the system compared to a company of 36,000 customers. That is why the province wants to consolidate the number of distribution companies down to six or eight with a minimum customer base of 400,000, which it says will achieve $1.3 billion worth of efficiencies and savings that can be passed on to the customers. In the Peterborough situation, for example, the new subdivisions on Lily Lake Road in the City of Peterborough will actually be in **Hydro** One territory, not in PDI's service area.

The questions from the poll you referenced include:

1: Currently, PDI is responsible to Peterborough's elected city council. This means our council has a say in how quickly workers respond to **power** outages. If PDI is sold to **Hydro** One, it would then only be responsible to **Hydro** One's Toronto-based shareholders. What impact do you think this would have on the reliability of our **electricity**?

That is incorrect. Council has no ability to set the performance expectations for PDI workers.

2: PDI currently generates income every year for the city of Peterborough and that money goes towards libraries, road maintenance, and social services. If PDI is sold, Peterborough would get a one-time payout from the sale, but would no longer get any ongoing annual income from PDI. if you want your councillor to vote to sell off PDI, press 1. If you want your city councillors to vote to keep PDI public, press 2.

That is misinformation and a leading question. While it's true if the City sold PDI it wouldn't get annual income from PDI, the reinvestment of the proceeds of the sale into Peterborough Utilities for renewable **power** projects would generate about $3 million a year in revenue for the City to reduce the property tax burden, which is more than the $1.2 million the City currently receives in dividends from PDI, not taking into account the expected decrease in dividends over the next several years.

CUPE claims to speak on behalf of the entire community. The groups opposed to the Casino and The Parkway also claimed to speak on behalf of the community and have pushed their own polls, surveys and petitions. The election results didn't necessarily support their claims. Council is elected to listen to residents, get information from experts on the subject at hand, hear from the City's professional staff, consider all that information, then make a decision that it believes is in the best interest of the community.

What will happen to the about $55 million? Staff have recommended bringing back options for the reinvestment of the proceeds of the sale - and that the City only use the interest generated from this amount. I have recommended that we use the 6% return on investment offered by Peterborough Utilities to the City for renewable **power** generation projects as the starting point for considering options.

The federal and provincial governments encourage us to have a certain amount of reserves, debt and investments. Avoiding putting ourselves in a better financial position in the hopes of attracting more tax dollars through grants from the upper levels of government wouldn't be a responsible action. The City currently has about $118 million in reserves (both committed and uncommitted), $143.9 million in debt issued and outstanding plus approved but not issued. More telling, like all municipalities, our needs for infrastructure costs far outweigh our ability to keep up with those costs. The City has $1.194 Billion in capital requirements on its books.

This has been a long process. The first public meeting was in February and since that time the community has been discussing this matter. Before that period, City of Peterborough Holdings Inc. did its due diligence as the company that owns PDI - and the City in turn owns City of Peterborough Holdings Inc.

All Council members have been listening over those 10 months. Just because a Council member doesn't agree with you, doesn't mean they haven't been listening. I appreciate everyone who has reached out over these 10 months. It was important to hear the concerns to see if the offer as presented addressed those issues. This is a good deal for our community long term.

Regards,

Mayor Daryl Bennett

Back to Top

Hydro One is not as bad as it seems. It's worse.

Peterborough This Week - Mon Dec 12 2016
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $23
Reach: 47038

To the editor: As a owner of a 10K solar system and a hydro one customer, I want to welcome Peterborough, Lakefield, and Norwood aboard. It's not as bad as you think, believe me it's worse. What puzzles me is Mayor Bennett and Don McWilliams. They are both excellent people. Remember pumping gas at your Dad's Service Station on Hunter Street. Darryl try paying today's expenses on that wage, which was about the same amount when you add inflation today. Remember your roots Dan? Your father started out with one half-ton truck and with you and your brothers help built the cartage company we see today. Could you do it today with the expenses of everything the present Liberal government shoves on us. Start with uncontrolled vehicle insurance, safety inspections (mobile) anytime anywhere, emissions tests, high license fees, et cetera. I could go on and on forever about overtaxation. But there is one benefit from the sale of P.D.I. The point of Liberal Government will be driven home and at last our do-nothing MPP will be booted out. Leslie Parnell? Did you people expect anything different really. If it acts like a Liberal, talks like a Liberal, then it must be a Liberal. Putting the profit of the sale in perspective, did you know that there are 55 residents in Peterborough County (not counting Commercial or Industrial) that are equal to the $55 million profit that the P.D.I. is supposed to achieve. Roy Anderson Douro Dummer

