

Karen Evans

From: Karen Evans
Sent: June 7, 2018 9:06 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: FW: Morning News Clippings Summary: Thursday, June 7, 2018

Good Morning,

- Election Day
- There's an OP ED piece in the Financial Post by Brady Yauch with the Consumer Policy Institute about deregulation in the gas industry. The **OEB** is mentioned. Full article below.
- There's a CP piece on the election. Energy policies highlighted below.
- The Windsor Star picked up the CP story about how the new US pipeline will lower natural gas prices in Ontario. We spoke to the reporter but the **OEB** is **not** mentioned. See story below with **OEB** data highlighted.
- And Sarnia hopes to find an anaerobic digester to turn nutrient-rich industrial waste water from bio-chemical plants into renewable natural gas.

FinancialPost: Queen's Park made your hydro exorbitantly expensive. Now it's after your natural gas

A lack of accountability, little transparency and a rush to support "renewable" investments at any cost has decimated Ontario's electricity sector — leading to soaring bills, consumer backlash and a policy designed solely to kick billions of dollars of today's costs to our children and grandchildren. Now, the province's gas sector appears to be next in line for Queen's Park's energy transformation agenda. Gas consumers should be nervous.

To date, Ontario's gas utilities have been a positive counterpoint to the electricity utilities in how to manage an energy sector and avoid the ignominy of scathing headlines, public outrage and soaring monthly bills. They did so largely because regulatory principles enabled them to maintain a competitive, financially viable and customer-oriented utility and the regulations were upheld at the same time as they were torn down in the electricity sector. But those principles are quietly being eroded and the costs of that erosion will start adding up.

Principles are quietly being eroded and the costs of that erosion will start adding up

The first knock to customers came from **the Ontario Energy Board (OEB)**, which decided to bury the cost of the province's recently implemented cap-and-trade system in the "delivery" line of customers' monthly bills. Groups — ranging from large, industrial customers to low-income organizations — argued that customers have a right to fully understand the monthly bill impact of Ontario's cap-and-trade policy. They argued that the cost should be just as clearly visible on monthly bills as that of charges like the Debt Retirement Charge and provincial handouts like the Clean Energy Benefit, the scrapping of the provincial sales tax rebate and, more recently, the Fair Hydro Plan.

If consumers get to clearly see what kind of handouts Queen's Park offers them, they have just as much of a right to see what costs the legislature imposes on them. Unfortunately, the **OEB** directed the utilities to bury that charge among other delivery costs, hiding the monthly cost of a provincial policy.

The second, much larger knock comes from the province, which has encouraged the utilities to procure uneconomic supplies of "renewable natural gas," which is an upgraded form of bio-gas. Ontario issued that directive in its Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP), a Ministry of Energy-led document that lays out the legislature's vision for the future of the energy sector. The utilities currently buy natural gas on the open market and pass that cost — with no markup — to consumers. As a result of the fracking that has revolutionized North America's energy sector, natural gas prices are at some of their lowest levels in decades. Consumers in Ontario have directly benefited from those falling prices, as the gas utilities have directly passed those benefits on.

So-called renewable natural gas, in contrast, is wildly expensive. Early estimates from the utilities show that it's more than five times more costly than buying natural gas at market rates. Given that the "renewable" natural gas business is in its infancy, those costs could turn out to be much higher.

Who will be on the hook for paying that significant premium?

The gas utilities maintain that their customers will be held "harmless" because the difference between the cost of traditional and renewable natural gas will be covered by funds from the province's cap-and-trade program. Yet, it's natural gas customers that will be paying a large portion of those cap-and-trade proceeds through their monthly bills.

Between Union Gas and Enbridge — which are applying to merge their operations — natural gas customers will be paying more than \$650 million this year alone in cap-and-trade costs. This excludes the millions of additional administration costs needed to oversee the cap-and-trade, but will also eventually be paid for by ratepayers through their monthly bills.

That means a significant chunk of the cap-and-trade money used to cover the high costs of renewable natural gas will be coming from a fee paid by all gas customers. This is little more than robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Worse still is that it is an incredibly expensive way to lower carbon emissions. Early estimates from the utilities suggest that each tonne of carbon reduced through using renewable natural gas will cost more than \$327 — or more than 18 times the current cost of carbon credits in the province's cap-and-trade system.

There is no economic justification for this program based on the province's climate-change policies.

But economic efficiency and cost-effectiveness — two policies that have been in short supply in the electricity sector — play no role in this policy. Unfortunately for gas customers, that's a break from the past.

GlobalNews: Ontario voters head to the polls — could see seismic political shift in provincial election

Ontario goes to the polls today in an election that could see a seismic political shift if Doug Ford's Tories beat out the NDP, their closest rival, and win a majority government, as the latest polls suggest.

Either way, the vote will bring an end to 15 years of Liberal government, as Premier Kathleen Wynne herself admitted last week in a stunning announcement.

The Progressive Conservatives and the NDP have polled neck and neck for most of the campaign, with the Tories giving up a strong lead they held at the beginning. But a tie in popular support could lead to the Tories winning a majority of seats, projections suggest.

As Tory leader, Ford rolled out several popular promises, from **cutting gas prices by 10 cents a litre** to introducing buck-a-beer to cutting **hydro** bills. But he was accused of failing to be transparent by dodging calls to release a fully costed platform.

With about one week left in the campaign, the party published a list of promises and their price tags, but didn't indicate how they would pay for them, what size of deficits they would run or for exactly how long. Then in the waning days of the campaign, Ford family drama — that had laid mostly dormant in the public sphere since the death of his brother, former Toronto mayor Rob Ford — burst onto the scene with a lawsuit from Rob Ford's widow alleging Ford mishandled his brother's estate and destroyed the value of the family business. Late in the campaign, to soothe wary voters, Ford also began emphasizing the strength of his team, which includes former long-time legislator Christine Elliott, lawyer and businesswoman Caroline Mulroney and former Postmedia executive and Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corp. CEO Rod Phillips.

By contrast, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath consistently polled as the most popular of the three party leaders, so Ford repeatedly slammed her roster of candidates as radical and inexperienced.

The Liberals warned that the NDP's plan was not practical, gleefully pointing out mathematical errors in their platform, including one that increased their proposed deficit by \$1.4 billion annually. Wynne also frequently slammed Horwath's opposition to back-to-work legislation, saying it would lead to indefinite strikes.

Horwath made a pitch to undecided voters Wednesday, framing the ballot as a "stark" choice between her positive plan to help families create better lives and the cost-cutting proposals of Ford. The NDP has been relegated for the past several decades to holding pockets of seats in the north, southwestern Ontario and Toronto. But party insiders say their number crunching shows them poised to capture seats in broader swaths of the province, eyeing several Liberal strongholds.

The Liberals came to power in 2003 under Dalton McGuinty, and when he stepped down in 2013, Wynne took the reins. She led the party to a majority in 2014, despite the party already being bogged down by scandals at

eHealth Ontario, air ambulance service Ornge and a price tag of up to \$1.1 billion to cancel two gas plants. But her popularity began to soon dip, and reached well below 20 per cent in 2016 and 2017, in large part due to anger over rising hydro prices.

Tory lead in Ontario election campaign solid, despite NDP surge, says Ipsos polling

The Liberals eventually cut bills by eight per cent, then another 17 per cent months later, but by her own admission, Wynne failed to recognize early enough the impacts that investments in the energy system were having on people's wallets.

She also faced criticism over her partial privatization of Hydro One and her decision to plunge the province's books back into the red after finally getting them to balance in 2017-18.

Wynne insisted that the billions it pumped into health care, child care and a drug and dental-care program was necessary spending.

Wynne spent the last few days of the campaign pleading with voters to at least elect some Liberals – party insiders say they are worried they could win fewer than eight seats, which would mean a loss of official party status in the legislature.

Canadian Press: New U.S. pipeline expected to lower natural gas prices in Central Canada

CALGARY — Consumers in Ontario and Quebec can expect to pay less for natural gas to heat their homes as a new pipeline connects shale gas from the northeastern United States to the Dawn storage hub near Sarnia in southwestern Ontario.

The Rover Pipeline last week won approval from the U.S. energy regulator to increase shipping to its capacity of 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, transporting the fuel from Marcellus and Utica shale wells in the northeastern U.S. to American markets and, via the Vector Pipeline connection, to the Dawn hub for distribution in Central Canada.

"It will have a downward pressure," said Chris Shorts, director of storage, transportation, marketing and utilization for Union Gas Ltd., operator of the Dawn hub. "Prices are as low as they've been in the last 10 years and there's more downward pressure, because of the incremental supply, than there would be upward pressure." He said he couldn't estimate what that will do to an average bill — consumer natural gas rates in Ontario and Quebec are affected by market gas prices but also take into account transmission and management costs.

Union Gas last year increased its capacity to accept gas on the Vector connection by about 300 million cf/d to about 1.8 billion cf/d, he said, adding the actual amount delivered each day will vary according to sales contracts between shippers in the U.S. and buyers in Canada.

Natural gas volumes arriving at Dawn are already being affected by about 1.4 billion cf/d in western Canadian natural gas added late last year after TransCanada Corp. brought in discount tolls to increase the use of its poorly utilized Canadian Mainline gas system, he said.

The long-term benefits for eastern Canadian natural gas consumers come at the cost of long-term negatives for western gas producers, said Martin King, a commodity analyst for GMP FirstEnergy Capital in Calgary.

"For consumers in Ontario, yes, it means generally cheaper gas because you've got more supply options," he said. "But, over time, it will translate into more competition for western Canadian suppliers."

He said future commodity contracts at Dawn are already reflecting lower price predictions due to the new gas sources, pointing out that prices are falling below the comparable New York gas price benchmark, a big difference from a year ago when prices at Dawn tended to be higher.

American production of natural gas has grown from 83 billion cf/d in 2014 to 98 billion cf/d now, while Canada's has grown from 14.8 billion cf/d to 16.6 billion cf/d in the same period.

SarniaObserver: Anaerobic digester sought to help fill 'infrastructure gap'

Efforts are underway to attract an anaerobic digester to Sarnia to turn nutrient-rich industrial waste water from bio-chemical plants into renewable natural gas.

Sandy Marshall, executive director of Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, said the government-funded agency is working with Comet Biorefining on a proposal to see an anaerobic digester built and operated in Sarnia.

Comet plans to build a bio-refinery in Sarnia to turn corn and wheat stalks into sugar.

Marshall said the digester project could cost in the range of \$20 million to \$30 million and a request for proposals has been released to identify a potential owner-operator. The deadline for proposals is the end of

June.

"We look forward to working with the successful company to have them build a successful anaerobic digestion business here," Marshall said.

Sarnia-Lambton can offer access to steam, power, water and skilled trades to the bio-chemistry companies the agency works to attract and support but "one of the things we're missing is the ability to treat these really rich organic streams that come from bio-plants," he said.

"They're too rich to go into a traditional waste water plant." The waste water needs to be pre-treated in an anaerobic digester and the agency has been trying for some years now to fill that "infrastructure gap" so the community can continue to attract new bio-chemical companies, Marshall said.

"It's just one more selling point for Sarnia-Lambton and the hybrid industry cluster." If an owner-operator for a digester can be found and a facility built, waste water from local bio-chemical plants would be pumped to the digester site and put into large tanks where bacteria breaks down the organics and turns them into methane, or renewable natural gas, Marshall said. The digester could also take green bin material from municipal waste, as well as other sources of organic waste, to be ground up and all the non-organic material removed.

"And then, they basically make a very rich organic soup" which is fed into the tanks with the industrial waste water, Marshall said. The renewable natural gas created is then purified so it can be delivered to customers such as Union Gas or TransAlta, and the "digestate" material left over can be used as "high-carbon fertilizer you can put back on farmland," he said. "This is the really cool part of the project." That material can return as fertilizer to farm fields where the process began when Comet used corn and wheat stalks as its feedstock, he said. "It's a great example of a circular economy," Marshall said.

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said the province is requiring some communities, including Sarnia, to begin green bin collection of organic waste in the coming years. He said that when Sarnia looked at green bins a decade ago it found the system was "extremely expensive," but the digester project could be an opportunity for the city. "I think there's an opportunity here for us to become directly part of the bio-fuels sector by being involved in something that gives us a benefit back," Bradley said.

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Thursday, June 7, 2018

Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

[News - 36 Results](#)



[Brady Yauch: Queen's Park made your hydro exorbitantly expensive. Now it's after your natural gas](#)

nationalpost.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Special to Financial Post
Reach: 607500

A lack of accountability, little transparency and a rush to support "renewable" investments at any cost has decimated Ontario's **electricity** sector - leading to soaring bills, **consumer** backlash and a policy designed solely to ...



U.S. pipe set to lower gas prices

Windsor Star - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: \$2,611
Reach: 54680 **Page:** B9

Consumers in **Ontario** and Quebec can expect to pay less for **natural gas** to heat their homes as a new pipeline connects **shale gas** from the Northeastern U.S. to the Dawn storage hub near Sarnia in ...



