

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: February 12, 2018 7:50 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, February 12, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Monday, February 12, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 24 Results



On carbon tax, Progressive Conservatives move in wrong direction

thestar.com - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Star Editorial Board

Reach: 999000

So it seems those aspiring to lead Ontario's Progressive Conservatives in the wake of Patrick Brown's disgrace are sadly set on throwing out the baby with the bathwater. By rejecting Brown's proposal to raise new revenue through a carbon tax ...



Nixing carbon tax won't help climate goals; Hopefuls would kill carbon tax, Feb. 9

Toronto Star - Sun Feb 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$4,302

Reach: 315452 **Page:** A16

Hopefuls would kill carbon tax, Feb. 9 The current debate around the PC party's **plan** for a carbon tax is missing a key question. How will we actually reach our **climate** targets in **Ontario**? No matter which carbon ...



Tory hopefuls opt for party votes over what the general public wants; Contenders throw red meat to base with unrealistic promise to scrap carbon tax

Ottawa Citizen - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$11,371

Reach: 114846 Page: A4

All the contenders to lead the Progressive Conservative party are now against a carbon tax, pledging to either destroy their own party's platform or conjure billions of dollars in cuts nobody will notice. What happens when they have to sell this to ...



Focus Ontario: The PC Battle Begins | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Sun Feb 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, February 11, 2018

Carbon tax mentioned around the 1:37 mark.

On this week's Focus Ontario, how the carbon tax and other new developments are impacting the race to lead the Ontario Tories.



Wynne ready to fight; Premier visiting Sudbury schools today on pre-election tour

Sudbury Star - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$1,015

Reach: 114934 Page: A1 / Front

Premier Kathleen Wynne will make a pre-election visit to **Sudbury** on Monday, stopping at the city's three post-secondary schools. A release from the premier's office said she will participate in a town hall discussion with Laurentian ...



Hydro plant public meetings Feb. 27, 28

Peterborough Examiner - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Joelle Kovach

Ad Value: \$224

Reach: 13988 Page: A2

A pair of **public** meetings will be held at the end of the month, one in Lakefield and another in Buckhorn, regarding the proposed development of a couple of new hydroelectric projects. **Peterborough Utilities** Inc. ...



Candidates woo Tories in Ottawa; Three leadership hopefuls attend Manning conference in mad dash toward vote

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Tonda MacCharles Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$29,657

Reach: 500678 Page: A8

They don't call it a networking conference for nothing. All three declared **Ontario** PC leadership candidates are showcasing their chops at an annual

conservative talkfest in **Ottawa** in the mad dash towards the vote that takes ...



Help: Miracle needed in Ontario

Ajax News Advertiser - Fri Feb 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$798

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

Usually, readers email me in response to a column; rarely have they vented one after another because of the latest news. But, the resignation of Patrick Brown, the former **Ontario** Progressive Conservative (PC) leader, has solicited this ...



Why blocking pipelines is no fix for climate change

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: BARRIE McKENNA

Ad Value:\$16,218

Reach: 309154 Page: B12

Western Canada Select. The phrase is clever branding, conjuring up a product that has been carefully chosen for its quality and distinctiveness. And it's **Canadian**. Regrettably, the superthick bitumen produced from the oil sands is ...



Advocates push for strengthened environmental-assessment bill

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value:\$17,062

Reach: 309154 Page: A5

Environmental groups are urging the Liberal government to strengthen its proposed changes to the process of assessing resource projects, arguing the current **plan** will allow economic development to trump environmental protection. As the ...



TransCanada in talks to boost natural gas capacity; Increasing shipments on Alberta-to-Ontario line could help producers recapture market share from U.S. rivals

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value:\$15,500

Reach: 309154 Page: B9

TransCanada Corp. is mulling expansion of shipments through a major pipeline to move more **natural gas** from Alberta to **Ontario**, which could help producers snatch back market share from U.S. rivals as the prospects for ...



Environmental groups want Ottawa to toughen new energy project assessment approach - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, February 12, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Environmental groups are urging the Liberal government to strengthen its proposed changes to the process of assessing resource projects, arguing the current plan will allow economic development to trump environmental protection.



LEGER: Alberta-B.C. pipeline fight could rock national-unity boat | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, February 12, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Try this as a thought experiment. Imagine a dog, a titanic dog the size of a continent. Then think of a tail, a tiny tail hanging off the posterior zone of the giant dog. Then think of the tiny tail wagging the dog, slowly at first, but then faster ...



HAPPY ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The Globe and Mail - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Positive**
Byline: Donna Sinclair

Ad Value: \$2,955
Reach: 372649 Page: O10

As a member of a group that spent four years fighting the now-defunct **Energy East** pipeline, I can confidently say to Gary Mason that environmentalists are not at all "disappointed" when a **corporation** "pulls the plug" ...



Proposed Canadian Policy Could Make Pipelines Responsible for Wellhead-to-Burnertip Greenhouse Gas | 2018-02-09 | Natural Gas Intelligence

www.naturalgasintel.com - Fri Feb 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

The regulatory barrier that halted TransCanada Corp.'s Energy East pipeline conversion last year -- blaming pipelines for cargo carbon emissions -- would confront all future projects under legislation proposed Thursday by the Liberal government in ...



Solar power project to be discussed at open house Wednesday afternoon

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**
Ad Value: \$155
Reach: 2981 Page: A1 / Front

Representatives from the KL **solar** and Sentinel **Solar** will be on hand at Heritage **North** on Wednesday to speak about the Archer Drive **Solar** Project. The officials will be there to introduce the project, the ...



Power restored to large swath of east end after outage | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Sun Feb 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Much of the east end was without power for two or three hours Saturday afternoon.



At \$20.74, Is It Time To Buy Hydro One Limited (TSE:H)? – Simply Wall St News

simplywall.st - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Hydro One Limited (TSX:H), a electric utilities company based in Canada, saw significant share price volatility over the past couple of months on the TSX, rising to the highs of CA\$22.86 and falling to the lows of CA\$20.74.



Mulroney makes her case; Candidate highlights family, business acumen as she runs for Ontario Tories

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$808
Reach: 11236 Page: B3

Caroline Mulroney highlighted her mother's teachings on conservatism, her grandparents' immigrant background, and her experience as a parent and businesswoman to a national gathering of conservatives on Friday as she sought to portray herself as a ...