Back to Top

Hydro One Hogwash

Toronto Sun - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Mark Glatt

Ad Value: $949
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "Reasons not to sell Hydro One" (Fred Hahn, Dec. 9): What pure and utter hogwash! The only reason society has started to "move away from oil and gas" is because jurisdictions like California are forcing electric cars down people's throats. The world now has an overabundance of fossil fuels and there's no indication we are anywhere close to an **energy** crisis. And as for the big oil players, they are hardly running to "get in on the ground floor of the growing **electricity** market" just because the market for oil has been soft for the last few years. What Mr. Hahn fails to recognize is **electricity**, unlike natural **energy**, can be manufactured - from water, from the sun, from the **wind** and atoms, and yes, Mr. Hahn, from oil and **gas**. If demand for **electricity** soars beyond our present-day capacity, fear not, big oil will gladly jump in to fuel the generators. It's not that Premier Mom wouldn't love to sell **Hydro** One; it's just that she can't find someone gullible enough to take it off her hands.

MARK GLATT

TORONTO

(Apparently she can for 60% of it)

Back to Top

Hydro dam project forces expropriation of B.C. farm family

Waterloo Region Record - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Dirk Meissner

Ad Value: $2,960
Reach: 63465 **Page:** B4

The home of a family staunchly opposed to the Site C dam will be seized under British Columbia's Expropriation Act to make way for the controversial hydroelectric project, says BC **Hydro**'s president and chief executive officer.

Jessica McDonald said Monday the terms of the expropriation mean Ken and Arlene Boon must be out of their home by May 31 to allow highway realignment work linked to the $8.8-billion megaproject to start.

But McDonald said the agreement allows the family to continue farming their land for two more years before they must leave the property. The agreement was not reached by consent but was signed last week by the Boons and the B.C. government.

"We were not able to come to a consensual agreement with the Boons and so we have acquired their property through expropriation," said McDonald at a Site C project briefing with reporters. "We have agreed with the Boons that they will remain in their home until the end of May and that they will have the rights and ability to continue farming the land for an additional two year period of time."

Site C will flood more than 5,500 hectares of land along the Peace River, creating an 83-kilometre-long reservoir and provide enough **power** to light up 400,000 homes. Project construction started in the summer of 2015 and is scheduled for completion in 2024.

The Boons are longtime farmers in northeastern B.C. and have fought the project in court. They could not be reached for comment.

An online petition to stop the dam includes photos of the Boons on their property.

Arlene Boon states in the petition that their farmhouse was built by her grandfather and "**Hydro**'s plan is to flood our property and destroy it."

McDonald said the value of the Boon expropriation agreement will be subject to negotiations over the next year.

"It sets out that they have committed they won't physically interfere with the project in any way, not just on their lands," said McDonald.

Hydro recently reached consensual property agreements with six other landowners in the area to make room for the highway project. McDonald said **Hydro** also expropriated the home of another landowner, who had a rental property on his land.

Hydro officials also said about 30 homes in the Peace River Valley area near Fort St. John will be affected by the dam over the course of construction, but 20 of those can be moved to other locations within their property boundaries.

Back to Top

Energy board snubs watchdog

Toronto Sun - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,363
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A13

The **Ontario Energy Board** is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on **electricity** bills.

The global adjustment is levied to cover the gap between the guaranteed prices the Liberal government gave **electricity** generators and actual market **rates**, and accounted for about 70 per cent of consumer **rates** in 2013.

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk recommended that **hydro** bills be changed to separately disclose the components of pricing - the **electricity** market price and the global adjustment.

Lysyk said those changes would make the impact of the global adjustment charge more transparent to **electricity** **ratepayers**.

However, the **energy** board says breaking down the global adjustment would not clarify prices for consumers and would likely create more confusion.

The board recently dismissed calls to add a line on **natural gas** bills showing the cost of the Liberals' cap-andtrade plan to fight **climate** change, which is expected to add $5 a month to home heating bills when it starts Jan. 1.

The auditor general commissioned a survey that found 89% of **natural gas** **ratepayers** want the **cap-and-trade** costs clearly displayed, but the government says it won't overrule the board's decision.

Back to Top

Ontario Energy Board rejects auditor's call to clarify global adjustment on hydro bills | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

TORONTO – The Ontario Energy Board is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on electricity bills.