New U.S. pipeline expected to lower natural gas prices in Central Canada; New source expected to cut natural gas rates

Canadian Press - Tue Jun 5 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Dan Healing

CALGARY - Consumers in Ontario and Quebec can expect to pay less for natural gas to heat their homes as a new pipeline connects shale gas from the northeastern United States to the Dawn storage hub near Sarnia in southwestern Ontario. The Rover ...



Ontario's election, where the truth went to die

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: \$1,034
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A19

Ontario is having an election Thursday in which the three major party leaders scrupulously ducked the biggest issue. As a result, whether Doug Ford and the Progressive Conservatives or Andrea Horwath and the NDP form the next government ...



Wynne out of touch to the very end

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Peter Epp
Page: A6

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she came to realize she wasn't going to win the **Ontario** election almost two weeks ago, following the final leaders' debate on May 27. "I think I did pretty well in the debate," she told a **Toronto** CBC ...



Candidates tackle economy, energy during debate

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Trevor Terfloth
Page: A2

Area voters had one of their last chances to take a closer look at local candidates in the upcoming provincial election. Ontario's economy, **hydro rates**

and green **energy** were among the topics during the Chatham-Kent ...



Ford dining out on love; Bacon 'n'eggs crowd behind PC leader

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Joe Warmington

Ad Value: \$2,241

Reach: 45442 Page: A11

It's got that vintage, throwback look from the days when the Progressive Conservatives governed the province for four straight decades. If you go into Troy's Diner on Main St. in the town of **Milton**, about 50 km. **west** of ...



Horwath makes third swing through C-K

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A26

Long-time NDP supporters in Chatham-Kent are feeling good about the outcome of Thursday's provincial election, but it's new supporters like Randy DeWael that could make the difference. The Chatham resident, formerly a Liberal supporter, was among ...



With only days left, each campaign has their issues to contend with

Hanover Post - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Merriam Jim

Ad Value: \$347

Reach: 15209 Page: A6

With only two days to go before the **Ontario** election, it would seem only **fair** to be **fair** to all three main parties. One way to do that would be to explore a troubling issue from each campaign. Following the ...



Kathleen Wynne puts on brave face, voice at Burlington appearance

Burlington Post - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$1,712

Reach: 57819 Page: 1

For a party that political pundits and pollsters have essentially written off in Thursday's provincial election, there were still plenty of happy faces and lots of brave, confident talk from Halton's three Liberal candidates and their leader. ...



Ontario voters head to the polls after roller-coaster election campaign | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Voters in Ontario will elect a new government today after a campaign that has pitted Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives against Andrea Horwath's NDP amid controversy and volatile swings in public opinion polls.



Top 5 promises made by each Ontario political party | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

A look at the top five promises made by each of the three major Ontario political parties heading into Thursday's election.



Fate of Ontario Liberals hangs in the balance as voters head to the polls today | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Kathleen Wynne has already acknowledged she won't be Ontario's premier after today's election, but the fate of her Liberal party now rests on how well her last-minute plea for support has resonated with voters as they head to the polls.



Ontario could see a seismic political shift in Thursday's provincial election | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario goes to the polls today in an election that could see a seismic political shift if Doug Ford's Tories beat out the NDP, their closest rival, and win a majority government, as the latest polls suggest.



Ontario: a province that has lost its way - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

As the Ontario election campaign draws to a close, it has left many of us elsewhere to ask: What's happened to this once great province?



Final Ipsos poll suggests Doug Ford and PCs headed for a majority | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

With less than 24 hours until Ontarians head to the polls, Doug Ford is on track to become the next premier of Canada's most populous province.



Wednesday's letters to the editor | The Belleville Intelligencer

www.intelligencer.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, June 6, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

Ontario Hydro was dismembered years ago by the Conservative government, which split it into Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One.



Election muddies red-hot green energy file

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A15

It plunged **Ontario** headlong into green **energy** nearly a decade ago, making Southwestern **Ontario** the province's Ground Zero for costly **wind energy** projects that have divided many communities and ...



Historic win within reach for Green party leader

Toronto Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Liam Casey

Ad Value: \$3,968

Reach: 171076 Page: A8

Mike Schreiner cannot walk the streets of downtown **Guelph** without being stopped to talk politics. "Good job, Mike," one man says as he slaps the Green party leader on the back. "We're working hard, eh!" the 48-year-old U.S.-born ...



Focus on families; Green Party candidate would work to improve health services in Northern Ontario as MPP

Lake of the Woods Enterprise - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Sheri Lamb

Page: A4

When making a choice on June 7 Green Party candidate Ember McKillop wants voters to think of the children and how a vote for her could help improve mental health services in the **Kenora-Rainy River** district. "We need to develop ...



Youth vote is a force that will be felt

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Vicky Mochama

Ad Value: \$13,259

Reach: 361323 Page: A15

The stakes for young people in this election are clear: our future is being decided. On so many fronts, the weight of the election's outcomes will be borne by us. Every election is about the future. Politicians from all parties line up to make ...



One sure thing: Change is here; By tonight, a number of compelling questions will be answered by the province's electorate

The Hamilton Spectator - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steve Buist The Hamilton Spectator

Ad Value: \$8,208

Reach: 103267 Page: A1

Everything has a life cycle and that's particularly true in politics. Change is washing across **Ontario** today. How do we know? Because the three major

political leaders keep telling us so. Over and over and over and over again. "Change ...



Choose change for the better; Why you should vote for me

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$14,991

Reach: 361323 Page: A1

Imagine four years of Doug Ford's cuts, privatization and corruption starting tomorrow. We don't need to hold Doug Ford to account after the election. We need to stop Doug Ford today. So, if you have voted Liberal in the past, I invite you to join ...



Tight race 'coming down to the wire'; Either Ford or Horwath will lead Ontario as Wynne admits she won't remain premier

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$29,793

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

The province's future is now in the hands of its 10.2 million eligible voters. Ontarians head to the polls today knowing one thing for sure: by Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne's own candid admission last weekend, she will not be premier after the ...



Regardless of who we elect, the sun will still come up Friday

The Hamilton Spectator - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Thomas Walkom

Ad Value: \$3,260

Reach: 103267 Page: A12

Ontarians are faced with a starkly simple choice Thursday. Do they want Tory leader Doug Ford to be their premier? Or do they want New Democrat Andrea Horwath? Those are the only options on offer. The province can survive either. By conceding she ...



'A lot of mudslinging'; Ontario's long, nasty campaign almost over

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$2,204

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

It's time to put this ugly election campaign to bed. Voters across **Ontario** head to the polls today to choose their next government, ending a reality show of a provincial election campaign that included the ouster of Patrick Brown as PC ...



Your letters: Change might be for the worse

thestar.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 999000

Let's look at the records of the parties and what their election promises really

mean: Doug Ford, Rob's brother, whom the Conservative party chose as their leader, was a **Toronto** councillor while his brother was mayor and he supported ...



Ontario could see a seismic political shift in today's provincial election

nationalpost.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - **Ontario** goes to the polls today in an election that could see a seismic political shift if Doug Ford's Tories beat out the NDP, their closest rival, and win a majority government, as the latest polls suggest. Either ...



Wynne ends campaign in Port Dover

Brantford Expositor - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jacob Robinson

Ad Value: \$1,000

Reach: 29497 Page: A3

Premier Kathleen Wynne made her final stop on the 2018 **Ontario** election campaign in Haldimand-Norfolk on Wednesday afternoon. The 65-year-old Wynne visited the Port Dover home of Peter and Micheline Roy, along the Lake **Erie** ...



RESTORE FISCAL SANITY; Only Ford's Tories will lay down the debt shovel

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Markbonokoski

Ad Value: \$2,662

Reach: 45442 Page: A8

With the corpse of the Wynne Liberals all but on the autopsy table - the cause of death being old age, arrogance, fiscal incompetence and political corruption - **Ontario** must now decide what devil it will hire to fix the province's woes. ...



Ford visits Campbellford and receives enthusiastic welcome from party faithful

Brighton Independent - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Campbell

Page: A7

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford stormed into town Sunday afternoon and delivered a rousing speech to party faithful at the campaign office of local PC candidate David Piccini. "We've talked to thousands and thousands of people (and) ...



Climate change focus of final candidates meeting

Brighton Independent - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: John Campbell

Page: A10

Brighton -Health care, debt, **Hydro One** -those are some of the recurring issues that have figured prominently in the all-candidates' meetings but one subject has received scant attention -the environment. "**Climate** ...



Sarnia seeks plant to turn waste into natural gas

The Chatham Daily News - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: \$247

Reach: 15320 Page: A3

Efforts are under way to attract a facility to Sarnia to turn nutrient-rich industrial wastewater from biochemical plants into renewable **natural gas**. Sandy Marshall, executive director of Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, said ...



Political appointments undermine environmental assessment process | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Bill C-69, which will govern federal environmental assessment in coming years, has been proceeding through Parliament with striking media indifference, even though important issues are at stake. One issue is the process of appointing members to the ...



N.B. tries to revive Energy East pipeline | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau needs to at least try to resurrect the Energy East pipeline project since it could mean thousands of jobs for Atlantic Canada, says the top exec of Saint John's chamber of commerce.



Why Trudeau and his Liberals are now the targets that Kinder Morgan once was | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

From within the endless scroll of the Twitterfeed, its glitter and gutter, one particular tweet called me to a halt. It was from Catherine McKenna, the climate change minister, and was posted hours after the Americans put a tariff on Canadian steel. ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Brady Yauch: Queen's Park made your hydro exorbitantly expensive. Now it's after your natural gas

nationalpost.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Special to Financial Post

Reach: 607500

A lack of accountability, little transparency and a rush to support "renewable" investments at any cost has decimated **Ontario's electricity** sector - leading to soaring bills, **consumer** backlash and a policy designed solely to kick billions of dollars of today's costs to our children and grandchildren. Now, the province's **gas** sector appears to be next in line for Queen's Park's **energy** transformation agenda. **Gas** consumers should be nervous.

To date, **Ontario's gas utilities** have been a positive counterpoint to the **electricity utilities** in how to manage an **energy** sector and avoid the ignominy of scathing headlines, **public** outrage and soaring monthly bills. They did so largely because regulatory principles enabled them to maintain a competitive, financially viable and **customer-oriented utility** and the regulations were upheld at the same time as they were torn down in the **electricity** sector. But those principles are quietly being eroded and the costs of that erosion will start adding up.

The first knock to customers came from the **Ontario Energy Board (OEB)**, which decided to bury the cost of the province's recently implemented **cap-and-trade** system in the "delivery" line of customers' monthly bills. Groups - ranging from large, industrial customers to low-income organizations - argued that customers have a right to fully understand the monthly bill impact of **Ontario's cap-and-trade** policy. They argued that the cost should be just as clearly visible on monthly bills as that of charges like the **Debt Retirement Charge** and provincial handouts like the Clean **Energy** Benefit, the scrapping of the provincial sales tax **rebate** and, more recently, the **Fair Hydro Plan**.

If consumers get to clearly see what kind of handouts Queen's Park offers them, they have just as much of a right to see what costs the legislature imposes on them. Unfortunately, the **OEB** directed the **utilities** to bury that charge among other delivery costs, hiding the monthly cost of a provincial policy.

The second, much larger knock comes from the province, which has encouraged the **utilities** to procure uneconomic supplies of "renewable **natural gas**," which is an upgraded form of bio-**gas**. **Ontario** issued that directive in its Long-Term **Energy Plan (LTEP)**, a **Ministry of Energy**-led document that lays out the legislature's vision for the future of the **energy** sector. The **utilities** currently buy **natural gas** on the open market and pass that cost - with no markup - to consumers. As a result of the fracking that has revolutionized **North America's energy** sector, **natural gas** prices are at some of their lowest levels in decades. Consumers in **Ontario** have directly benefited from those falling prices, as the **gas utilities** have directly passed those benefits on.

So-called renewable **natural gas**, in contrast, is wildly expensive. Early estimates from the **utilities** show that it's more than five times more costly than buying **natural gas** at market **rates**. Given that the "renewable" **natural gas** business is in its infancy, those costs could turn out to be much higher.

Who will be on the hook for paying that significant premium?

The **gas utilities** maintain that their customers will be held "harmless" because the difference between the cost of traditional and renewable **natural gas** will be covered by funds from the province's **cap-and-trade** program. Yet, it's **natural gas** customers that will be paying a large portion of those **cap-and-trade** proceeds through their monthly bills.

Between **Union Gas** and Enbridge - which are applying to merge their operations - **natural gas** customers will be paying more than \$650 million this

year alone in **cap-and-trade** costs. This excludes the millions of additional administration costs needed to oversee the **cap-and-trade**, but will also eventually be paid for by **ratepayers** through their monthly bills.