PC's shifting winds buffet energy goals

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Chantal Hébert OPINION

Ad Value: \$14,964
Reach: 500678 Page: A12

For the first time since Justin Trudeau's government set out to put a national floor price on carbon emissions, there is a real possibility the government could have to implement its **climate change** policy without the ...



Ont. PC platform in limbo as candidates rethink carbon tax

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Paola Loriggio

Ad Value: \$696
Reach: 11236 Page: B3

All three candidates vying to lead Ontario's Progressive Conservatives have distanced themselves from a party commitment to replace the governing Liberals' cap-and-trade system with a carbon tax, raising questions about their ability to deliver on ...



Oil issues follow PM to Cali; American pipeline protesters demonstrate outside Trudeau meetings

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jordan Press

Ad Value: \$775

Reach: 11236 Page: B1 / Front

Opposition to Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline has followed Justin Trudeau to sunny California, where protesters demonstrated Friday outside the hotel where the prime minister was holding meetings with top state officials. About a dozen ...



Mulroney highlights family, business acumen as she runs for Ontario Tories | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Caroline Mulroney highlighted her mother's teachings on conservatism, her grandparents' immigrant background, and her experience as a parent and businesswoman to a national gathering of conservatives on Friday as she sought to portray herself as a ...



Caroline Mulroney campaign to prioritize hydro rates, mental health | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontario PC leadership candidate Caroline Mulroney says she'll respect and champion many aspects of the party's "People's Guarantee," but wants to focus efforts on hydro rates and mental health.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



On carbon tax, Progressive Conservatives move in wrong direction

thestar.com - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Star Editorial Board

Reach: 999000

So it seems those aspiring to lead **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives in the wake of Patrick Brown's disgrace are sadly set on throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

By rejecting Brown's proposal to raise new revenue through a carbon tax without suggesting an alternative, they have essentially abandoned a platform that sought to put the "progressive" back in Progressive Conservative and have embraced again the blind austerity that torpedoed Tim Hudak and other leaders before him.

Whatever else one can say about Brown's leadership - and clearly there is a

great deal - his success in moving the **Ontario** PCs back to the **centre** ground from the moral and tactical wasteland where they had long dwelt was undoubtedly good for both party and province.

The platform under Brown, the substantive and detailed "People's Guarantee," promised help for families struggling with child-care costs, a middle-class tax cut, and much-needed spending on mental health. It pitched the sort of big tent that has served the party well historically, but has been eschewed in recent (unsuccessful) campaigns in favour of red meat for the far right.

So it should be deeply disappointing, both for those who want to see the party succeed and for those who want a constructive debate on the challenges we face, to watch the three top leadership contenders, one by one, reject the carbon tax **plan** that was to pay for those promises (www.thestar.com). Not least because that rejection seems to rest on the tired orthodoxy that all taxes are bad taxes.

To fund the platform, Brown proposed to adopt the Trudeau government's incoming carbon tax **plan** as a replacement for **Ontario's cap-and-trade** carbon-pricing system. Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, two of the frontrunners in the race to succeed Brown, were quick to reject the proposal. Caroline Mulroney seemed at first to embrace it, only to flip-flop on Thursday. "I'm a conservative," she said, "and I'm not in favour of a new tax."

Mulroney, for her part, says she will pay for the other planks in the platform by moving money around and finding efficiencies. That is, to borrow a favourite phrase of one of her rivals, she will "stop the gravy train." Of course, in reality, there's never enough gravy. Without the carbon tax, the People's Guarantee doesn't add up. And with four months before the election, that leaves candidates back at square one, with \$4 billion less to play with.

What makes the candidates' position particularly silly is that it's not at all clear what it means for an aspiring premier to oppose a carbon tax today, given that **Ottawa's** new policy means no province can avoid putting a price on carbon. What is implied, therefore, by their opposition to Brown's proposed tax is not the rejection of a price on carbon, but presumably an embrace of the current **cap-and-trade** system.

Why a conservative should prefer that is not obvious. While it's true the carbon tax would be felt by most Ontarians more than the current **cap-and-trade** system, Brown's **plan** had the benefit - from a conservative perspective - of being largely revenue neutral; that is, much of the money raised would be returned to voters in the form of tax cuts and child-care rebates. **Ontario's** current system, on the other hand, requires that revenues be reinvested in green initiatives. Environmentalists like that, most conservatives not so much.

What we are hearing so far from this race sounds too much like the empty, muddled pro-austerity pandering of Hudak and others before him. That's clearly not a model to emulate.

The move under Brown back to the **centre**, where **Ontario** elections are won, was a wise one. The acknowledgement that to occupy that ground requires policies and programs that cost money and that any serious platform must explain how that money will be raised was welcome, too. By rejecting all of that, Brown's aspiring successors now risk leading the party from the brink of success back into oblivion.

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Nixing carbon tax won't help climate goals; Hopefuls would kill carbon tax, Feb. 9

Toronto Star - Sun Feb 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$4,302

Reach: 315452 Page: A16

Hopefuls would kill carbon tax, Feb. 9

The current debate around the PC party's **plan** for a carbon tax is missing a key question. How will we actually reach our **climate** targets in **Ontario**? No matter which carbon pricing system we choose - sticking with **cap-and-trade**, carbon tax or nothing at all - just putting a price on carbon will do little on its own to reduce **Ontario**'s emissions. The revenue from these systems is the real muscle behind our greenhouse-**gas**-reduction efforts. We need to reinvest this revenue into strong policies and programs to do the hard work. This is our best (and only) shot at achieving an 80-per-cent emissions reduction by 2050. If the **plan** is to apply these revenues into other tax cuts and do little else, studies have shown we'd have to set our carbon price between \$150 and \$200/tonne to meet our emissions-reduction targets. Assuming no party is willing to go this high, we need to start asking some tough questions about how they will get us to our **climate** goals.

Sarah Buchanan, clean economy program manager,

Environmental Defence, **Toronto**

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Tory hopefuls opt for party votes over what the general public wants; Contenders throw red meat to base with unrealistic promise to scrap carbon tax

Ottawa Citizen - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$11,371

Reach: 114846 Page: A4

All the contenders to lead the Progressive Conservative party are now against a carbon tax, pledging to either destroy their own party's platform or conjure billions of dollars in cuts nobody will notice.

What happens when they have to sell this to voters outside their party, let alone maybe actually do it, isn't clear. Worry about it later.

Doug Ford was against a carbon tax from the moment he launched his leadership campaign after ex-leader Patrick Brown's sudden flame-out in January. Christine Elliott and Caroline Mulroney flopped around briefly before realizing where the leadership votes were to be had.