Back to Top

Energy board refuses auditor's call to clarify bills

National Post - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,762
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A9

The **Ontario Energy Board** is rejecting a call from the province's auditor general to clarify the so-called global adjustment charge on **electricity** bills. The charge is levied to cover the gap between the guaranteed prices the Liberal government gave **electricity** generators and actual market **rates**, and accounted for about 70 per cent of consumer **rates** in 2013. Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk recommended that **hydro** bills be changed to separately disclose the components of pricing. But the **energy** board says breaking down the global adjustment would likely create more confusion. The board recently dismissed calls to add a line on **natural gas** bills showing the cost of the **cap-and-trade** plan to fight **climate** change, which is expected to add $5 a month to home heating bills when it starts Jan. 1.

Back to Top

Ottawa announces new National Energy Board members to review Energy East pipeline - Politics - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral

Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr has announced the appointment of three new temporary National Energy Board members to review TransCanada's Energy East pipeline.

Back to Top

In Inuvik, a lifeline that never arrived; Town of 3,300 faces uncertain future following repeated delays of $7b mackenzie gas project

Ottawa Citizen - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jesse Snyder

Ad Value: $13,607
Reach: 114846 **Page:** N4

"I'm older than this town," Fred Carmichael says as he steers his lumbering Ford F-350 truck through a residential neighbourhood of Inuvik, N.W.T. But Carmichael, 81, is among a shrinking generation of Gwich'in who remember when this small northern outpost was nothing more than a few tents erected along the Mackenzie River.

Carmichael grew up in his family's log cabin and worked on his father's trap lines, eking out a living from the region's dwindling numbers of fox, hare, wolf, minx and muskrat. He set out on his own when he was 17, and eventually established a small aviation business that still operates today.

"We soon realized that in order to survive up here you have to get into some kind of business or find a steady job, which was hard to do," he said.

The people of the town, like Carmichael, are acutely aware of their ancestral way of life, and many southerners still maintain an outdated view of the North. Yet Inuvik embodies an undeniably industrial character. Heavy machinery is too expensive to transport south after it's been broken down, so the town's industrial sector is littered with successive generations of rock crushers, trucks and bulldozers that serve as impromptu museum exhibits.

The town's attempt to shift toward a more modern economy is perhaps most evident in the proposed $7-billion Mackenzie Gas Project. The joint venture between Imperial Oil Ltd., ExxonMobil Corp., Conoco-Phillips Co. and Shell Canada Ltd. was proposed in 2000, and includes a major pipeline that would transport natural gas from a port in the Mackenzie River Delta to markets in Alberta and British Columbia.

But after decades of regulatory delays and volatile commodity prices, the project now seems unlikely to go forward, leaving residents of this relatively young town to contemplate an uncertain future.

Inuvik wasn't officially established until 1953 and was built as a kind of refuge after the nearby community of Aklavik suffered repeated flooding. Since then, Carmichael has watched the town expand into a municipality of 3,300 people that boasts a recreation centre, a hospital, a collection of hotels and a CIBC branch.

As he drives through the town's industrial quarters, he points out a number of construction shops, welding outfits and transport businesses, describing each of the owners by his first name.

The establishment of Inuvik coincided with a broader economic shift in Canada's North - and, with it, the dramatically altered lifestyles of the people who dwell here.

That change hasn't been without hardship. Government largely subsidizes housing, while summer unemployment numbers in the N.W.T. reached a staggering 30 per cent - the highest in the country.

A sluggish economy has made these problems even more acute. Volunteers at the local homeless shelter say they are stretched increasingly thin, while food bank organizers warn that Christmas donations are well below the necessary amount to meet demand.

Many locals say the Mackenzie Valley pipeline would go at least some way toward combating these issues. Many of the main aboriginal communities supported the project, and together formed a consortium under the Aboriginal Pipeline Group (APG).

As chairman of the APG during the consultation process, Carmichael and his colleagues managed to negotiate a historic onethird stake in the project for the aboriginal groups it represents. The agreement marked the first time aboriginal groups were given substantial ownership over a major energy infrastructure project, and was lauded by then-finance minister Jim Prentice.

But the pipeline, approved in 2010 after many years of consultations, still hasn't been built.

The anxieties of some people who reside near the proposed route, as well as a long and calculated campaign against the pipeline by environmental groups, caused major delays in public hearings. The Dehcho group in particular didn't support the project, citing unsettled land claims with the government.

"It was a long, drawn-out process," Carmichael said.