That means a significant chunk of the **cap-and-trade** money used to cover the high costs of renewable **natural gas** will be coming from a fee paid by all **gas** customers. This is little more than robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Worse still is that it is an incredibly expensive way to lower carbon emissions. Early estimates from the **utilities** suggest that each tonne of carbon reduced through using renewable **natural gas** will cost more than \$327 - or more than 18 times the current cost of carbon credits in the province's **cap-and-trade** system. There is no economic justification for this program based on the province's **climate**-change policies.

But economic efficiency and cost-effectiveness - two policies that have been in short supply in the **electricity** sector - play no role in this policy. Unfortunately for **gas** customers, that's a break from the past.

Brady Yauch is the executive director and an economist at the **Consumer** Policy Institute. bradyyauch@ [financialpostcom.wordpress.com](mailto:bradyyauch@financialpostcom.wordpress.com)
consumerpolicyinstitute.org

[Back to Top](#)



U.S. pipe set to lower gas prices

Windsor Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$2,611

Reach: 54680 Page: B9

Consumers in **Ontario** and Quebec can expect to pay less for **natural gas** to heat their homes as a new pipeline connects **shale gas** from the Northeastern U.S. to the Dawn storage hub near Sarnia in southwestern **Ontario**. The Rover Pipeline last week won approval from the U.S. **energy regulator** to increase shipping to its capacity of 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of **natural gas**, transporting it from Marcellus and Utica shale wells to American markets and, via the Vector Pipeline connection, to the Dawn hub for **distribution** in Central Canada. "It will have a downward pressure," said Chris Shorts, director of storage, **transportation**, marketing and utilization for **Union Gas** Ltd., operator of the Dawn hub. But it comes at the cost of long-term negatives for western **gas** producers, which will face fiercer competition, said Martin King, a commodity analyst for GMP FirstEnergy Capital in Calgary.

[Back to Top](#)



New U.S. pipeline expected to lower natural gas prices in Central Canada; New source expected to cut natural gas rates

Canadian Press - Tue Jun 5 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Dan Healing

CALGARY - Consumers in Ontario and Quebec can expect to pay less for natural gas to heat their homes as a new pipeline connects shale gas from the northeastern United States to the Dawn storage hub near Sarnia in southwestern Ontario.

The Rover Pipeline last week won approval from the U.S. energy regulator to increase shipping to its capacity of 3.25 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, transporting the fuel from Marcellus and Utica shale wells in the northeastern U.S. to American markets and, via the Vector Pipeline connection, to the Dawn

hub for distribution in Central Canada.

"It will have a downward pressure," said Chris Shorts, director of storage, transportation, marketing and utilization for Union Gas Ltd., operator of the Dawn hub.

"Prices are as low as they've been in the last 10 years and there's more downward pressure, because of the incremental supply, than there would be upward pressure."

He said he couldn't estimate what that will do to an average bill - consumer natural gas rates in Ontario and Quebec are affected by market gas prices but also take into account transmission and management costs.

Union Gas last year increased its capacity to accept gas on the Vector connection by about 300 million cf/d to about 1.8 billion cf/d, he said, adding the actual amount delivered each day will vary according to sales contracts between shippers in the U.S. and buyers in Canada.

Natural gas volumes arriving at Dawn are already being affected by about 1.4 billion cf/d in western Canadian natural gas added late last year after TransCanada Corp. brought in discount tolls to increase the use of its poorly utilized Canadian Mainline gas system, he said.

The long-term benefits for eastern Canadian natural gas consumers come at the cost of long-term negatives for western gas producers, said Martin King, a commodity analyst for GMP FirstEnergy Capital in Calgary.

"For consumers in Ontario, yes, it means generally cheaper gas because you've got more supply options," he said.

"But, over time, it will translate into more competition for western Canadian suppliers."

He said future commodity contracts at Dawn are already reflecting lower price predictions due to the new gas sources, pointing out that prices are falling below the comparable New York gas price benchmark, a big difference from a year ago when prices at Dawn tended to be higher.

American production of natural gas has grown from 83 billion cf/d in 2014 to 98 billion cf/d now, while Canada's has grown from 14.8 billion cf/d to 16.6 billion cf/d in the same period.

Follow @HealingSlowly on Twitter.

Companies in this article: (TSX:TRP)

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario's election, where the truth went to die

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: \$1,034

Reach: 45442 Page: A19

Ontario is having an election Thursday in which the three major party leaders scrupulously ducked the biggest issue.

As a result, whether Doug Ford and the Progressive Conservatives or Andrea Horwath and the NDP form the next government - Premier Kathleen Wynne having already conceded her Liberals are done like dinner after 15 years in

power - nothing will really change.

Because on Friday, **Ontario** will still be one of the world's most indebted non-national governments, the Liberals having hiked **public** debt to \$325 billion in 2018, 134% higher than the \$138.8 billion they inherited from the previous PC government in 2003.

All the numbers are bad and getting worse.

Government spending at \$158.5 billion this year, is up 114% since 2003.

The debt-to-GDP ratio, a key indicator of **Ontario**'s economic health (the lower, the better), is at 37.6% and rising, a 38% increase since 2003.

Paying interest on debt, which does not lower the debt by a penny, now costs **Ontario** taxpayers \$12.5 billion annually, up 30% from 2003.

As for annual provincial deficits, **Ontario**'s auditor general says that last year Wynne really had a \$4 billion deficit, despite her boast of a \$642-million surplus.

For the next three years, the Wynne Liberals predicted a combined deficit of \$19.8 billion, 84% lower than the \$36.4 billion predicted by the auditor general.

While both Ford and Horwath sided with the auditor general in her battle with the Liberals over their deficit numbers, neither factored them into their own election promises.

Horwath also admitted mid-campaign to a \$7 billion hole in her five-year fiscal **plan**, because the NDP mistakenly counted a \$700 million annual cost item as a revenue item, yet miraculously insisted this will have no impact on her "fully costed" platform Ford doesn't have a fully costed platform, and yet has miraculously promised to cut taxes and balance the budget within his first term of office (Horwath doesn't) by finding billions of dollars worth of unnamed government efficiencies, without laying off any **public** servants.

As Green party leader Mike Schreiner correctly observed, Horwath is promising to spend **Ontario** rich, while Ford is promising to cut our way into prosperity.

Ontario's rising deficits and debt mean well over \$1 billion a month isn't going into health care, education, **public** transit or social services, but to pay interest on debt.

Neither Horwath nor Ford had the courage during the campaign to tell voters the simple truth.

That is that it's ridiculous for Horwath to promise free dental and pharmacare, and for Ford to promise income and **gasoline** tax cuts, before the new premier gets a look at the province's books.

This given that the auditor general, backed by **Ontario**'s Financial Accountability Office, has already cited the outgoing Liberal government for "bogus" accounting.

The Liberals have also denied them access to the books of the province's monopoly **electricity** distributor, **Hydro** One.

Everyone knows that whoever wins Thursday, once the new government is sworn into **power**, the winning party's extravagant election promises will have to be drastically curtailed, with the excuse that no one knew how badly the Liberals fudged the books over the past 15 years.

Indeed, the real story of **Ontario**'s election is that long before the writ was dropped, both the PCs and NDP decided voters couldn't handle the truth.

That bodes poorly for the future, whoever wins.

[Back to Top](#)



Wynne out of touch to the very end

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Peter Epp

Page: A6

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she came to realize she wasn't going to win the **Ontario** election almost two weeks ago, following the final leaders' debate on May 27.

"I think I did pretty well in the debate," she told a **Toronto** CBC Radio show on Monday. "But once the debate was over, we didn't see the numbers move."

Wynne on Saturday conceded the election, almost a week before the vote - a startling admission that's unprecedented in **Ontario** history.

Pundits now believe her admission was designed to stop Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford and his party from winning the election, by delivering a massive signal to Liberals that their vote would be better spent on the New Democrats.

Indeed, there has since been talk of a possible NDP-Liberal coalition - similar to the one orchestrated by David Peterson and Bob Rae in June 1985 - to ensure Ford and the PCs aren't permitted to form the next government.

Whatever the case, the fact Wynne didn't realize until May 27 or 28 that the Liberals didn't have a chance in this election is an illustration of just how out of touch both she and her party have become over the 15 years since they and Dalton McGuinty formed their initial government in 2003. Most observers have been anticipating a Liberal defeat for at least a year now; Wynne's own popularity has been in the toilet for three years.

That she believed, up until only two weeks ago, in a Liberal revival is a bit like the captain of the Titanic believing his ship wouldn't sink despite all the evidence of impending disaster.

The date on which the Liberals hit their own iceberg has been a topic of discussion in recent days. One commentator believes it happened in 2015 when Wynne announced she would sell off part of **Ontario Hydro** to raise approximately \$5 billion to help with infrastructure projects.

Another believes the Liberals sustained major damage in September 2016 when they backed away from their Green **Energy** Policy, admitting the **electricity** generated by future **solar** and **wind power** projects wasn't needed.

Indeed, two months later, a tearful Wynne apologized for **Ontario's electricity** debacle and promised to do better. But her mea culpa was declared before a meeting of the Liberal Party of **Ontario**, and not before an audience of citizens who have suffered through the incredibly expensive impact of the Green **Energy** Policy.

To be sure, the Green **Energy** Policy continues to represent the worst excess of the Liberals, both under McGuinty whose government launched it, and under Wynne whose government sustained it. Driven by ideology rather than economics, the policy helped destabilize **electricity** prices, while causing social disruption in rural **Ontario**.

But Wynne and her ilk never recognized that chaos. When she was running for the party's leadership in late 2012 and early 2013, she told one **crowd** in Southwestern **Ontario** that she knew better than them about **wind** turbines.

And she held that conviction right up until the minute she realized she was wrong.

[Back to Top](#)



Candidates tackle economy, energy during debate

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: Neutral

Byline: Trevor Terfloth

Page: A2

Area voters had one of their last chances to take a closer look at local candidates in the upcoming provincial election.

Ontario's economy, hydro rates and green energy were among the topics during the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce's all-candidates night held Wednesday in council chambers.

The first question for Chatham-Kent-Leamington and Lambton-Kent-Middlesex hopefuls concerned plans for electricity in the province.

Progressive Conservative Monte McNaughton, of Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, called it the most important issue in the campaign, given its impact on residents and businesses.

"We're not going to continue building more wind turbines," he said, noting his party plans to scrap the Green Energy Act if it forms government.

Chatham-Kent-Leamington Liberal Margaret Schleier Stahl touted the importance of clean energy, saying people have benefited.

"They can breathe," she said. "We need to consider our health."

Green candidate Mark Vercouteren, of Chatham-Kent-Leamington, said the Act had good intentions, but he doesn't believe it was implemented properly.

"We want to work with the communities," he said.

New Democrat Jordan McGrail, of Chatham-Kent-Leamington, said her party would perform a "full hazard investigation" into the well issue in North Kent, where it is believed the turbines have impacted water quality.

Brian Everaert, of the Trillium party in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, said the "Liberals should be ashamed of themselves" for what happened, noting his party is against turbines.

However, Schleier Stahl said she's toured the affected areas in recent weeks and stressed she wants to make residents feel heard on the issue.

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex New Democrat Todd Case said he's noticed a disconnect between Queen's Park and rural Ontario.

He said the Green Energy Act is "flawed," but that the solution isn't as simple as scrapping it.

Case said the NDP would impose a moratorium on the Otter Creek Wind Farm near Wallaceburg until a health hazard investigation was completed.

The debate also featured a question about the impacts of the minimum wage hike on businesses.

Progressive Conservative Rick Nicholls, of Chatham-Kent-Leamington, said he

supports a living wage, but not how it was implemented.

"It was too much, too soon," he said.

Nicholls added that many workers have simply experienced a cutback in their hours as businesses make adjustments to their labour costs.

McNaughton said businesses were caught off guard and believes the PC's **plan** to eliminate provincial income tax for minimum wage earners will be of bigger help to them.

However, McGrail said the time had come for a wage increase and that her party would ensure in the future it was geared to inflation.

Candidates at the table also expressed their support for the agriculture community and investing in rural broadband Internet access.

The provincial election is June 7.

[Back to Top](#)



Ford dining out on love; Bacon 'n'eggs crowd behind PC leader

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Joe Warmington

Ad Value: \$2,241

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A11

It's got that vintage, throwback look from the days when the Progressive Conservatives governed the province for four straight decades.

If you go into Troy's Diner on Main St. in the town of **Milton**, about 50 km. **west** of **Toronto**, you'll find 20 smiling staff working hard to serve a restaurant full of hungry customers.

You will also find Troy himself.

Troy Newton is living out a dream by serving his hometown great grub. The fact that his food is delicious and plentiful illustrates the passion he and his family have put into a place that's decked out like one of those 1950's diners from the movies.

The eatery has a look that one would have seen when "Old Man **Ontario**" Premier Leslie Frost sat down for a meal during his reign from 1949-61. Troy's Diner is the kind of place where memories are made.

It certainly was memorable when the man likely to be **Ontario**'s next premier walked in Wednesday.

Troy is Doug Ford's kind of guy, and Troy's Diner is his kind of place.

Just one day from the election that could propel him to the premier's office, Ford rolled into **Milton** and made the restaurant - packed with regular people having breakfast - his first stop.