Let's **review** for a sec. Brown's "People's Guarantee" promises of middle-class tax cuts and health spending rely completely on billions of dollars in transfers from a federal-government carbon tax that kicks in in 2019 for any province that doesn't have a system of its own for taxing greenhousegas pollution. **Ontario** has a Liberal-designed **cap-and-trade** scheme already operating that brings in \$1.4 billion to \$1.8 billion a year. The People's Guarantee would scrap that and replace it with the heavier federal tax, worth about \$4 billion a year.

Whether Ford, Elliott or Mulroney could stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax and giving the **Ontario** government the proceeds is, let's say, iffy. But they're on record as wanting to.

What tipped Elliott over was a poll she put on her website. You could click a picture of a smirky Justin Trudeau with a "yes" label to say you supported a carbon tax, or one of an elegant Elliott with a "no" label to say you opposed one. Of the 1,535 people who clicked, 92 per cent went with Elliott over Trudeau.

Government by web poll.

Remember that Elliott's pitch is that she's the adult in the race.

Caroline Mulroney asked around and also concluded that Tories don't want a carbon tax.

With the confidence of a practised B.S. artist, Doug Ford says he'll still be able to do everything - he'll just find several billion dollars of waste to cut, easypeasy. Mulroney and Elliott have not publicly stated plans yet for coping with the billions in lost revenues. Maybe also waste. Even with a carbon tax, the Tories already promised to find \$2.8 billion of pointless spending nobody will miss, so a whole lot will have to go and we don't know what.

Last fall, Abacus Data conducted a national survey to gauge attitudes on **climate**-change policy, asking people whether they'd vote for a party that didn't have a **climate**-change policy. They found a roughly even split between respondents who said they'd never vote for a party that had no policy, and respondents who said they'd consider it.

They broke the **Ontario** numbers out of the national findings for me. As of early November:

51 per cent of Ontarians would only consider candidates and parties "committed to finding ways to combat **climate** change";

44 per cent would consider candidates and parties "that did not put emphasis on **climate** change";

Five per cent would actively prefer a party that has no **climate**-change **plan**.

There's a left-right division on the question but it's not as stark as you might expect. According to Abacus:

33 per cent of self-identified right-wingers would only vote for a party committed to fighting **climate** change, versus 68 per cent of lefties and 51 per cent of centrists;

56 per cent of right-wingers would consider a party that didn't emphasize **climate**-change policies;

11 per cent of right-wingers would prefer a party without a **climate**-change **plan**.

(The survey was conducted online and included 424 Ontarians aged 18 and over between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, 2017, Abacus says. A random sample was invited to complete the survey from a large representative panel of more than 500,000 Canadians and the results were weighted in keeping with census population data.)

There's a split in **Ontario** and the Progressive Conservative members the leadership candidates are courting are on the smaller side of it.

Hate for Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals could obviously overwhelm a voter's preference for a party with a **climate**-change policy, of course; it's hard to imagine many of the one-third of right-wingers who want a strong **climate**-change policy going Liberal or New Democrat. But likewise, a centrist inclined to vote Tory might be repulsed by a leader so determinedly against carbon pricing that he or she is willing to give up on everything else.

Carbon taxes and tradable emissions permits are the two major ways of attacking **climate** change humanity has come up with in the past 20 years, other than just having governments give orders. Maybe the Progressive Conservatives can invent a fourth way between now and June.

Unless they do, they risk a rerun of the 2014 campaign, which they ran with a platform full of holes and shoddy accounting. The Tories ran that campaign as unapologetic small-government conservatives and the conventional wisdom is that that's why they lost. Maybe a bigger problem is that they ran as stupid unapologetic small-government conservatives.

Of course, sometimes that works. Winning with a platform you can't possibly implement is its own hell, but it'd be better if we all weren't in there together.
dreevely@postmedia.com twitter.com/davidreevely

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Focus Ontario: The PC Battle Begins | Watch News Videos Online

globalnews.ca - Sun Feb 11 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

On this week's Focus Ontario, how the carbon tax and other new developments are impacting the race to lead the Ontario Tories.

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Wynne ready to fight; Premier visiting Sudbury schools today on pre-election tour

Sudbury Star - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$1,015

Reach: 114934 Page: A1 / Front

Premier Kathleen Wynne will make a pre-election visit to **Sudbury** on Monday, stopping at the city's three post-secondary schools.

A release from the premier's office said she will participate in a town hall discussion with Laurentian University **students** starting at 10:30 a.m. **Sudbury** MPP and **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** will join her.

She will then tour College Boreal at 1 p.m. before heading to Cambrian College, where she and Thibeault will host a **student** discussion, starting at 2:45 p.m. She will also tour Cambrian's Glenn Crombie **Student** Wellness **Centre**.

While the press has been invited to all three events, reporters will not be allowed to ask questions.

It's the first **public** visit Wynne has made to **Sudbury** since testifying last fall during the so-called **Sudbury** byelection scandal trial.

A **Sudbury** businessman, Gerry Loughheed Jr., and Wynne's former campaign manager, Pat Sorbara, were charged under the **Ontario** Election Act with offering would-be Liberal candidate Andrew Olivier a bribe not to run in the **Sudbury** byelection held in 2015.

Loughheed and Sobara were cleared.

The next provincial election is scheduled for June. Her visit comes during a time of political uncertainty in **Ontario**. While polls have consistently shown the Liberals trailing, the PCs have been rocked by a sex scandal and are in the

midst of a leadership race.

Patrick Brown, who appeared likely to become **Ontario's** next premier, was forced to suddenly step down last month after two women accused him of sexual misconduct. Three people - Caroline Mulroney, Doug Ford and Christine Elliott - are seeking the PC leadership.

For her part, Wynne fired up her troops at the **Ontario** Liberal annual general meeting last weekend by urging them not to focus on their uncertain opponent, but on the principles they're fighting for.

In an impassioned speech containing more than two-dozen instances of the word "fighting," Wynne took a clear shot at the opposing Progressive Conservatives, who find themselves in turmoil after Brown's sudden resignation.

Brown vehemently denies the accusations but his departure has led to party infighting and a rushed leadership contest to be decided by March 10.

Wynne told supporters last weekend it doesn't matter who the Tories pick, the Liberal government's goals remain the same.

"There are always going to be people who see things differently," she said. "People who criticize our **plan**. Some do it in the newspapers. Some do it on Twitter. Some do it behind a podium in their mother's basement."