The development of the Mackenzie Gas Project could have transformed the region. The proposed contract gave the APG a one-third cut of the total revenues from the project, which would be divided between a relatively small group of 15,000-odd aboriginals who are represented by the group.

By the time the project had been approved, energy companies had unlocked massive new pockets of natural gas reserves in the U.S. and Canada, pushing gas prices downward and making the project uneconomical. In June 2016, an application by Imperial Oil to extend the deadline of the project to 2022 was approved, which perhaps puts a final deadline on a pipeline that has been in the making for decades.

The project was first proposed in the 1970s as an oil pipeline. In the face of opposition, Thomas Berger, a justice with the Supreme Court of British Columbia, was assigned to consult with stakeholders and produce a report on the best path forward. His findings became known as the Berger Inquiry, but he ultimately decided more time was needed to make a decision. The project was delayed and eventually scrapped.

"It's the project that never goes away, but also never gets built," said Jim McDonald, the mayor of Inuvik.

Residents of the town now hope the pipeline will drive the development of **natural gas** in the region, as the Northwest Territories sits atop 16 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable **natural gas**. But without a viable transportation route, compounded with the remoteness of the North, the reserves have yet to be developed.

The pipeline would also funnel a cheap supply of **gas** into town for heating homes. Inuvik has primarily burned diesel to supply residences, but recently constructed a liquefied **natural gas** (LNG) facility for a cheaper and cleaner fuel source. In the absence of the **natural gas** pipeline, the town trucks in much of its LNG from southern B.C. at great expense.

McDonald said the average monthly cost to heat a 1,000-square-foot home in Inuvik is around $600.

For residents, the peaks and valleys of resource development are familiar. Following the downturn of oil prices in the early '80s, oil and **gas** activity in the region dried up.

"After the Berger inquiry, things kind of shut down," said Bob Gully, who owns Bob's Welding Ltd. "People went broke. A lot of good friends of mine went broke."

Gully, 75, a Gwich'in man, was another to embrace the entrepreneurship lifestyle. He earned a welding certificate in Edmonton, and then returned to Inuvik to launch a small welding outfit. During the oil rout of the '80s, he began diversifying his business to stay afloat, entering into snow removal, road construction, rock mining and fuel distribution.

Today, Gully sees little opportunity for his town outside natural resources. Like many residents, he is of two minds about the changing way of life in the North. He appreciates what industry has done for him, but laments how oil and **gas** companies disappear the moment prices tumble. "They're there one day and gone the next," he said.

Above all, he worries about the next generation, some of whom see few opportunities ahead. Many feel they are victims of a broader system, and alcoholism and drug use is rampant despite a quality of life that has markedly improved from decades past.

"Younger people don't know what it means to see hard times," he said.

For now, the town is depending on make-work projects to stimulate activity. The construction of a new 138-kilometre road from Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk, on the shore of the Arctic Ocean, will substantially improve mobility between the two towns when it is completed in 2017-2018. A seasonal ice road is the only other conduit from one to the other.

But as construction of the project comes to a close this summer, residents of Inuvik are concerned about what will sustain employment thereafter. "It's going to get pretty quiet," said Richard Selamio, an Inuvialuit truck driver working on the project.

"I don't even want to think about that," said Floyd Roland, the former Inuvialuit premier of the Northwest Territories.

As premier, Roland was part of the negotiations that eventually established a $500-million socio-economic fund to help small communities along the pipeline route prepare for an influx of investment.

He said a number of local entrepreneurs and investors put money into construction outfits, hotels and other services in expectation that the Mackenzie Valley pipeline would eventually go through. With the project looking increasingly unlikely, the struggle now is in keeping residents busy.

Roland bristles at the thought that people in the North should revert to a more traditional way of life, a proposition he said is badly oversimplified. "I tell them: You wouldn't last a month," he said.

Imperial, for its part, said it would be open to pursing the project depending on where commodity prices go.

For the residents of Inuvik, however, the project has been delayed so long that it seems to no longer register.

"I don't think about it," said a young heavy machinery operator sitting at the bar of a local pub. He pauses, briefly ponders the future of the project, then sets down his beer. "I just work."

jsnyder@postmedia.com

Back to Top

Auditor general misses the mark on climate change

Toronto Star - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Negative
Byline: Stewart Elgie, Dave Sawyer and Scott Vaughan Stewart Elgie is a professor of law and economics at the University of Ottawa and director of the Institute of the Environment. Dave Sawyer is president of EnviroEconomics and conducted the economic modelling

Ad Value: $26,897
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A13

Public watchdogs are a hallmark of good governance in Canada. Our constellation of independent bean counters and audit professionals hold governments to account, ensuring they deliver value for money. As governments across Canada implement **climate** policies that could have far-reaching environmental, economic and social impacts, it's imperative that these quiet professionals continue to do their work, reporting publicly on the good and the bad.