"It's pretty exciting," said Troy. "So much great **energy** in here."

You could tell Doug would have loved to have some of those pancakes, bacon and eggs, but there was too much to do on this final day to allow for any down time.

"I told him I could fill in for him any time, and he teased he'd be OK with that as long as I promised to make sure to keep the taxes on businesses low," Troy said, laughing.

No argument from Troy on that one. If any sector is in need of some financial relief from an over-regulating government, it's small business.

"It has not been an easy time," said Troy.

But he's not complaining. "I love every part of what I do," he said.

Except, he teased, for paying bills, which have tripled.

"When I started the restaurant 13 years ago, it cost about \$1,000 a month for **hydro**," he told me. "Today it's \$3,100 a month, and sometimes \$3,200."

And that's not the only thing that's gone up.

"When **gas** prices go up, everything goes up - and when **hydro** skyrockets, so does every product."

Throw in bumping up the minimum wage, and suddenly a small mom-and-pop restaurant on **Milton's** historic Main St. starts to have a tough time competing with the bigger chains.

"We can't pass every new cost on down to the **customer**," said Troy. "If we did, they couldn't afford to eat here."

He's had to find other ways to adjust. He paid the extra minimum wage, but it meant giving raises to other staff who were already making more. That translated to an instant \$10,000 added to his annual costs.

"It's not easy to come up with," said Troy.

It's meant Troy's Diner "sadly" could not sponsor local sports teams this year, as he was always so proud to do.

"We still do charity through the Tiger Jeet Singh Foundation, but this year the restaurant didn't have enough to support the local clubs." He hopes that changes when Ford becomes boss.

If Ford is elected premier Thursday, he has promised to cut taxes, cap minimum wage increases, lower **hydro** costs, cut the cost of bureaucracy, take 10 cents of taxation off a litre of **gas** and kill the **cap and trade** program.

"It's all stuff that will help us," said Troy. "That's why I am voting for Doug and why I think Doug Ford will win."

If he's right, the next time Doug Ford walks into Troy's Diner, it will be as **Ontario's** premier. [@joe_warmington](mailto:jwarmington@postmedia.com)

[Back to Top](#)



Horwath makes third swing through C-K

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A26

Long-time NDP supporters in Chatham-Kent are feeling good about the outcome of Thursday's provincial election, but it's new supporters like Randy DeWael that could make the difference.

The Chatham resident, formerly a Liberal supporter, was among the more than 50 people who jammed into Chatham-Kent-Leamington NDP candidate Jordan McGrail's campaign office in Chatham Monday afternoon for a chance to meet NDP leader Andrea Horwath, during her third stop here during the election campaign.

He not only met her, he left with an autographed campaign sign.

"Change has got to happen," said DeWael.

He blames his defection from the Liberals on rising **hydro** prices and other policies under leader Kathleen Wynne, and the fact he doesn't believe she "owns up to her wrongdoings."

DeWael doesn't believe **Ontario** Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford is the right choice, citing his lack of experience.

He is 100 per cent positive Horwath will make changes to benefit **Ontario** residents, adding, "the NDP has come a long way."

When asked about her return to Chatham-Kent, Horwath said, "I'm excited to say to the people of Chatham-Kent that you can join us to stop Doug Ford on Thursday and have a government that is putting your needs and the interests of your families first.. ."

Horwath acknowledged it was "probably a difficult moment" for Wynne to concede defeat for the Liberals on the weekend.

She added where Wynne says her priority is to make sure Ford is held in check after election day, "my priority is to make sure Doug Ford is defeated on election day."

Horwath showed no interest in discussing the possibility of being elected to a minority government.

"I'm going to wait until Thursday, because I believe that **Ontario** voters... really do want to see a big change," she said.

"And, so I'm going to give them the respect of sitting back and waiting for them to make a decision," Horwath also plans to spend the next few days talking to voters about the implications of what that decision might be.

A local issue has been the need for a concrete median barrier on the stretch of Highway 401 from Tilbury to **London**.

"I know, locally, that people are very concerned about those crossover crashes that continue to happen," Horwath said.

"There's no way that it should have been left this long, that there was no barrier whatsoever on big stretches of that highway," she added.

While Horwath said getting concrete barriers in place would be an optimal solution, she also cited the time it could take.

"I do know that people want something sooner rather than later," she said. "People don't want to wait for years and years and years as they have already waited for the highway to become safer."

Horwath said this issue will be kept at top of mind if the NDP is given the opportunity to solve this problem.

[Back to Top](#)



With only days left, each campaign has their issues to contend with

Hanover Post - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Merriam Jim

Ad Value: \$347

Reach: 15209 Page: A6

With only two days to go before the **Ontario** election, it would seem only **fair** to be **fair** to all three main parties.

One way to do that would be to explore a troubling issue from each campaign.

Following the fairness thing, let's tackle these issues in alphabetical order of the leaders' names.

Which would make the PCs and Doug Ford first.

One big issue for those carrying the blue banner has been the absence of a "fully-costed" platform, including information on the source of funds to pay for campaign promises.

The electorate should have had this weeks ago, in order to give it careful consideration before election day.

The platform is not as critical as the media and other political parties would have us believe. A lot of voters couldn't care less.

But still, a party looking to form government should be upfront about finances and where it intends to come by the money to make it work.

On to Andrea Horwath and the NDP. In order to be considered a serious contender in the leadership sweepstakes, Horwath needs to take charge and that includes showing candidates the door when they are revealed to be more trouble for the people than they might be worth.

Panelists in a TVO debate on the subject suggested having candidates with troublesome burdens wasn't all that critical, since voters aren't going to vote because of issues such as poppies. I beg to differ.

About poppies, NDP candidate Laura Kaminker said, "I... wait for the collective brainwashing to blow over" and "when our masters give the signal, everyone can take off the fake poppy - made with prison labour - and create a bit more landfill. And another annual ritual of war glorification comes to a close."

Some really will not vote NDP due to that statement. But it goes beyond that.

Anti-poppy tirades and Hitler quotes on a Facebook page from another candidate illustrate character flaws that should keep these folks out of Queen's Park.

And therein lies the NDP's Achilles heel in this election. Do they have the horses to form and run a government? And finally I'm not the least bit sorry I don't like Kathleen Wynne. As a resident of rural **Ontario** she has done between nil and zilch to entice my neighbours and I to either like her or even remotely support her policies.

And it's going to get harder for all of us as we're faced with paying off the horrendous \$312 billion debt run up by Wynne and cronies.

I am sorry that Wynne chose to sell **Hydro** One, that she can defend the \$6 million man, that she thought **power** poverty was OK for months while people were freezing in the dark in the province she now brags is on fine financial

footing.

Most of all I'm sorry that Wynne didn't take my advice, or that of dozens of others, when her polling numbers started to tank after selling **Hydro** One, something she had no mandate to do.

That's when she should have stepped down, allowing her party to select a new leader, perhaps one with a feel for the people.

Had that happened voters might have an easier choice on Thursday.

Either way, the next premier and his or her party will face a gargantuan task fixing **Ontario**.

Concentrating on short-term political gain kept the Liberals in office for 15 years.

The next premier must have more vision.

jimmerriam@hotmail.com

[Back to Top](#)



Kathleen Wynne puts on brave face, voice at Burlington appearance

Burlington Post - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$1,712

Reach: 57819 Page: 1

For a party that political pundits and pollsters have essentially written off in Thursday's provincial election, there were still plenty of happy faces and lots of brave, confident talk from **Halton**'s three Liberal candidates and their leader.

Ontario Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne stopped by the campaign office of **Oakville North-Burlington** riding candidate Alvin Tedjo in east **Burlington** tonight (June 6) on the last stop of her provincial campaign before heading back to **Toronto** this evening and a final stop in her home riding of Don Valley **West**.

Liberal incumbents Eleanor McMahon (**Burlington**) and Indira Naidoo-Harris (**Halton**) also attended Tedjo's office.

With the provincial election set for tomorrow (June 7), the majority ruling Liberals are lagging badly behind both the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democratic Party in a number of provincewide polls.

Even Wynne has conceded defeat, at least for the party, making that shocking **public** utterance last weekend, but tempering it with a hope of winning her seat in **Toronto** and a plea to Ontarians to elect other Liberals so as not to have a majority PC or NDP government.

In **Burlington** tonight, Wynne, the province's first female premier, said an election often feels for many people like it's only about politics and "nasty" remarks, but she said it's really about all the diligent work between elections that is done by MPPs at Queen's Park.

She cited cleaner air in parts of **Ontario** via the Liberals' closing of the large Nanticoke coal-fired **power** generating station, which shut down at the end of 2013, and is now being transformed into a **solar** project.

Wynne told the packed **crowd** at Tedjo's HQ that she had talked to a **Burlington** woman earlier in the day about the higher minimum wage the Liberals introduced.

"I told her that everyone in (this) Tim Hortons is making \$14 an hour. They are making a living wage so they don't have to go down to the food bank.

"That's who we're fighting for, the poor. That's what it's about; that's how you get through the (**public**) negativity," Wynne said to thunderous applause.

"Our unemployment **rate** is lower than it has been in 20 years.

"So tomorrow we have to get as many Liberals (as possible) to Queen's Park. We are problem solvers."

McMahon told the **crowd** that she sees Wynne as "one of the most courageous women As the first female premier in **Ontario's** history, she has done more for women than any premier...."

As for the PC's party leader, McMahon told the audience, "We know that people in this region don't like Doug Ford; they don't like his (proposed) cuts or his chaos."

Before Wynne arrived, McMahon told the Post that she didn't pay for her own advance polling this time, saying it's very expensive, but noted she had knocked on about 3,500 doors during the campaign, about the same as in the 2014 election, in which she beat current PC candidate Jane McKenna.

The overwhelming sentiment McMahon said she got from the **public** is its fear of Ford.

"Their first comment (usually) was they didn't like Doug Ford Leadership has been a huge factor in this campaign."

As for Wynne conceding the Liberal party's defeat in the election before the vote, McMahon said, "I was surprised. None of us knew she was going to make this decision," but she doesn't see it as a case of Wynne throwing in the towel overall.

"The premier is smart enough and sensitive enough to know what (her) candidates" were hearing at the door about her unpopularity with many voters.

"It's hard for her because she is intensely competitive. She knows she is polarizing," McMahon said of Wynne.

As for her own chances on election night, four years after becoming the first non-Conservative **Ontario** MPP in **Burlington** in 71 years, McMahon said, "I'm hoping my track record of the last four years will (count).... I think I've established a reputation of getting things done," she said, remarking that today is the 12th anniversary of the death of her husband.

OPP Sgt. Greg Stobbart was killed on June 6, 2006 while cycling in **north Halton** when he was hit by a truck.

It was the motivation for McMahon to become a safe cycling advocate and a major reason why she entered political life.

Tedjo thought he and McMahon were going to do something unusual on election night, share his office as their after-party location, but McMahon's handlers informed him they already had a site for her post-election gathering.

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario voters head to the polls after roller-coaster election campaign | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Voters in Ontario will elect a new government today after a campaign that has pitted Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives against Andrea Horwath's NDP amid controversy and volatile swings in public opinion polls.

[Back to Top](#)



Top 5 promises made by each Ontario political party | Full 2018 Ontario Election Coverage

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

A look at the top five promises made by each of the three major Ontario political parties heading into Thursday's election.

[Back to Top](#)



Fate of Ontario Liberals hangs in the balance as voters head to the polls today | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Kathleen Wynne has already acknowledged she won't be Ontario's premier after today's election, but the fate of her Liberal party now rests on how well her last-minute plea for support has resonated with voters as they head to the polls.

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario could see a seismic political shift in Thursday's provincial election | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario goes to the polls today in an election that could see a seismic political shift if Doug Ford's Tories beat out the NDP, their closest rival, and win a majority government, as the latest polls suggest.

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario: a province that has lost its way - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

As the Ontario election campaign draws to a close, it has left many of us elsewhere to ask: What's happened to this once great province?

[Back to Top](#)



[Final Ipsos poll suggests Doug Ford and PCs headed for a majority | Globalnews.ca](#)

globalnews.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

With less than 24 hours until Ontarians head to the polls, Doug Ford is on track to become the next premier of Canada's most populous province.

[Back to Top](#)



[Wednesday's letters to the editor | The Belleville Intelligencer](#)

www.intelligencer.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontario Hydro was dismembered years ago by the Conservative government, which split it into Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One.

[Back to Top](#)



[Election muddies red-hot green energy file](#)

Chatham This Week - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A15

It plunged **Ontario** headlong into green **energy** nearly a decade ago, making Southwestern **Ontario** the province's Ground Zero for costly **wind energy** projects that have divided many communities and become a lightning rod for soaring **electricity** prices.

But with **Ontario**'s Liberal government facing certain defeat in Thursday's provincial election, and even Premier Kathleen Wynne herself admitting the Liberals'15 -year run in office is over, the question now is what would a Progressive Conservative or a New Democratic Party government do with green **energy**? The answers, say a veteran industry analyst, aren't exactly clear.