The last reference was a dig at PC leadership candidate and former **Toronto** city councillor Doug Ford, who announced he would seek the Tories' top job at a news conference held in his mother's basement last week. - with files from **Canadian** Press

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Hydro plant public meetings Feb. 27, 28

Peterborough Examiner - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Joelle Kovach

Ad Value: \$224

Reach: 13988 **Page:** A2

A pair of **public** meetings will be held at the end of the month, one in Lakefield and another in Buckhorn, regarding the proposed development of a couple of new hydroelectric projects.

Peterborough Utilities Inc.

(PUI) proposes to build two waterpower facilities: one adjacent to the Douro Dam at Lock 24, and another between Buckhorn Lake and Lower Buckhorn Lake adjacent to the Buckhorn Dam.

PUI, in partnership with the Curve Lake Economic Development **Corporation**, will be presenting information on the first project and soliciting feedback from the **public** at a meeting on Feb. 28.

That meeting takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Lakefield-Smith Community **Centre**.

Another meeting organized by the same people will take place to offer information and solicit **public** feedback on Feb. 27.

That meeting will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Buckhorn Community **Centre**.
JKovach@postmedia.com

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Candidates woo Tories in Ottawa; Three leadership hopefuls attend Manning conference in mad dash toward vote

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Tonda MacCharles Toronto Star

Ad Value: \$29,657

Reach: 500678 Page: A8

They don't call it a networking conference for nothing.

All three declared **Ontario** PC leadership candidates are showcasing their chops at an annual conservative talkfest in **Ottawa** in the mad dash towards the vote that takes place in less than a month.

For Caroline Mulroney, Doug Ford and Christine Elliott, each of whom will take **centre** stage at the Manning Networking Conference over two days, it's a chance to woo a group of key influencers, pollsters, data analysts, strategists, pundits and, in many cases, keen young Tories willing to work for the candidate who captures their attention.

On that count, Caroline Mulroney, the first onstage, appeared Friday as a poised young woman with a conservative pedigree, but, in the eyes of many who watched, also as an inexperienced candidate.

She admitted her entry into the leadership race came about "very, very quickly," after Patrick Brown's fall from grace. She said it was fuelled by media speculation that she'd be a strong leadership contender, which she said forced her to move more quickly than she'd anticipated, to reach for the top job.

But Mulroney made clear she had harboured leadership ambitions when she decided to run for office in the first place.

"When we made the decision to get into politics, I made the halfway decision, at that point, that to get to leader, I needed to get involved, I needed to make a difference, and I was tired of living in Kathleen Wynne's **Ontario**," she said.

As about 200 people listened, Mulroney was skilled at telling her personal story, but less adept on her feet, when it came to policy questions about her newfound opposition to a carbon tax, and where she would find billions in foregone revenue or waste, to cut in order to pay for the party's platform.

Mulroney brushed off those questions with what several listeners later said sounded like superficial answers.

One senior federal conservative said he was reminded of Belinda Stronach's initial foray into politics; another groaned at Mulroney's decision to follow Ford and Elliott's lead and ditch the PC party's platform plank supporting a price on carbon, calling it a clear bid for first- or second-choice support in a preferential vote.

But, for those who support her, such as King-Vaughan candidate Stephen Lecce, Mulroney represents generational change, and is someone with business and volunteer experience who can bring voters to the party.

"There are a lot of Ontarians here. There's a lot of conservative thought-leaders, and it's important for the candidates to share their value-proposition with the membership," Lecce said.

"And, for Caroline, I think it was very helpful for her to attend this event to explain what motivates her as a fiscal conservative, someone who wants to ensure

opportunity for the next generation."

Mulroney won the nomination for York-Simcoe seven months ago.

She said much of the advice about entering politics, and entering the leadership race, came not from her famous father, former prime minister Brian Mulroney, but from her mother Mila, who met her husband when she was already a Progressive Conservative party volunteer. As another mother of four, her daughter said Mila Mulroney knew the struggles she would face in politics.

"I spent a lot of time talking to her about the challenges and how I would do that. She was the person I spoke the most to about it," Mulroney said. "Her experience helped define my approach to conservatism. People talk a lot about my dad, and his experience and how that might influence me, but my mother ... and my grandparents are a big, big part of my life."

Mulroney painted herself as a fiscal conservative who wants to reduce taxes, make life "more affordable" for Ontarians struggling to pay **hydro** bills, and who believes that government should create "the conditions for people who want to lift themselves up and make their own choices ... for their families and their businesses."

She pitched herself as a leader who welcomes the social conservatives who chafed under Brown's shifts on sex education in his bid to broaden the party's support.

"We come together around what our sole focus needs to be, which is to beat Kathleen Wynne, so, absolutely, we are a big tent," said Mulroney.

But when it came to describing where she'd find "billions," in foregone tax revenue or waste, to pay for the other promises in the party platform, Mulroney offered only generalities.

She said she would look to the recent auditor-general's report which found \$1 billion in wasteful spending, and was "confident" she could come up with a platform that included both strong environmental policies that would not create a **greater** tax burden on citizens.

Mulroney said she would likely retain platform planks on "getting **hydro rates** down" and on making investments in mental health.

Ford and Elliott are set to speak to the Manning conference on Saturday. Ford spent part of Friday working the halls and taking selfies with young conservatives who sought him out. Elliott is set to arrive Saturday.

For undecided Tories such as Robin Martin, the PC candidate nominated in Eglinton-Lawrence, uncertainty around the party leadership has created doubts at the door. She said she's stopped door-knocking for the time being, because "it's hard to ask people for their support when I don't know who the leader is and I don't know what their policies are."

She said Mulroney did a "good job" on stage, but she still had not yet made up her mind and was looking to the appearance of the other two candidates to help her decide.

The results of the leadership are to be announced March 10, after a week of voting that ends March 8.

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Help: Miracle needed in Ontario

Ajax News Advertiser - Fri Feb 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$798

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

Usually, readers email me in response to a column; rarely have they vented one after another because of the latest news. But, the resignation of Patrick Brown, the former **Ontario** Progressive Conservative (PC) leader, has solicited this and it's no wonder. But, we should have seen this coming.

If you look back to recent years for the **Ontario** PCs, something always seems to trip them up on the eve of an election. Remember when John Tory said he would support government funding for faith-based schools? I heard this and thought, "They're going to take you down with this one."

Then there was Tim Hudak, who pledged to cut 100,000 **public service** jobs, which ended up being like shooting both himself and the party in the proverbial foot.