When you read a report from the auditor general, you assume the findings are based on accurate information and even-handed analysis. Indeed, professional standards require this. We were therefore surprised that Ontario's auditor general's Nov. 30th report on **climate** change did not meet this standard. It includes factual flaws and unbalanced analysis that paint an inaccurate picture of the province's new **climate** policies.

For example, the audit's first major finding is that less than 20 per cent of the emission reductions required to meet the province's 2020 **climate** target will be achieved in Ontario. But this finding only counts the in-province reductions that will come from Ontario's new **cap-and-trade** system, estimated at 3.8 million tonnes (Mt). It dismisses the additional 9.8 Mt of reductions from Ontario's **Climate** Action Plan, as well as further reductions from emission offsets in

Ontario.

Let's focus on the action plan reductions. The auditor general incorrectly claims the Environment Ministry's own consultant found Ontario's **cap-and-trade** program and action plan collectively will yield only 3.8 Mt of provincial reductions. But that consultant, a co-author of this commentary, did not say this. His analysis (done before the Action Plan was even developed) focused only on reductions from Ontario's **cap-and-trade** system and a small amount of **energy** efficiency reductions. Indeed, his firm has stated in public documents that the action plan reductions would be additional to the estimates in its **cap-and-trade** impact analysis.

While the auditor may well quibble with some of the province's emissions estimates, it was wrong to completely ignore all the reductions from the **Climate** Action Plan. By doing so, the auditor failed to count the bulk of the emission cuts planned in Ontario. This fundamental error - due to misunderstanding a key study and failing to check with its author - led to an inaccurate picture of what Ontarians can expect from the province's **climate** policies.

This error cascades through the report, and undermines a second major audit finding that small emissions reductions in Ontario are expected to come at a high cost to businesses and households.

The auditor's report also takes issue with the fact Ontario will be jointly reducing emissions with Quebec and California. It even asserts that "Ontario will likely be assessed as not meeting its (**climate**) target, since (Canada's emission reporting system) does not currently recognize reductions made outside Ontario, such as those from Quebec and California." This is a perplexing claim; it suggests a misunderstanding of emissions trading systems.

Because carbon emissions have the same impact on the Earth's **climate** wherever they are released, it is equally effective to reduce emissions in Ontario, California or Quebec. For this reason, emission trading among jurisdictions is widely acknowledged as a smart way to reduce pollution at lower cost.

It is a key element of the Paris **Climate** Agreement, which Canada has now ratified. And the federal government has clearly stated it will accept provincial **cap-and-trade** systems as contributing toward Canada's 2030 emissions target. Of course, Ontario will need to work out the accounting and reporting rules (as do all such systems), but there is ample time to do that before trading starts in 2018.

Given all this, it is surprising the auditor general would question emission trading and assert that it will not count toward Ontario's **climate** target. One would think an auditor would like the fact that trading will reduce the cost of meeting that target by up to 80 per cent - saving Ontario families almost $100 per month.

To be fair, the auditor's report does raise some valid concerns, such as the province's failure to fully implement its **climate** adaptation plan. But overall it does not reflect the kind of informed, objective analysis one expects from an auditor general.

That is unfortunate, particularly given the importance of this issue. Ontario - like much of the world - is taking steps to keep pace with the global shift toward a cleaner, low carbon economy, and Ontarians deserve a fair and accurate assessment of how their province is doing.

Stewart Elgie is a professor of law and economics at the University of Ottawa and director of the Institute of the Environment.

Dave Sawyer is president of EnviroEconomics and conducted the economic modelling on which the auditor general bases some of her key findings. He has been an adviser on numerous provincial and federal **climate** change audits.

Scott Vaughan is president and CEO of the International Institute for Sustainable Development and was the past federal commissioner of environment and sustainable Development in the Office of the Auditor General of Canada.

Back to Top

Trudeau's climate 'deal': all pain, no gain; Canada's climate deal is going to cost Canadians billions - and it won't make the slightest dent in global emissions

theglobeandmail.com · Tue Dec 13 2016, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARGARET WENTE
Reach: 1188000

How much is moral leadership worth?