Both the PCs and the NDP are "a little bit sketchy on the specifics of the **renewable energy** story," said Tom Adams, an **electricity** consultant and researcher.

Only a small portion of **Ontario**'s **electricity** supply, green **energy** quickly became a flashpoint as costs and opposition soared when the Liberals signed up **wind** and **solar** producers, including large **energy** giants, to lucrative, long-term contracts paying them far more than what consumers pay for **power**.

Adding insult to injury in windblown Southwestern **Ontario**, where many communities declared themselves "unwilling hosts" for the mega-projects, the government also stripped municipalities of local control over where such **energy** projects could be located under its **Green Energy Act** in 2009.

Wynne promised a more sensitive approach than her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, but a Chicagobased company's **wind** farm was still imposed on one Southwestern **Ontario** community, Dutton Dunwich, even after residents voted overwhelmingly against **wind** turbines.

The Liberals'embrace of green **energy** came as they moved to close the last of **Ontario**'s coal-fired **power** plants, including the Lambton generating station near Sarnia, and to make needed investments in the **power** system they insist were neglected for decades by governments of all stripes in **Ontario**.

Southwestern **Ontario** quickly became home to the largest **wind** farms and the

most **wind** turbines.

Doug Ford's PCs say they'd scrap the **Green Energy Act**, slap a moratorium on new **energy** contracts and try to renegotiate existing ones if they can. They'd also restore local decision-making over the projects.

Adams say he agrees with the PC **plan** to scrap the legislation, but said it's deeply intertwined now with how **Ontario's power** system works and the PCs haven't explained how they'd replace it.

"You simply can't rip it up, you have to actually replace it with something," he said.

Adams said the NDP has had a consistent record supporting expanded **renewable energy** projects, noting they voted with the Liberals to pass the **Green Energy Act**. The difference between the NDP and Liberals is that NDP wants the government, not the private sector, to develop green **energy**, he said.

But Adams also points to inconsistencies in the NDP message on its **hydro plan**, saying some days they say there will be a **rate** reduction of up to 30 per cent for some customers and other days, it's a 30-per-cent **rate** cut for everyone.

"Where they do attempt to explain how that 30 per cent is going to come about, their explanations are nonsense," Adams said.

Soaring **electricity** prices were an Achilles Heel for the Liberals, dogged by business and household hardship stories. In late 2016, Wynne apologized for not paying "close enough attention to some of the daily stresses in Ontarians' lives," citing **electricity** costs as an example.

But while the government moved to provide relief, effectively extending billions in costs far out in time like a mortgage, it came after **Ontario's** own auditor general, in a scathing report, found Ontarians had paid \$37 billion more than needed in **electricity** costs over nearly a decade, with an even larger hit to come - a result blamed on poor decisions, overpriced green **energy** and other factors.

Politically, the Liberals also took a hit from their move to sell off a majority stake in **Hydro One**, the provincial **power** distributor, to raise money for infrastructure projects.

The NDP has pledged to buy back **Hydro One** and eliminate the difference between what rural and urban consumers pay for **power** delivery. But, said Adams, "none of those things translate into big **rate** reductions across the board."

Ontario is Canada's largest **wind energy** market, able to generate 5,000 megawatts of **power** with 2,550 **wind** turbines, the **Canadian Wind Energy Association**, an industry umbrella group, says.

In Southwestern **Ontario**, the industry has run into many opponents including citizens' groups turned off by the sight and noise of the projects and concerns about their fallout on human health.

Government promises made to unwilling host communities have amounted to "lip **service**," said Bonnie Rowe, a spokesperson for Dutton Dunwich Opponents of **Wind Turbines**.

Noting NDP support for green **energy**, she said, "I expect that would continue" if Andrea Horwath becomes premier, while Doug Ford "would potentially stop projects," given where the PCs stand.

In Chatham-Kent, the group Water Wells First has fought for two years against a **wind** farm, claiming vibrations from its construction and operation have clogged more than 20 water wells with sediments.

Spokesperson Kevin Jakubec said a new government would be "a chance to reset, it's a chance to start afresh and address the mistakes that were clearly made during the Liberal administration."

He believes the NDP would make a difference, because it "has a well-established platform on water," seeing it as "a **public** trust." The PCs, on the other hand, were the party under whose watch Walkerton's deadly tainted water disaster occurred, he noted.

The **wind energy** association said it stands ready to work with whatever government Ontarians elect.

WHERE THE BIG THREE STAND LIBERALS: **Plan** to keep **Green Energy Act**; cancelled plans for 1,000 megawatts of new green **energy**.

PCs: Have pledged to scrap **Green Energy Act** and halt new **energy** contracts while trying to renegotiate existing ones. The PCs say they'd also restore local decision-making powers to municipalities.

NDP: Says **renewable energy** would be at the heart of the system and be integrated responsibly as needs grow; says it will respect local decision-making and make sure communities have a stake in the benefits.

[Back to Top](#)



Historic win within reach for Green party leader

Toronto Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Liam Casey

Ad Value: \$3,968

Reach: 171076 Page: A8

Mike Schreiner cannot walk the streets of downtown **Guelph** without being stopped to talk politics.

"Good job, Mike," one man says as he slaps the Green party leader on the back.

"We're working hard, eh!" the 48-year-old U.S.-born politician responds with a laugh. "Make sure you vote, no matter who it is."

"I'm voting for you," the man says.

Schreiner talks and walks fast. He's got his messaging down, his enthusiasm up.

His goal of becoming the first-ever elected Green member of the provincial legislature might be within reach, according to two recent polls that had him in the lead in **Guelph**, a riding held by Liz Sandals, a veteran Liberal not running this time around.

"The Liberal vote is collapsing in **Guelph**," Schreiner says. "I'm also finding a lot of Conservatives coming our way as well and it's mostly driven by Doug Ford. I've had so many Conservatives in **Guelph** come up and say 'I won't vote for a Doug Ford-led Conservative party.'" In 2014, Schreiner, who's led the provincial Greens since '09, finished third with 19.29% of the vote, just 1.5 percentage points behind the PC candidate, who is not running this time, and ahead of the NDP.

"I'm cautiously optimistic we're going to elect our first Green MPP," Schreiner says as he canvasses his riding, where he lives in a modest semidetached house with his wife and two teenage daughters.

Schreiner was born and raised in a farm in Kansas. He says love took him **north** in 1994 to Canada, where his wife became a professor at the University of **Toronto**.

A few years ago, Schreiner moved from **Toronto** to **Guelph**, where he has been working for decades. The city is ripe for a Green representative, he says. It's replete with clean-tech startups and a city council focused on **renewable energy** and protecting its water.

"**Guelph** is leading in so many areas that reflect the Green party's values," he says.

His supporters are people of all ages and political stripes. At 70, Elaine Duignan says she's volunteering for the first time with a political party. She's been an NDP supporter, but has fallen in love with Schreiner and his policies.

"I love his honesty, his integrity, his community involvement," says Duignan as she strolls around **Guelph** clad head-to-toe in green. "You know it's hard to meet an honest politician."

Schreiner is a known commodity in **Guelph**, through owning various small food businesses - his first was an organic food **distribution** operation. Locally, people know the Greens are about more than just saving the planet, he says, but across the province there is still the notion that the party only cares about the environment.

"The perception of the party once was that we hug trees, wear Birkenstocks and smoke cannabis," he says. "I really changed the brand of the party as a small business owner and an environmentalist."

He wants **Ontario** to move to 100% **renewable energy** and wants to close the **nuclear energy** plant in Pickering. He'd roll mental health coverage into OHIP and he'd implement a basic income program.

[Back to Top](#)



Focus on families; Green Party candidate would work to improve health services in Northern Ontario as MPP

Lake of the Woods Enterprise - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Sheri Lamb

Page: A4

When making a choice on June 7 Green Party candidate Ember McKillop wants voters to think of the children and how a vote for her could help improve mental health services in the **Kenora-Rainy River** district.

"We need to develop better policies around mental health and dealing with the after effects of trauma," said McKillop. "We need to coordinate services in a better way. We've got kids on wait lists that have been languishing for so long that by the time they're being seen their problems have gotten way worse. We need to increase the expertise in our area and we need to make it more accessible."

McKillop, 40, is employed by the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board in Dryden.

Although she grew up in Southern **Ontario**, she has made **Northern Ontario** home since attending college in **Thunder Bay** and receiving her inaugural posting with the KPDSB in Pickle Lake.

Her husband Bill McKillop ran in the 2014 **Ontario** Election for the Greens, with

Ember acting as his campaign manager. In 2015 the couple reversed roles and she ran in the federal election to represent **Kenora**.

When it comes to funding for mental health, McKillop said the province must distribute the dollars based on need, not population and should consolidate efforts so all **service** providers are working on solutions together.

"Instead of having so many organizations, who are doing good work in isolation, we need everybody working together," she said.

Energy security and manufacturing are other issues McKillop will focus on if voters choose her as their representative at Queen's Park. She pointed out that the Green Tech sector is booming worldwide and using the region's natural resources could help reduce our reliance on **hydro** and create long term employment in mining and **forestry**.

McKillop isn't afraid of a little hard work and starting with nothing in order to achieve success for her projects. When she was young, McKillop and a friend decided it would be a great idea to head **west** to British Columbia for a summer of fruit picking to make some money and have an adventure. Being young and naive they didn't realize Osoyoos was still recovering from an infestation so no one was hiring at the time.

"We ended up kind of destitute and homeless for a short period of time," said McKillop. "I learned so much from that experience. We ran into one organization who collected bread from restaurants at the end of the night and they set up a truck on the street and gave it out to people at night. It's inspiring."

McKillop said the experience of seeing kindness and just how little it would take to make the lives of others better inspired her to get involved with politics and try to help.

"I saw what caring can do and how a lot of our families here really just need a little love; they just need somebody to talk to and we don't have enough of that in our region to do that effectively," she concluded.

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[Back to Top](#)



Youth vote is a force that will be felt

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Vicky Mochama

Ad Value: \$13,259

Reach: 361323 Page: A15

The stakes for young people in this election are clear: our future is being decided. On so many fronts, the weight of the election's outcomes will be borne by us.

Every election is about the future. Politicians from all parties line up to make promises about who they will be and how they will lead. But often, they're talking to the people most likely to show up to the voting booth.

There is credible research that voter turnout increases with age; the largest block of voters tend to be 65 and over and the smallest block tend to be young people between 18 and 25. But the past is not all that the future holds.

The last **Ontario** election in 2014 saw a small increase in overall voter turnout. Notably, in the 2015 federal election voter turnout was at its highest since 1993: 57.1 per cent of young people aged 18 to 24 and 57.4 per cent of those aged 25

to 34 showed up to vote, thus increasing turnout in their age groups by 18.3 points and 12.3 points respectively.

In this provincial election, young people are the largest voting cohort, outnumbering baby boomers. Our generation is a diverse and politically active one but we face massive challenges: **student** debt, precarious work, rising health and child-care costs and a dismissive cultural attitude.

Yet for all the ups and downs (and downs and downs), young people's concerns have not been primary. Messaging from the three major parties and their advocates has hearkened us were children, or indeed, not alive.

In the middle of all that, it has been hard to hear exactly what they've planned for our future. Helpfully, Flare magazine compiled a rundown of the Liberals', NDP's and Progressive Conservatives' promises as they pertain to young people's concerns.

The **Ontario** Liberals - such as they now are - promise to expand on most of their existing policies: full-day daycare in addition to the existing full-day kindergarten, more grants for lower-income **students**, and a **plan** to spend \$2.1 billion on mental health.

The NDP meanwhile is promising the world: expanding health care to include pharmacare and dental care, a massive **student** debt grant and interest forgiveness program and the creation of a Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction.

Beyond a dollar for a beer, it's hard to see what's valuable to young people in the PC platform: a freeze on the minimum wage, no promises on tuition or **student** debt, an end to the **Green Energy Act**, and a tax credit for child-care expenses.

These promises and others still miss a mark.

I've had conversations with young people about social housing, the ability to purchase a home, the challenges of being a newcomer and the various tortures of **public** transit, to name a few.

Young Black people have told me about how they navigate their often-left-leaning politics with the social conservatism and sometimes big-C conservatism of their parents. I've met young people, partisan and non-partisan alike, who have thoughtful, probing questions about unions and how seniority issues have, they feel, kept them out of jobs.

Housing, immigration, mental health, transit, culture, labour - these are but a few of the issues where young people's futures are a pressing daily concern.

Part of the challenge is us. It's one thing to complain about rent, and another thing entirely to hold politicians to account.

As Tara Mahoney and Kate Reeve of the Undecided podcast write, "Much like riding a bike or achieving female orgasm, practice makes perfect. To ease the pain of political conversations, we need to have more of them."

It's been said that young people don't vote because we doubt our votes will make a difference. It is also said we are generally apathetic, indifferent to policy and politics. But that is untrue. Politics is a part of our conversations and it is growing louder.