And now this. Completely different, I know, and having to do with character, if true, but inevitably, here we go again. Who will wake us up from this nightmare of both the PC fumble and the scandal-ridden **Ontario** Liberals? For the latter, it's as though they're Teflon Don - guilty for different things in different ways, but not able to have any of it stick until the end. Are we there yet?

While Premier Wynne and the Liberals have certainly sweetened the pot since the last election with a percentage off our **hydro** bills, scrapping the Drive Clean test fee, free tuition and free prescription drugs for those under 25, this hasn't translated into popularity for the premier. Something just doesn't sit well, still. Liberal accounting practices didn't sit well with the province's auditor general, either, when she issued her report last summer on the government's **Fair Hydro Plan**.

"Anywhere else in Canada, you won't see this done," she said. "The government's proposal is to treat that loss as an asset," referring to the borrowing being done to prop up the **plan**.

After Patrick Brown's resignation, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said, "Now, more than ever, we need more women in politics." Is this feminist lingo for 'we don't need men'? We need courageous and qualified men of integrity to stand in their rightful places, even as their leadership is clearly under attack, although Doug Ford would do good to return to whatever he was doing before this opportunity arose.

People of **Ontario**, it seems we're the underdog in our own story. Therefore, we better show up from now and like never before and pray for a miracle.

- Renae Jarrett lives in Durham, loves Canada and is passionate about truth in current affairs. She can be reached at: asrjseesit@gmail.com

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Why blocking pipelines is no fix for climate change

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: BARRIE McKENNA

Ad Value: \$16,218

Reach: 309154 Page: B12

Western Canada Select.

The phrase is clever branding, conjuring up a product that has been carefully chosen for its quality and distinctiveness. And it's **Canadian**.

Regrettably, the superthick bitumen produced from the oil sands is probably less special than it's ever been. Select, yes, but in a bad way.

The price gap between Canada's heavy-oil benchmark, WCS, and the lighter crude produced in the United States - **West** Texas intermediate (WTI) - has widened to nearly \$30 in recent months.

Part of the discount is because oil sands crude is more costly to refine.

But the recent widening of the gap is almost entirely because producers in Alberta and Saskatchewan are struggling to get their crude to market. Major new pipeline projects are facing regulatory delays and environmental opposition, including TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone XL and Enbridge Inc.'s Mainline pipelines in the United States, as well as Kinder Morgan Inc.'s Trans Mountain line to Burnaby, B.C.

Last week's announcement by **Ottawa** of a new **review** process for major resource projects is unlikely to lift the cloud of uncertainty over **Canadian** crude.

The latest bit of bad news for oil producers is a warning from the B.C. government that it plans to block new shipments of bitumen until the province can do more studies on the risk of potential **West Coast** ocean oil spills.

That's a diversion. The National **Energy** Board carefully examined the threat of spills in its 2016 approval of a tripling of Trans Mountain's capacity. **Ottawa** subsequently pledged \$1.5-billion to bolster spill prevention and response.

Interestingly, B.C. Premier John Horgan has shown a lot less concern about the prospect of highly combustible liquid-**natural-gas** ships plying coastal waters.

Much of opposition to Trans Mountain isn't about tankers, it's about **climate** change.

It would be nice to think that blocking this and other pipelines would curb carbon emissions and reverse **climate** change. But that's a dubious proposition, and it comes at a steep economic price.

Economist Benjamin Dachis of the C.D. Howe Institute says pipeline bottlenecks are "by far the largest competitiveness cost" facing **Canadian** producers. He estimates they are losing an average of US\$5 a barrel in profits because of pipeline constraints.

A far better way to address greenhouse **gas** emissions is to tax carbon - as Alberta and the federal government are doing.

That's because blocking pipelines imposes costs on the economy that far exceed the damage caused by higher emissions, argues Trevor Tombe, an associate professor and economist at the University of Calgary. Based on National **Energy** Board forecasts, he estimates Alberta's carbon-pricing regime will generate roughly three to four times **greater** emission reductions at a small fraction of the cost of halting pipelines.

"Blocking pipelines is orders of magnitude more costly," he says. "It is not just more costly than carbon pricing, but it's also much more costly than the actual environmental damage from [greenhouse **gas**] emissions. It's not a good way to lower emissions."

The loss of pipeline capacity would result in less investment and lower oil production in the oil sands. Prof. Tombe says the annual hit to Canada's economy could reach up to \$18-billion a year in 2025, or \$1,500 to \$2,000 for every tonne of reduced emissions.

Alberta's carbon tax **rate** for 2018 is \$30 per tonne.

The cost of pipeline obstruction is exorbitant because keeping **Canadian** oil in the ground is unlikely to put a dent in overall global oil production. Saudi Arabia, the United States or Iran would quickly fill the gap left by the loss of **Canadian** crude - keeping our oil in the ground, but creating emissions somewhere else.

Polls show British Columbians are about equally split on the merits of the expanded Trans Mountain pipeline, which currently supplies most of the oil used for making the **gasoline** that's consumed in the province.

Alberta's threatened retaliation against B.C. wine and **electricity** imports suggests this is an interprovincial spat.

It is, of course, much bigger than that. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is correct when he says going ahead with the Trans Mountain project is in the "national interest."

The opposite is also true.

Blocking Trans Mountain and other pipeline projects would hobble the economy, rendering the entire country less able to combat **climate** change.

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Advocates push for strengthened environmental-assessment bill

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: \$17,062

Reach: 309154 **Page:** A5

Environmental groups are urging the Liberal government to strengthen its proposed changes to the process of assessing resource projects, arguing the current **plan** will allow economic development to trump environmental protection.

As the government this week begins the lengthy process of moving the 350-page bill through Parliament, scientists and advocates worry there is no clear guidance under which projects would be turned down because of environmental impacts.

Instead, the minister of environment or, in some cases, the federal cabinet, will have discretion to declare a project to be in the national interest and approve it, regardless of the findings of the impact assessment **review**.

"The factors to be weighed by the minister all just seem to be factors," Megan Leslie, president of World Wildlife Fund Canada, said in an interview. "So I don't see anything in here that indicates a 'no go,' that a project won't happen because these are environmental considerations beyond the pale."

Environment and **Climate** Change Minister Catherine McKenna introduced legislation last week to overhaul the federal **review** process for environmental assessments that covers major resource projects such as pipelines, mines, hydroelectric dams and **transmission** lines.