We'll never know for sure. What we do know is that the price tag will be steep. Justin Trudeau's new **climate** deal with the provinces will cost Canadians many, many billions (www.theglobeandmail.com) , maybe more. Some will come directly from our pockets in the form of carbon taxes. Some of it will disappear by stealth, swallowed up in complicated **cap-and-trade** schemes, infrastructure investments, clean-tech subsidies and a whole thicket of new building codes and regulations. No cost-benefit analysis has been provided, or ever will be, because too much is subject to negotiation, and too much is impossible to measure even if you tried.

Mr. Trudeau is not a man to set his sights too low. His goal is to fundamentally change the way Canada produces and consumes **energy**. But his **climate** deal is not so much a master plan as a dog's breakfast. The only thing we know for sure is that even if Canada were to miraculously achieve its 2030 target for reductions in carbon emissions, the net impact on global warming would be zero. Sadly, we just don't count. If the coastal populations of the world are destined to drown in iceberg melt, they will anyway.

I know it's cruel and insensitive to say these things. It's like telling your five-year-old that there's no Santa Claus. So I'm sorry. But the age of **climate** realism is at hand. Donald Trump is ascending to the White House, which means the age of **climate** idealism is dead. The news seems not to have arrived in Ottawa, where Mr. Trudeau seems to believe that he can single-handedly rescue the Paris Accord and persuade the rest of the world to do the right thing.

So what can we expect? First, we'll have a federal carbon tax. Carbon taxes are allegedly efficient, transparent and easy to

understand. But this is Canada, so good luck with that. In fact, every province will have a carbon tax equivalent that it will have to hammer out with the feds. Some provinces, such as Ontario and Quebec, won't have a carbon tax at all. They'll have a **cap-and-trade** scheme, which is basically a black box into which tax dollars disappear. Ontario will collect $8-billion in **cap-and-trade** revenues over the next few years, mostly by charging more for **gas** and home heating. But greenhouse **gas** emissions will barely budge because Ontario will probably **wind** up buying (www.theglobeandmail.com) carbon credits from California. Got it?

Mr. Trudeau assures us that all of this will pay for itself in the long run, because investing in the environment is good for the economy. As Catherine McKenna, his environment minister, said this weekend, "This makes us more competitive, not less." Thanks to subsidies for green industries, Canada will soon be able to supply a massive worldwide demand for clean technology from countries such as China.

Do I hear an echo? In fact, Dalton McGuinty made this exact same promise to Ontarians back in 2009. We would become a clean-tech capital of the world! The government proceeded to waste billions on green schemes that developed **power** produced at absurdly inflated prices from companies owned by China and Germany. The green-economy boom never did materialize. **Hydro** **rates** soared. Now, charities are handing out money to people who can't afford to keep the lights on.

Some day, we will have a better and more honest conversation about global warming. This conversation would allow us to admit that there's a lot we don't know about the future. No, global warming is not a hoax and human activity is certainly involved. But the scientific consensus ends about there. There is no consensus on how much more the Earth will warm or how dangerous it will be, and still less on the best ways to mitigate the risk. There are only predictions, which are all over the map.

The story of how moderate voices in the **climate** debate have been stifled and censured is one of the more sorry chapters in recent intellectual history. **Climate** alarmists have done a brilliant job of demonizing anyone who points out that the apocalypse may not be at hand and that **climate** change may not even be the worst problem we face.

This doesn't mean we shouldn't have a **climate** policy, or that we shouldn't aim to cut down on fossil fuels. But perhaps we should be a bit more modest in our aims. It's expensive to be a beacon unto the world. And it's possible the world is moving on.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com:
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/trudeaus -**climate**-deal-all-pain-no-gain/article33303579/

Back to Top

NP

New members of neb may get energy east review on track

National Post - Tue Dec 13 2016
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,855
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP3

The government has appointed three new bilingual members to the National **Energy** Board in a move that could get the **Energy** East pipeline review back on track. The appointments by Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr, pictured, fill a void left when the previous panel examining TransCanada's proposed 4,500-km pipeline stepped down due to perceptions of a potential conflict of interest. The chair of the NEB also recused himself from choosing the next panel over the same conflict concerns. The new members were not named to the **Energy** East panel because it's up to the acting chair of the NEB to assign duties. But the government pointedly noted the three are all qualified for the pipeline review. The new members are Don Ferguson of New Brunswick, Carole Malo from Ontario and Marc Paquin of Quebec.

Back to Top