In this election, we're unlikely to be silent.

And whoever becomes premier better make sure that we're heard.

Vicky Mochama is a co-host of the podcast, Safe Space. Her column appears every second Thursday. She also writes a triweekly column for StarMetro News.

[Back to Top](#)



One sure thing: Change is here; By tonight, a number of compelling questions will be answered by the province's electorate

The Hamilton Spectator - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Steve Buist The Hamilton Spectator

Ad Value: \$8,208

Reach: 103267 Page: A1

Everything has a life cycle and that's particularly true in politics.

Change is washing across **Ontario** today. How do we know? Because the three major political leaders keep telling us so. Over and over and over and over again.

"Change is coming and help is on the way," Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford has thundered at every opportunity over the past month.

Meanwhile, the word is built right into the campaign slogan of the New Democratic Party - "Change for the better."

And we know change is coming because the outgoing premier herself has said so. Before the votes have even been counted, Kathleen Wynne admitted the Liberals' 15-year hold on **power** has come to an end, a startling concession to make in the midst of an election campaign.

Depending on your views, Wynne's admission last weekend was either a crafty move, a colossal blunder or a rare moment of honesty in politics.

By tonight, a number of compelling questions will be answered by the province's electorate.

Will **Ontario** have its first-ever premier from Hamilton in Andrea Horwath?

Can the Conservatives finally seize **power** after a string of self-inflicted election misfires over the past decade?

Will the Liberals swing from 15 straight years in **power** to so few seats they fail to reach official party status? Or will they retain enough seats to hold the balance of **power** in a minority government?

Can Mike Schreiner, leader of the Green Party of **Ontario**, capture the first-ever seat in the legislature for his party? The most recent poll shows Schreiner holding a slight lead in his **Guelph** riding over the NDP candidate.

In Hamilton, the biggest question appears to be whether the city goes from being mostly orange to completely orange.

As Spectator political columnist Andrew Dreschel wisely notes, an orange NDP wave across Hamilton's five seats could greatly benefit the city if the New Democrats hold **power**, but it could also push the city's interests to the sidelines if the Tories prevail.

The most-recent projected standings, based on a consolidation of polls broken down to the level of ridings, suggest the Conservatives will form a majority government with 68 seats, followed by the NDP with 52 seats and the Liberals holding just four seats. The polls are more than a week old, however, which could be an eternity in an election as volatile as this one.

Interestingly, there are 22 ridings where the NDP is predicted to have more than

a 99 per cent probability of winning the seat compared to six ridings where the Tories are predicted to have a **greater** than 99 per cent chance of winning.

Locally, the projections suggest the New Democrats will win handily in Horwath's Hamilton **Centre** riding, as well as returning Paul Miller and Monique Taylor as MPPs in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek and Hamilton Mountain, respectively.

The projections suggest the probability of NDP victories in the three ridings is 100 per cent.

In Hamilton **West**-Ancaster-Dundas, NDP candidate Sandy Shaw is projected to take the riding with 42 per cent of the votes, ahead of Conservative candidate Ben Levitt at 30 per cent support. The polling consensus has longtime Liberal MPP Ted McMeekin running third with 24 per cent of the votes.

The polls suggest the closest local riding is newly created Flamborough-Glanbrook, where the Conservatives' Donna Skelly and Melissa McGlashan of the NDP are projected to be running in a dead heat at nearly 40 per cent support each.

This was always supposed to be the Tories' election to win.

Then again, that was also the narrative heading into the previous three **Ontario** elections and each time a solid PC lead in the polls at the outset of the campaign vanished in a puff of smoke by the time the votes were counted.

In 2007, John Tory's campaign derailed when he proposed extending government funding to non-Catholic faith-based schools in **Ontario**.

Dalton McGuinty's Liberals were re-elected with a majority and Tory failed to even win his own **Toronto** riding.

By the 2011 election, Tim Hudak had been the Conservative leader for two years.

He started the campaign with a 15-point lead in the polls, but again, the Liberals were re-elected, one seat short of a majority.

In May 2014, an early election was triggered when the Conservatives and NDP refused to vote in favour of a proposed Liberal budget. By that point, Wynne had been the Liberal leader for a little over a year.

Once again, the Conservatives started with a double-digit lead in the polls - until Hudak said he would balance the province's books by cutting 100,000 civil servant jobs.

Wynne and the Liberals regained a majority government and Hudak announced he was stepping down as leader of the Conservatives during his concession speech on election night.

Which brings us to the current election and the Tories' curious affinity for committing fratricide at the most inopportune times.

First there was the bizarre, late-night abdication in January by then-leader Patrick Brown, just hours after he'd been the subject of a #MeToo-type character assassination, followed by the strange spectacle of the PC leader running through Queen's Park in an attempt to flee a pack of reporters.

Then there was the ascension of Doug Ford, an unpolished, polarizing figure, to the role of party leader. His supporters believe he will bring fiscal restraint to the province while Ford's critics fear he'll usher in an era of Trump-like populist politics.

Now Ford finds himself on the receiving end of a lawsuit launched by his sister-

in-law just days before the election, alleging that Ford's negligent management of the family business has deprived his late brother's heirs of millions of dollars.

None of the allegations have been proven in court and Ford has vowed to defend himself in court.

Nonetheless, the allegations could shatter the foundation of his appeal - that he's a competent businessman looking out for the interests of the little guy.

Meanwhile, Wynne's fate was sealed long before the election was actually called by a combination of factors. Some were within her control, but most weren't.

Fifteen years is a long time for one party to stay in **power**, even when the leader is skilled and beloved. Wynne may have been the former but she was never the latter in the eyes of many.

Asking voters for another four years on top of the last 15 was always going to be a tall order.

"It is a formidable challenge," Wynne told The Spectator's editorial board last week.

Wynne was also saddled with the baggage from the McGuinty-era **power** plant scandal that dragged on through her term.

But Wynne also didn't help herself by ramming through the highly unpopular decision to sell off a majority stake in **Hydro One** to private interests.

With a week to go in the campaign, Wynne was reduced to pleading with voters to elect enough Liberals to prevent a majority by either the Conservatives or the NDP.

And finally, there's Andrea Horwath, the former Hamilton city councillor who could be the first **Ontario** premier from Hamilton and just the second NDP leader to hold **power** in the province.

This is her third election campaign as leader. Each time, she has improved her party's seat count and proportion of the popular vote, and that trend is almost certain to continue tonight.

Horwath said that even though she has been the NDP leader for nine years, she was surprised to find polling that shows some people say they don't know her very well.

"I don't know if it is because they don't know me very well or they haven't been exposed to me for long periods of time," Horwath said. "As the third party, it's harder to get that attention.

"That's what's good about this campaign," she said.

"It really does focus people in on what the choices are."

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[Back to Top](#)



Choose change for the better; Why you should vote for me

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$14,991

Reach: 361323 Page: A1

Imagine four years of Doug Ford's cuts, privatization and corruption starting tomorrow.

We don't need to hold Doug Ford to account after the election. We need to stop Doug Ford today.

So, if you have voted Liberal in the past, I invite you to join us. A vote for Wynne now is a vote for Ford.

And we don't have to go from bad to worse.

Something special is happening in **Ontario**.

People are imagining a place where no one skips their medication because they can't afford it, and hospital waits are shorter.

An **Ontario** where everyone can get dental care, and child care costs and **hydro** bills are affordable again.

I'm asking the very richest people and the very richest corporations to pay a little more to make this happen.

With Doug Ford, people will pay the price instead.

His \$6 billion in cuts will mean firing thousands of nurses and closing hundreds of schools.

And his tax breaks for the very richest people and richest corporations will come out of your pocket.

We can't afford Ford.

Instead, let's choose change for the better.

Together, we can do this.

[Back to Top](#)



Tight race 'coming down to the wire'; Either Ford or Horwath will lead Ontario as Wynne admits she won't remain premier

Toronto Star - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Robert Benzie and Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$29,793

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

The province's future is now in the hands of its 10.2 million eligible voters.

Ontarians head to the polls today knowing one thing for sure: by Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne's own candid admission last weekend, she will not be premier after the election.

That means either Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford or NDP Leader Andrea Horwath will head the province's next government, ending almost 15 years of Liberal rule at Queen's Park.

"We are not going to form (the next) government. I will not be the premier," Wynne repeated Wednesday, standing on the shore of Lake Erie near the former site of the Nanticoke coal-fired generating plant that the Liberals closed to reduce pollution.

"There will be lots of 'what if-ing' after the election. When we came into this election, there was a clear and strong appetite for change, which is what made it so evident for us that it was going to be a tough election," she said.

Ford, who became his party's leader less than three months ago after Patrick Brown's surprise resignation, predicted that "this will be the most important election in a generation."

"The stakes have never been higher. The only question that remains is what kind of change will you vote for?" he said in Burlington, warning that "the NDP want to raise your taxes."

"I want to assure our public sector workers ... no one, I repeat, no one will lose their jobs," said Ford, who has promised \$6 billion in unspecified cuts, but is mindful of former Tory leader Tim Hudak's disastrous 2014 election promise to axe 100,000 public sector jobs to save \$2 billion annually.

Horwath was in Toronto and Brampton, emphasizing to voters that only the New Democrats can defeat the Conservatives and preserve public services.

The NDP leader predicted Ford's spending cuts would eliminate 60,000 jobs in the Greater Toronto Area alone, despite his claims that any changes would be

"It's coming down to the wire, and I don't want to hold Mr. Ford to account after the election - I want to stop him on election day," Horwath said.

"We know that Doug Ford's tax cuts for the rich are not going to solve the problems that families have," she told supporters at a campaign office on Weston Rd.

Instead, she said, there will be "more steep cuts to the services families rely on," under the Tories.

"The people of Ontario can win this election ... with a vote for the NDP. Everywhere I go, I can feel the momentum behind us to make sure it's the people of Ontario who win this election."

With change in the air, Wynne spent the final day of the campaign touting what her Liberals have done to clean it up. That took her to Cabbagetown and, later, to Nanticoke.

"If this were 2005, there's a good chance that on a warmer June day we would have had a toxic smog advisory," she told reporters on the rooftop of an Ontario St. housing co-op against the backdrop of the downtown skyline.

"Toxic chemicals would have been spreading all across the province, jeopardizing people's health. Kids with asthma would have been filling up the ER and schools would be cancelling recess and runners like me would have been getting an advisory not to go running," the Liberal leader said.

"That's what life was like under the Conservative government. The air was not always safe and some days it was downright dangerous to be outside," she said, referring to the 1995-2003 reign of former Progressive Conservative premiers Mike Harris and Ernie Eves.

After Liberal Dalton McGuinty was elected in 2003, Queen's Park put more of an emphasis on cleaning up the environment, promoting - sometimes controversially and expensively - green energy, among other initiatives.

Wynne noted that along with closing Nanticoke and eliminating all coal-fired generation, the Liberals partnered with Quebec and California for a **cap-and-trade** system to discourage businesses from polluting the air with greenhouse **gas** emissions that contribute to **climate** change.

While praising Horwath's New Democrats for supporting such environmental policies, she warned that Ford's Tories are "living in a different decade, talking about slashing regulations that protect your family's health."

Horwath has said she would keep **cap-and-trade**, which brings in \$1.9 billion that by law must be used to bankroll environmental programs, such as retrofitting old buildings and boosting **public**-transit infrastructure.

Ford has vowed to eliminate any form of what he calls "a carbon tax," but has not said how he would account for the loss in revenue from scrapping such programs.

The campaign's final week had moments of unexpected drama, beginning with Wynne's acknowledgment Saturday that her party could not possibly win the election.

She then criss-crossed the province in a mad scramble to preserve Liberal seats, hoping her party can hold the balance of **power** in a minority Legislature - and prevent a majority PC or New Democratic government.

The second jolt came Monday, with the revelation that Ford and his older brother, Randy, are being sued for \$16.5 million by the widow of their late brother, former **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford.

Renata Ford's lawsuit alleges the Ford brothers have used money from their father's estate to create the illusion the family business, Deco Labels and Tags, is profitable when it has lost \$5 million in the last seven years.

In addition, the suit accuses Doug Ford of taking an "extravagant" salary from Deco that is not justified.

None of the claims have not been proven in court.

Ford called them "false and without merit," but refused to bow to pressure from Horwath and Wynne to reveal his salary at Deco or disclose the company's audited financial statements.

With files from the **Canadian** Press

[Back to Top](#)



Regardless of who we elect, the sun will still come up Friday

The Hamilton Spectator - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Thomas Walkom

Ad Value: \$3,260

Reach: 103267 **Page:** A12

Ontarians are faced with a starkly simple choice Thursday. Do they want Tory leader Doug Ford to be their premier? Or do they want New Democrat Andrea Horwath?

Those are the only options on offer. The province can survive either.

By conceding she can't win, current Premier Kathleen Wynne has put herself out of the running. Her pitch that voters should support her Liberals anyway will, I suspect, fall on deaf ears.