The bill would create the Impact Assessment Agency to replace the existing **Canadian** Environmental Assessment Agency, and put it in charge of major reviews, rather than the current industry-specific bodies such as the National **Energy** Board. The legislation would also impose tight timelines on reviews while making the process more transparent and open to **public** participation.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau argues the impact-assessment legislation is needed to restore scientific rigour and credibility to the **review** process. However, the government will not revisit previous decisions and it could be many years before another big interprovincial oil pipeline is proposed.

In an interview, Ms. McKenna defended the government's call to maintain decision-making in the hands of elected officials rather than the Impact Assessment Agency or reviews panels that would be appointed to handle the most contentious cases.

"Transparency is really important, but ultimately the federal government in difficult cases is going to have to make a decision in the national interest," she said. "And we'll ultimately be held accountable." The Liberal government has been criticized on all sides for its handling of major pipeline projects since taking office and it faces a bitter interprovincial battle between Alberta and British Columbia over the Trans Mountain expansion project, which it approved 15 months ago. The Liberals were slammed by Conservatives for rejecting the **Northern** Gateway pipeline and allowing the proposed **Energy** East project to die, while being condemned by environmentalist advocates and B.C.'s government for approving the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, which would result in a dramatic increase of tanker traffic in coastal waters.

Under the proposed legislation, Canadians will be able to assess the evidence the government used to make its decisions - including the recommendations from the **review** agencies.

For the first time, the minister or cabinet will be required to issue reasons for a decision and "not just a press release," Ms. McKenna said.

The factors to be considered include whether the project would cause significant adverse environmental impacts and whether those could be mitigated.

Ms. McKenna said the new system will allow serious environmental obstacles to be identified before a company makes formal **application**, which may dissuade proponents from moving forward in the most contentious developments. Projects that do not fit within the national climatechange **plan** will not be approved, she said.

The Liberals took into consideration Alberta's carbon tax and its future cap on oil sands greenhouse emissions when it approved Trans Mountain. Ms. McKenna indicated that, given those provincial policies, **Ottawa** would not **review** expansion plans in the oil sands, including the new plans to use solvents to extract bitumen from reservoirs.

However, measures announced to date by federal and provincial governments are not sufficient to meet **Ottawa**'s commitment to reduce emissions by 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, and **Ottawa** has committed under the United Nations Paris accord to adopt an even tougher target.

The impact-assessment legislation would also allow **Ottawa** to conduct **regional** assessment in key areas that would consider the cumulative impacts of development on the environment and the health of local residents.

However, there is no requirement for **Ottawa** to conduct **regional** or strategic assessment, and no clear indication how such studies, when completed, would guide project proposals, said Justina Ray, executive director and chief scientist of Wildlife Conservation Society Canada.

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TransCanada in talks to boost natural gas capacity; Increasing shipments on Alberta-to-Ontario line could help producers recapture market share from U.S. rivals

The Globe and Mail - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: \$15,500

Reach: 309154 Page: B9

TransCanada Corp. is mulling expansion of shipments through a major pipeline to move more **natural gas** from Alberta to **Ontario**, which could help producers snatch back market share from U.S. rivals as the prospects for overseas sales grow dimmer.

TransCanada confirmed it is discussing the potential revival of dormant capacity on its cross-country mainline system with prospective shippers, although a spokesman said it has yet to determine key details, such as what facilities or commercial arrangements may be required.

Concerns over finding markets for fast-rising, **natural gas** production in Western Canada have grown more acute in recent months as hopes fade for a major liquefied **natural gas** industry that would allow the fuel to be shipped from the British Columbia **coast** to destinations overseas.

Royal Dutch Shell is expected to decide later this year whether to build a \$40-billion export plant in B.C., provided it can secure exemptions from federal duties on imported steel modules. Similar proposed projects have not panned out.

The Alberta-to-**Ontario** network historically shipped the lion's share of Western **Canadian natural gas** production east. But volumes have collapsed amid competition from lowcost **shale gas** in eastern markets, forcing TransCanada to idle segments of the line. "That infrastructure is all there and it's something we want to leverage," Tracy Robinson, TransCanada's senior vice-president and general manager of **Canadian natural gas** pipelines, said at a conference in Calgary last week.

The talks follow TransCanada's decision last year to shelve its **Energy East** pipeline, a \$15.7-billion proposal to repurpose underused mainline capacity to transport more than one million barrels of crude oil a day from Alberta to eastern ports.

TransCanada is studying options for its mainline network even as bottlenecks on its **regional** Alberta system have made the company a target of scorn for producers and weighed heavily on wholesale **natural gas** prices.

Frequent outages and extensive maintenance on the company's Nova **Gas Transmission** Ltd. system last year pushed prices for AECO **gas** into negative territory on several occasions.

On Friday, it was worth \$2 a gigajoule, according to the NGX Electronic Exchange.

Last fall, TransCanada secured commitments to flow 1.5 billion cubic feet of **gas** a day on its mainline at a discounted **rate**.

The company has also spent billions of dollars expanding its Alberta and B.C. system in a bid to ease constraints.

But it has faced opposition over plans to flow more **gas** into a system producers say is already grappling with severe pinch points. Several companies have publicly opposed its \$1.4-billion **North** Montney project in B.C., which would add another 1.5 bcf/d of volumes. Among its biggest customers is Petronas, which last year scrapped LNG plans and is now eager to find a home for its **gas**.

"For us, it's very frustrating.

You don't need to be adding more **gas** to the **north** end of this system, because it can't go anywhere," said Darren Gee, chief executive of Peyto Exploration & Development Corp., which is not a mainline shipper. That could tamp any appetite for additional mainline services, even though the pipeline has idle capacity, he said.

"We can **contract** all we want on that pipe, but if we don't address the Alberta part, we're not going to be able to move more **gas** at the end of the day," Mr. Gee said.

From highs of around 6 bcf/d in 2007, deliveries on the crossCanada line have been nearly cut in half over the past decade, to around 3.5 bcf/d today.

Restoring flows to historic levels will hinge on setting shipping fees low enough so that **Canadian gas** can compete with **shale gas** in the much bigger U.S. market, said Jackie Forrest at the ARC **Energy** Research Institute in Calgary. TransCanada would also need to conduct extensive maintenance to revive mothballed capacity.

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Environmental groups want Ottawa to toughen new energy project assessment approach - The Globe and Mail

www.theglobeandmail.com - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Environmental groups are urging the Liberal government to strengthen its proposed changes to the process of assessing resource projects, arguing the current plan will allow economic development to trump environmental protection.