Nor are pleas to engage in strategic voting likely to work. Most voters don't know their own ridings well enough to vote strategically. Changes in riding boundaries have made that task even more difficult.

Party platforms are of limited use when deciding who to vote for. The NDP's platform is comprehensive. But it is also overly ambitious, promising denticare, pharmacare and universal child care - as well as lower **electricity rates**, the re-nationalization of **Hydro One** and an end to hospital overcrowding.

It is more aspirational than practical, the platform of a party that wanted to avoid the trap of 2014 when it was outflanked on the left by Wynne's Liberals but - until recently - didn't expect to win.

The sketchy Tory platform by contrast is the **plan** of a party that expects to win and hopes not to leave too many hostages to fortune.

It says a Ford government would cut taxes and increase spending in some areas. But it is silent on how all of this would be financed.

In a CBC interview Tuesday, **Newmarket**-Aurora PC candidate and former Ford leadership rival Christine Elliott gave some hint as to what spending cuts a Tory government might envision.

Saying that international studies show **Ontario** is not getting best value for the billions it spends annually on health care, she promised a comprehensive **review**.

"We need to take a look at everything, line by line," she said.

This doesn't necessarily mean a Ford government would do anything unusual.

Bob Rae's NDP government laid off nurses in the early 1990s in an effort to slow the growth of health care spending. Mike Harris's PC government closed hospitals in the late '90s to achieve the same end.

The Liberals under Dalton McGuinty and Wynne continued to squeeze health spending in general and hospitals in particular. I expect a Horwath NDP government would find itself under fiscal pressure to follow suit.

None of this means that Horwath and Ford are the same. They are not.

Horwath is a more flexible politician who has navigated her party from **centre-left** to **centre-right** and back to **centre-left** again.

In many ways, she is a conservative, who uses hot-button, populist language but resists straying too far from what is politically possible.

Ford is a disrupter and a radical. He is attracted to bold moves - such as his pledge to fire the CEO of **Hydro One** - even when they are pointless and probably impossible.

Like Mike Harris, he has firm views - particularly on the virtue of tax cuts - that he is loath to give up.

In this campaign, the partisans of each leader treat the other as some kind of Satan. Ford aficionados paint Horwath as a Stalinist ideologue in the thrall of Big Labour. Horwath supporters dismiss Ford as a **Canadian** version of Donald Trump.

Each side says that the other, if elected, would cause incalculable damage to **Ontario**.

In fact, **Ontario** will probably survive Thursday's election.

It survived Rae and Harris.

It survived McGuinty and Wynne.

We do face a stark choice Thursday. But things will probably work out - regardless of who wins.

Thomas Walkom is a **Toronto**-based columnist covering politics. Follow him on Twitter: @tomwalkom

[Back to Top](#)



'A lot of mudslinging': Ontario 's long, nasty campaign almost over

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$2,204

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

It's time to put this ugly election campaign to bed.

Voters across **Ontario** head to the polls today to choose their next government, ending a reality show of a provincial election campaign that included the ouster of Patrick Brown as PC leader over sexual misconduct claims, theft allegations related to Hwy. 407 users' data, police investigations, poppy-bashing, an early concession speech by Premier Kathleen Wynne and a Doug Ford family lawsuit.

If the polling proves accurate, Ford's PCs are heading to a majority government with the NDP likely to form a strong opposition. The Liberals are at risk of losing official party status and the Green Party has its best opportunity in years to win a first seat in **Ontario's** legislature.

John Wright, CEO of DART Insight and Communications, said that in such a tight race any small last-minute switch in allegiance could change the outcome - like in the 2014 campaign where some NDP voters gave Wynne a majority government to avoid PC leader Tim Hudak's 100,000 job cuts.

"Three-quarters of the people in this province have said that none of the above really work for them," Wright said Wednesday. "So, I think it really does come down to age and a pinch of philosophy."

Ontario voters were generally looking for a **centre** left progressive leader, like Brown or PC leadership candidate Christine Elliott, but are ending up having to choose between the PC platform or the NDP leader, he said.

The Liberals could do a bit better than expected in **Toronto**, but the polling was clear 18 months ago that Wynne should have stepped aside for another leader or risked annihilation at election time, he said.

"Anyone who had any stones would have said to the premier, 'You really should leave,'" Wright said. "I know some people did and were kind of shut out."

The three main party leaders made their final pitches to voters Wednesday, with Wynne reminding voters that it was the Liberals who shut down **Ontario's coal-fired electricity** plants.

After Wynne conceded Saturday that her party won't form government, her candidates pushed the "vote local message" hard.

Mike Colle, the Liberal MPP for Eglinton-Lawrence, tweeted out #VoteLocal and

#VoteMike with no reference to Wynne or the Liberals other than a red background.

In former premier Dalton McGuinty's old **Ottawa** riding, Liberal candidate John Fraser put up some lawn signs that made no reference to the Liberal Party and were not even Liberal Party red.

The sign said simply, "STOP Doug Ford, Vote John Fraser."

In his last full day of campaigning, Ford was peppered with questions about the lawsuit launched by his brother Rob's widow Renata, alleging that he and his brother Randy mismanaged the family company and estate, depriving her and her two children of the funds due them.

Ford said he was always there financially for Renata and Rob's children Stephanie and Dougie.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath - whose candidates have been criticized for their online rants against police, poppies and the military - campaigned in and around the suburbs of **Toronto**, where she acknowledged this has been a negative campaign.

"There has been a lot of mudslinging, there's been a lot of lies, there's been that negative, negative tone, lots of accusations being flung my way," Horwath said. "I'm a tough cookie, a Steeltown scrapper, so I can handle it."
aartuso@postmedia.com

2018 **ONTARIO** ELECTION BY THE NUMBERS

124 Ridings in **Ontario**

825 Candidates running

28 Parties with candidates running

17 Newly created ridings

63 Number of seats required for a majority government

9.8M Voters registered in **Ontario** approximately

768,895 People who voted in advance polls

51% Turnout in the 2014 election

7,200 Voting locations across **Ontario** approximately Source: Elections **Ontario**

[Back to Top](#)



Your letters: Change might be for the worse

thestar.com - Thu Jun 7 2018
Tone: **Neutral** Reach: 999000

Let's look at the records of the parties and what their election promises really mean:

Doug Ford, Rob's brother, whom the Conservative party chose as their leader, was a **Toronto** councillor while his brother was mayor and he supported Rob's antics and actions including closing libraries and swimming pools, and raising TTC fares. His election campaign to cut taxes on **gas** by 10 cents a litre means a savings for the common working people he says he supports of \$3 on a 30 litre fill up. Individually not much of a savings, but multiplied by two million

individuals, a huge loss in government revenue. This is revenue needed to pay for the services we need and want - health care, education, transit, **climate** change initiatives and more.

Let's remember too the policies and actions of the previous Conservative government under Mike Harris. Tax cuts lead to hospital and school closures, cuts to culture, removal of environmental protection laws, removal of funding for TTC. Harris bought our votes with a jar of loonies, don't let Ford get away with the same trick.

Compare this to the Liberal government's record in office under Wynne - **climate** change initiatives such as supporting **alternative energy** start ups and shutting coal plants, increasing affordable child-care spaces, revising school sex education curriculum (with the option for parents opposed to have children exempted), extending pharmacare to give free medication for children and seniors, as well as funding the TTC.

Let's think before we simply vote for a change - the change might be for the worse.

Barbara Sternberg, **Toronto**

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario could see a seismic political shift in today's provincial election

nationalpost.com - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: The Canadian Press

Reach: 607500

TORONTO - **Ontario** goes to the polls today in an election that could see a seismic political shift if Doug Ford's Tories beat out the NDP, their closest rival, and win a majority government, as the latest polls suggest.

Either way, the vote will bring an end to 15 years of Liberal government, as Premier Kathleen Wynne herself admitted last week in a stunning announcement.

The Progressive Conservatives and the NDP have polled neck and neck for most of the campaign, with the Tories giving up a strong lead they held at the beginning. But a **tie** in popular support could lead to the Tories winning a majority of seats, projections suggest.

As Tory leader, Ford rolled out several popular promises, from cutting **gas** prices by 10 cents a litre to introducing buck-a-beer to cutting **hydro** bills. But he was accused of failing to be transparent by dodging calls to release a fully costed platform.

With about one week left in the campaign, the party published a list of promises and their price tags, but didn't indicate how they would pay for them, what size of deficits they would run or for exactly how long.

Then in the waning days of the campaign, Ford family drama - that had laid mostly dormant in the **public** sphere since the death of his brother, former **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford - burst onto the scene with a lawsuit from Rob Ford's widow alleging Ford mishandled his brother's estate and destroyed the value of the family business.

Late in the campaign, to soothe wary voters, Ford also began emphasizing the strength of his team, which includes former long-time legislator Christine Elliott, lawyer and businesswoman Caroline Mulroney and former Postmedia executive

and **Ontario** Lottery and Gaming Corp. CEO Rod Phillips.

By contrast, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath consistently polled as the most popular of the three party leaders, so Ford repeatedly slammed her roster of candidates as radical and inexperienced.

The Liberals warned that the NDP's **plan** was not practical, gleefully pointing out mathematical errors in their platform, including one that increased their proposed deficit by \$1.4 billion annually. Wynne also frequently slammed Horwath's opposition to back-to-work legislation, saying it would lead to indefinite strikes.

Horwath made a pitch to undecided voters Wednesday, framing the ballot as a "stark" choice between her positive **plan** to help families create better lives and the cost-cutting proposals of Ford.

The NDP has been relegated for the past several decades to holding pockets of seats in the **north**, southwestern **Ontario** and **Toronto**. But party insiders say their number crunching shows them poised to capture seats in broader swaths of the province, eyeing several Liberal strongholds.

The Liberals came to **power** in 2003 under Dalton McGuinty, and when he stepped down in 2013, Wynne took the reins. She led the party to a majority in 2014, despite the party already being bogged down by scandals at eHealth **Ontario**, air ambulance **service** Ornge and a price tag of up to \$1.1 billion to cancel two **gas** plants.

But her popularity began to soon dip, and reached well below 20 per cent in 2016 and 2017, in large part due to anger over rising **hydro** prices.

The Liberals eventually cut bills by eight per cent, then another 17 per cent months later, but by her own admission, Wynne failed to recognize early enough the impacts that investments in the **energy** system were having on people's wallets.

She also faced criticism over her partial privatization of **Hydro** One and her decision to plunge the province's books back into the red after finally getting them to balance in 2017-18.

Wynne insisted that the billions it pumped into health care, child care and a drug and dental-care program was necessary spending.

Wynne spent the last few days of the campaign pleading with voters to at least elect some Liberals - party insiders say they are worried they could win fewer than eight seats, which would mean a loss of official party status in the legislature.

[Back to Top](#)

Wynne ends campaign in Port Dover

THE EXPOSITOR

Brantford Expositor - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jacob Robinson

Ad Value: \$1,000

Reach: 29497 Page: A3

Premier Kathleen Wynne made her final stop on the 2018 **Ontario** election campaign in Haldimand-Norfolk on Wednesday afternoon.

The 65-year-old Wynne visited the Port Dover home of Peter and Micheline Roy, along the Lake **Erie** shore. With Haldimand-Norfolk Liberal candidate Dan Matten by her side, Wynne, who has already conceded the election, urged

Ontarians to vote Liberal to provide either a PC or NDP majority at Queen's Park.

"All of the building that we have been doing needs to continue and we need Liberal voices at Queen's Park to make sure we don't have a Doug Ford majority or an NDP majority because that growth could be at risk if we have a majority on either of those extremes," Wynne said.

Voters go to the polls Thursday. In one of her final days as premier, Wynne said the location on New Lakeshore Road is significant because the view is not obstructed by smog thanks to the closing of the nearby Nanticoke Generation Station.

Micheline Roy said that her allergies have cleared since the station was shut down.

The Nanticoke **power** plant, shut down as part of the Liberal's green **energy plan**, was once the largest coal-fired generating station in **North** America and employed more than 600 people. The site in Haldimand County is now being converted into a **solar** farm.

"Standing here today, we have a really graphic example of the change that that has made in people's lives," Wynne said. "Literally it is easier for Micheline, literally their property isn't full of soot and pollution at their beach every single day because the coal-fired plants have been shut down. It is so significant that we don't have smog days in **Ontario** now but sometimes we forget that individual people were dealing with the implications of those coal-fired plants every single day of their lives."

The premier also touched on changes to **Ontario's** minimum wage.

Wynne said she recently spoke with a Tim Hortons employee who applauded the minimum wage increase to \$14 per hour, which is slated to become \$15 in 2019.

"That's what this is about for me, making a difference in people's lives like that," she added.

However, it became clear during the campaign that voters had a "strong appetite and a desire for change," Wynne explained.

She said she is pleased with a number of accomplishments during her time in office, including making major investments in roads and bridges, focusing on clean air and water and providing a break to **Ontario's** 235,000 post-secondary **students**.

"I'm proud of that foundation that we've built and my hope is that whatever the configuration the government is after (Thursday), we'll be able to, as a province, pull together and continue to build on that foundation, not tear down the work that has been done... that building needs to continue," she said.

Wednesday's visit was originally scheduled for May 28 but was cancelled due to the bombing at a restaurant in Mississauga late the previous evening.

The Roys said they are delighted to host Wynne and her staff.

"I am so behind the Liberals and for them to choose our home because we are very Liberal is an honour," said Micheline. "I'm overwhelmed."

Matten said that history will favour Wynne and her government.

"We have cleaner air, we have cleaner water, we are fighting **climate** change and the increase of temperatures ... those actions are significant for today, tomorrow and all future," he said. "(That) is truly a sign of a historically good leader. I think the future will see her in a very positive light."

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[Back to Top](#)



RESTORE FISCAL SANITY; Only Ford's Tories will lay down the debt shovel

Ottawa Sun - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Markbonokoski

Ad Value: \$2,662

Reach: 45442 Page: A8

With the corpse of the Wynne Liberals all but on the autopsy table - the cause of death being old age, arrogance, fiscal incompetence and political corruption - **Ontario** must now decide what devil it will hire to fix the province's woes.

This election has been one for the ages, an unorthodox ride with more twists and turns than a snake in a rockpile.

It began with the abrupt bouncing and then resignation of Patrick Brown from the PC party leadership over unverified and denied claims of sexual impropriety.

Cue Doug Ford, big brother of former **Toronto** Mayor Rob Ford, who catapulted into the leadership over party's former deputy leader Christine Elliott and Caroline Mulroney, daughter of our former PM.

It has ended with Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne's unexpected throwing-in of the towel on the campaign and NDP leader Andrea Horwath defending a sorry slate of loonie-left candidates who variously: posted a Hitler meme, blamed George W. Bush for the 9/11 terror attack on New York, attacked the poppy as a symbol of warmongering, suggested our troops were "slaughtering" innocents, and carried a "F—the Police" sign during a demonstration.

Despite the twists and turns, most pollsters predict a dead-heat run for the finish line.

It is now up to the voters. It's time to sweep aside the heated rhetoric and hyperbolic attack ads and vote for the team best prepared to repair the damage successive Liberal governments inflicted upon the province, including a debt hole that is \$325-billion deep and growing.

As Ford put it, "The Liberals have us in terrible debt, and **hydro** and taxes are through the roof. The province cannot compete."

There is no gobbledygook in this, no talking points.

It's our collective reality. The NDP has no **plan** to lay down the debt shovel, and instead **plan** on handing out "free" anything-andeverything as if there's no cost for their reckless brand of buy-your-vote politics.

If the NDP does win, and they follow their promised Liberal-esque path, **Ontario's** debt is projected to climb to at least \$377 billion by 2021 - leaving us with debt-interest payments of \$16.9 billion a year.

That's almost \$17 billion going into the pockets of the rich who invest in government IOUs.

That's \$17 billion that will not be going to mend an ailing health-care system already on life support, or put toward aging infrastructure or lower the outrageous cost of **electricity**, or give a much-needed tax break to **Ontario's** middle class.

Worse, if the NDP makes **Ontario** a sanctuary province as Horwath has blindly promised because she has some secret garden where money grows, Concerned **Ontario** will cost taxpayers a minimum of another \$2.5 billion a year to dish out free and extended health care to illegals who are already flooding into the province because **Toronto** is a magnet to legitimate and economic refugees.

If you think our healthcare system is overwhelmed now, a sanctuary province status is the last thing that needs to happen.

What is needed, instead, is fiscal sanity.

Those who fear the tough medicine of former Tory Premier Mike Harris coming back to haunt them should fear more the return of Bob Rae's NDP government in the form of Andrea Horwath's cabal of activist misfits who don't know how to put down the spending shovel.

Think of that hole - that \$325-billion debt hole.

And think of it growing by the billions, unchecked and out of control.

That fixes things how? markbonokoski@gmail.com @MarkBonokoski

[Back to Top](#)



Ford visits Campbellford and receives enthusiastic welcome from party faithful

Brighton Independent - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Campbell

Page: A7

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford stormed into town Sunday afternoon and delivered a rousing speech to party faithful at the campaign office of local PC candidate David Piccini.

"We've talked to thousands and thousands of people (and) thousands of business owners, and I can tell you they are fed up ... being gouged by the government," he said.

Ontario's Liberals have saddled the province with "the highest debt anywhere in the entire world," he said.

"But what's even worse than the Liberals is the NDP," he charged, provoking loud cheers from his supporters.

"Remember the years of Bob Rae when unemployment shot up 28 per cent and we had 1.2 million people on welfare," Ford said.

Rae served as premier in the 1990s while leader of the NDP.

Ontario's taxes were the highest in **North** America at the time, he added.

Making his third visit to Northumberland County since the campaign began, Ford reiterated his party's promises to put money back into people's pockets, by lowering **hydro rates** by 12 per cent, trimming the **gas** tax by 10 cents a litre, and reducing income tax for middle income earners by 20 per cent.

People earning minimum wage will pay zero per cent, he added.

Ontario's small business owners, who employ 85 per cent of the people who work, are "hurting (and) they're frustrated ... with the 380,000 regulations the

Liberals have put in place," Ford said. "Those days are done. The party is over with the taxpayers' money." He vowed a complete audit would be done "from top to bottom," if the PCs form the government, "to find out who's been getting rich off your money," he said.

Ontario would be "prosperous once again" and become "the envy of the world," Ford continued, with companies forming a line to set up in **Ontario**.

"We'll go down to the border (and) put that big neon sign up that says **Ontario** is open for business," he said to more loud cheers.

Ford prompted another outburst by railing against "radical activists" in the NDP, whose members "attack our veterans (calling) them war criminals" and who "go after our police, the greatest police anywhere in the world." "And they get inspiration from Hitler," he added, repeating a claim made by two of his candidates that the NDP candidate in Scarborough-Agincourt, Tasleem Riaz, praised the Nazi leader in a Facebook post five years ago.

Riaz subsequently issued a statement saying she didn't recall the post and was "horrified" by what it said, without knowing how it happened.

Ford urged those present to get out and vote on June 7 so they and the Progressive Conservatives can "turn this province around ... and make **Ontario** the engine of Canada once again." After speaking for just over four minutes, Ford hung around to have his photo taken with dozens of supporters who lined up for the privilege.

He wasn't made available to answer questions from the news media.

[Back to Top](#)



Climate change focus of final candidates meeting

Brighton Independent - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: John Campbell

Page: A10

Brighton -Health care, debt, **Hydro** One -those are some of the recurring issues that have figured prominently in the all-candidates' meetings but one subject has received scant attention -the environment.

"**Climate** change is the most central, most impacting issue of our day ... (and) it's almost never coming up," Green party candidate Jeff Wheeldon lamented when the five candidates for Northumberland-**Peterborough** South went head-to-head for the last time Thursday night.

"It's galling to (have) everybody conspicuously ignore it," he said, when its impact will affect generations.

He was understandably overjoyed then when organizers for the May 31 allcandidates meeting included environmental issues as one of the four questions they posed before opening the floor to questions from the audience.

"We're already seeing the effects of **climate** change," Wheeldon said. "it's disrupting our economy, it's causing damage to our property." "We cannot overstate how important and central an issue it is. At the same time it's the greatest opportunity of our generation because the transition to a green **energy** economy is worth \$6 trillion." The Green party favours a carbon fee and dividend "which is like a carbon tax except that we would give all the money straight back to you so can reinvest that in ways that will help you be less dependent on fossil **fuels**." And if you can't do that, if you heat by oil, for example, "you'll still have the money back to continue to pay for it," he said.

"But we absolutely need to transition off that," Wheeldon said.

"We're going to phase out internal combustion engines by 2050." Progressive Conservative candidate David Piccini said his party supports establishing a fund that helps innovators and businesses investing in new technology that reduces emissions.

"It is an economic driver, a job creator," he said.

Liberal candidate Lou Rinaldi, the area's MPP for 12 of the last 15 years, said "**climate** change is real" and his government "led the way in Canada, if not **North** America," by being "the first jurisdiction that closed all the coal-fired plants. And since then there hasn't been one smog day in the province." And Sick Kids Hospital in **Toronto** says there are 4,000 fewer visits a year by children with respiratory problems, he added.

Rinaldi said the cap-and-trade program has generated \$1.9 billion in revenue that will be used to reduce greenhouse **gases** by retrofitting homes.

Trillium party candidate Derek Sharp said his party is against **cap-and-trade** because it is a carbon tax that is passed onto the **consumer** in the form of higher prices.

"I don't believe a carbon tax gives any real incentive for companies to lower their carbon emissions," he said.

"My solution would be tax incentives for companies that actually lower their emission." NDP candidate Jana Papuckoski said she supports **cap-and-trade** "because it's a program that ensures polluters pay." "It forces you to conserve or to adopt more energysaving mechanisms so you don't have to pay (into the) **cap-and-trade** program," she said.

Papuckoski said she is surprised some of the other parties don't support many of the green initiatives even though they have been "modelled in a business manner." The 10th and final allcandidates meeting, which lasted almost three hours and drew more than 100 people, was hosted by the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church. It was organized on relatively short notice, when it became evident none was going to be held in Brighton otherwise.

Wheeldon criticized the Progressive Conservatives for "talking about making **gasoline** and **hydro** cheaper (using) government subsidies" and "pulling up **wind** turbines." Piccini said his party supports "incentivizing the transition" but it won't happen overnight or be done solely "through the heavy hand of government." Government does have a role to play "but we have to be honest with Ontarians" and make clear that measures like the **Green Energy Act** are flawed.

"Thirty per cent of our **solar** contracts for **energy** that we don't need are being done" on prime agricultural land.

The **cap-and-trade** program enables large corporations to "just pass the buck" while they "continue to pollute," Piccini said.

Sharp said it also allows companies to sell credits if they use technology to reduce their carbon output and make more money.

"This creates a huge imbalance between big businesses that can afford the technology and small businesses that cannot," he said. The result is "a huge competitive gap." Rinaldi said the Liberals have been "the most progressive government when it comes to protecting the environment." He criticized the Progressive Conservatives for producing a costed set of promises without explaining how they will pay for them.

[Back to Top](#)



Sarnia seeks plant to turn waste into natural gas

The Chatham Daily News - Thu Jun 7 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: \$247

Reach: 15320 Page: A3

Efforts are under way to attract a facility to Sarnia to turn nutrient-rich industrial wastewater from biochemical plants into renewable **natural gas**.

Sandy Marshall, executive director of Bioindustrial Innovation Canada, said the government-funded agency is working with Comet Biorefining on a proposal to see an anaerobic digester built and operated in Sarnia. Comet plans to build a bio-refinery in Sarnia to turn corn and wheat stalks into sugar.

Marshall said the digester project could cost \$20 million to \$30 million, and a request for proposals has been released to identify a potential owner-operator.

The deadline for proposals is the end of this month.

"We look forward to working with the successful company to have them build a successful anaerobic digestion business here," Marshall said.

Sarnia-Lambton can offer access to steam, **power**, water and skilled trades to the biochemistry companies the agency works to attract and support, but "one of the things we're missing is the ability to treat these really rich organic streams that come from bio-plants," he said.

"They're too rich to go into a traditional wastewater plant."

The wastewater needs to be pretreated in an anaerobic digester, and the agency has been trying for years to fill that "infrastructure gap" so the community can continue to attract new biochemical companies, Marshall said.

"It's just one more selling point for Sarnia-Lambton and the **hybrid** industry cluster."

If an owner-operator for a digester can be found and a facility built, wastewater from local biochemical plants would be pumped to the digester site and put into large tanks, where bacteria breaks down the organics and turns them into methane, or renewable **natural gas**, Marshall said.

The digester could also take green-bin material from municipal waste, as well as other sources of organic waste.

The renewable **natural gas** created is purified so it can be delivered to customers, such as **Union Gas** or TransAlta, and the "digestate" material left over can be used as "high-carbon fertilizer you can put back on farmland," he said.

[Back to Top](#)



Political appointments undermine environmental assessment process | National Observer

www.nationalobserver.com - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Bill C-69, which will govern federal environmental assessment in coming years, has been proceeding through Parliament with striking media indifference, even

though important issues are at stake.

One issue is the process of appointing members to the review panels responsible for assessing large projects under federal authority, like the recent Energy East oil pipeline project.

[Back to Top](#)



N.B. tries to revive Energy East pipeline | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau needs to at least try to resurrect the Energy East pipeline project since it could mean thousands of jobs for Atlantic Canada, says the top exec of Saint John's chamber of commerce.

[Back to Top](#)



Why Trudeau and his Liberals are now the targets that Kinder Morgan once was | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed Jun 6 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

From within the endless scroll of the Twitterfeed, its glitter and gutter, one particular tweet called me to a halt. It was from Catherine McKenna, the climate change minister, and was posted hours after the Americans put a tariff on Canadian steel.

[Back to Top](#)