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LEGER: Alberta-B.C. pipeline fight could rock national-unity boat | The Chronicle Herald

thechronicleherald.ca - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Try this as a thought experiment. Imagine a dog, a titanic dog the size of a continent. Then think of a tail, a tiny tail hanging off the posterior zone of the giant dog. Then think of the tiny tail wagging the dog, slowly at first, but then faster and faster, until the dog shakes itself to pieces.

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HAPPY ENVIRONMENTALISTS

The Globe and Mail - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Donna Sinclair

Ad Value: \$2,955

Reach: 372649 Page: O10

As a member of a group that spent four years fighting the now-defunct **Energy** East pipeline, I can confidently say to Gary Mason that environmentalists are not at all "disappointed" when a **corporation** "pulls the plug" on an ill-conceived project (Where's The Limit For Protesters, Politicians In B.C.'s Pipeline War?

Feb. 9).

The end of an effort to prioritize a bitumen-filled pipeline over the health of water, fish, people, land and **climate** fills us with joy. Also, we have no regret for unused "battle plans." Our hard-working and creative group doesn't need any "reason for being" other than enjoying this gorgeous planet.

Donna Sinclair **North Bay**

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Proposed Canadian Policy Could Make Pipelines Responsible for Wellhead-to-Burnertip Greenhouse Gas | 2018-02-09 | Natural Gas Intelligence

www.naturalgasintel.com - Fri Feb 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The regulatory barrier that halted TransCanada Corp.'s Energy East pipeline conversion last year -- blaming pipelines for cargo carbon emissions -- would confront all future projects under legislation proposed Thursday by the Liberal government in Ottawa.

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Solar power project to be discussed at open house Wednesday afternoon

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Feb 12 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$155

Reach: 2981 Page: A1 / Front

Representatives from the KL **solar** and Sentinel **Solar** will be on hand at Heritage **North** on Wednesday to speak about the Archer Drive **Solar** Project.

The officials will be there to introduce the project, the technology and the benefits to the community. The event will take place between 2:30 pm and 8:30 pm and the **public** is encouraged to come out and learn about the project.

The announcement comes on the heels of the town saying fraud charges against Kapuskasing's former CAO and a **solar power** contractor haven't necessarily pulled the plug on the proposed **solar** project for Kirkland Lake.

Two men, including a former chief administrative officer for the Town of Kapuskasing, are accused of bilking that municipality of \$800,000.

OPP Anti-Rockets Branch (ARB) and OPP Aviation Services, using their Unmanned Aerial System, assisted with this investigation.

Yvan Brousseau, 64, has been charged with Fraud Over \$5,000. During the period police allege the offense occurred, Brousseau held the position of chief executive officer of Énergie Kapuskasing **Energy**, which was wholly owned by the town.

The municipally owned company had two divisions, one based on **solar** generation, the other on hydroelectric **power** production.

At the time of Brousseau's appointment, it was anticipated Énergie Kapuskasing **Energy** would be a big revenue generator for the town.

The co-accused is Karl Hollett, 54 years of age, from Napanee, who has been charged with Fraud Over \$5,000.

Hollett was the chief executive officer of Strathcona **Energy** Group, a Napanee-based **solar** product manufacturing company that declared bankruptcy in July 2017.

Both accused individuals have been released and are scheduled to appear at the **Ontario** Court of Justice in Kapuskasing on March 19.

Kirkland Lake first announced plans for a new \$7.1 million **solar** farm in 2014 as a joint initiative with the town of Kapuskasing. Construction was initially expected to begin in the summer of 2015.

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Power restored to large swath of east end after outage | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Sun Feb 11 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Much of the east end was without power for two or three hours Saturday afternoon.

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At \$20.74, Is It Time To Buy Hydro One Limited (TSE:H)? – Simply Wall St News

simplywall.st - Sat Feb 10 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Hydro One Limited (TSX:H), a electric utilities company based in Canada, saw significant share price volatility over the past couple of months on the TSX, rising to the highs of CA\$22.86 and falling to the lows of CA\$20.74.

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Mulroney makes her case; Candidate highlights family, business acumen as she runs for Ontario Tories

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: \$808
Reach: 11236 Page: B3

Caroline Mulroney highlighted her mother's teachings on conservatism, her grandparents' immigrant background, and her experience as a parent and businesswoman to a national gathering of conservatives on Friday as she sought to portray herself as a new kind of leader needed in **Ontario** politics.

The daughter of former prime minister Brian Mulroney is among three high-profile candidates vying to lead **Ontario's** Progressive Conservatives, a party thrown into turmoil months ahead of a spring election after the departure of Patrick Brown, who resigned amid sexual misconduct allegations he emphatically denies.

Mulroney, a 43-year-old **Toronto** lawyer, said that while Canadians muse about her father's impact on her politics, it was her mother's side of the family that influenced her conservatism.

"People talk a lot about my dad and his experience and how that might influence

me, but my mother was born in Yugoslavia," Mulroney said at the Manning Conference in **Ottawa** Friday.

"My grandfather was a psychiatrist who was very religious. He moved to Canada because he wanted to be able to practice his religion which he couldn't do. He wouldn't sign the Communist Party list. When they moved my grandmother had to burn all of his diaries ... I ended up spending most of my youth with them, in their church."

Mulroney said she sought her mother's advice about the impact of political life on a family since both are mothers of four children.

"The person I really spoke to most about it though is my mother," she said. "As much as I'm a career woman and was taking this step into politics, I'm also a mother of four, which my mother is (as well). So, I spent a lot of time with her talking about the challenges and how I would do that."

Mulroney said while she talked with her father extensively before becoming a Progressive Conservative candidate last August, his advice was on a much more practical level.

"His advice to me was 'your riding is big, drive safe,'" she said. "He really came at it from a father's perspective."

Mulroney's talk of family came as she works to style herself as a fresh face in provincial politics, one who has not previously held **public** office.

"I come to this with a very broad understanding of what we need to do and how we need to fix this," she said. "I've done that while raising a family and so I think I've got the kind of experience that people want to see at Queen's Park."

Mulroney predicted the spring election will focus on affordability for families but offered few specifics on what policies and promises she would bring if elected leader of **Ontario's** Tories.

She has indicated she won't support a carbon tax, a key plank of the party platform meant to fund other promises, and hinted that while she approves of other elements of the document, like promises on bringing down **hydro rates** and investing in mental health, more changes could be on the way if she becomes leader.

"We have less than 100 days left until the election. I'm going to be speaking to members about what mattered to them, what they thought was important ... I will put forward my own **plan**," she said. "People want something completely different and I am ready to lead the team that will do that."

The Progressive Conservatives will be selecting a new leader March 10.

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PC's shifting winds buffet energy goals

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Chantal Hébert OPINION

Ad Value: \$14,964

Reach: 500678 Page: A12

For the first time since Justin Trudeau's government set out to put a national floor price on carbon emissions, there is a real possibility the government could have to implement its **climate** change policy without the co-operation of **Ontario**.

On Thursday, Caroline Mulroney joined **Ontario** Tory leadership rivals Doug

Ford and Christine Elliott in a bidding war for the title of chief carbon tax slayers.

To listen to the main contenders for Patrick Brown's succession one might be led to believe Canada's largest province actually has a carbon tax. It does not and nor has its Liberal government proposed to introduce one.

Until this week, revenues from a proposed carbon tax were meant to provide the fiscal foundation of the Tory election platform. Having taken an axe to that, Job 1 for the winner of the succession battle on the morning after next month's leadership vote will presumably be to rebuild a credible **plan** to finance the party's election promises.

What **Ontario** does have is a **cap-and-trade** system designed to allow it to meet the federal carbon pricing targets set by Trudeau's government.

In opposition, the Tories have consistently described that approach as a cash grab. Having rejected the alternative, Brown's successor would, should the Tories win a government in June, have to choose between walking back the party's talk on **cap-and-trade**, or daring Trudeau to impose a federal carbon tax on Canada's largest province.

Until Brown's exit last month, federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer had to keep some of his anti-carbon tax powder dry. His party's most influential provincial wings in Alberta and **Ontario** were on opposite sides of the issue.

The reversal of the **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives frees the Conservatives to campaign in 2019 against the Trudeau's policy. Should the province - under a PC government - turn its back on the prime minister's **climate** change strategy between now and then, the resulting imposition of a federal carbon tax on Ontarians would make that prospect just about irresistible.

It seems the Conservative insiders - and there are more than a few - who believe the lack of a credible **climate** change policy stifles the federal party's electoral growth are condemned to continue to preach in the desert for a while longer.

Unexpected complications for the federal **climate** change policy on the carbon tax front in **Ontario** were compounded this week by a pipeline war in the making in B.C.

It is possible to chart a somewhat predictable course to a legal resolution of the conflict between Alberta and B.C. that would see expansion of Kinder-Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline go ahead as planned.

But Trudeau could win a legal war on behalf of the Trans Mountain project on the constitutional battlefield and yet lose the street to the anti-pipeline forces.

When he approved Kinder Morgan's pipeline expansion **plan**, Trudeau wanted to show that the adoption of a national carbon pricing policy could go some way to facilitate the **energy** industry's export aspirations.

But in so doing he has provided an environmental movement that is itching to engage in a defining battle over pipelines with a cause that has potentially strong legs in **public** opinion.

Those who watched the so-called Quebec Maple spring of **student** unrest know only too well the limits of reasoned discourse about the rule of law in the face of the momentum of a populist protest movement.

In 2012, what started as a ritual battle over a hike in tuition fees turned into a social uprising that ground part of Quebec's education system to a halt and eventually forced the holding of a provincial election.

Already there are those who look for analogies between the protests that could

attend the building of the Trans Mountain expansion and the 1990 Oka crisis. The federal government of the day had to send in the army to end a summer-long Indigenous blockade of one of Montreal's main bridges.

As extreme as it might seem, there are serious observers who are not ruling out the possibility that Trudeau could end up having to do likewise to ensure that the Trans Mountain project gets done.

By approving the expansion of a pipeline to tidewater and simultaneously setting a floor price on carbon, Trudeau's Liberals believed they had come as close as possible to crafting a fine balance between Canada's **energy** ambitions and its **climate** change obligations.

But that did not factor in the federation's ever shifting provincial winds.

At the end of this week, that fine balance looks like anything but.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

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Ont. PC platform in limbo as candidates rethink carbon tax

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Paola Loriggio

Ad Value: \$696

Reach: 11236 Page: B3

All three candidates vying to lead **Ontario**'s Progressive Conservatives have distanced themselves from a party commitment to replace the governing Liberals' **cap-and-trade** system with a carbon tax, raising questions about their ability to deliver on some major election promises.

The carbon tax, a key pillar in the party platform introduced in November, was forecast to bring in an estimated \$4 billion and fund an income tax cut, as well as mental health spending among other measures.

None of those competing to replace former Tory leader Patrick Brown, who resigned last month amid sexual misconduct allegations he denies, have so far laid out what they would put in place of the carbon tax if they officially axe it, but all have said they're opposed to the measure.

Experts say eliminating the carbon tax would require overhauling the party platform mere months ahead of a spring election.

"If the leadership candidates are saying they would eliminate the carbon tax, then they have to say which of the tax cuts they'll be eliminating along with it or they have to say they're willing to increase the deficit," said Sheila Block, senior economist with the **Canadian Centre** for Policy Alternatives.

Stripping out other elements of the platform would be the most expedient option given the short time frame, she said. "However, if they actually want to reshape the platform in another way, that would take longer," she said.

The governing Liberals launched a **cap-and-trade** system last year that brought in nearly \$2 billion by the end of 2017. The revenue has been going toward green projects such as **energy** efficient improvements at hospitals, smart thermostats for homeowners, and bike lanes, which the Liberals hope will further help to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions.

Under Brown, the Tories had pitched the carbon tax as a replacement for **cap**

and trade, and promised to use the revenue for an income tax cut rather than green **energy** programs, which they said would make their **plan** revenue neutral.

Only one candidate, former **Toronto** city councillor Doug Ford, has vowed to unequivocally eliminate the carbon tax without indicating he would enact another system to meet federal **rules** that mandate a carbon-pricing system.

"I'm not going to introduce a carbon tax and if the prime minister tries to make us, well, in the words of his father: just watch me," Ford has said in a tweet.

Former Tory legislator Christine Elliott and **Toronto** lawyer Caroline Mulroney have both said they oppose the carbon tax but will consult party members before bringing forward a **plan** of their own, which they hope to do before the March leadership vote.

Elliott also noted the need to be fiscally responsible.

"We can't just say 'let's scrap the carbon tax' and not provide an alternative because it does provide that revenue that we need in order to afford the other parts of the People's Guarantee (platform). So whatever I put forward to the members is going to be that source of revenue," Elliott said in an interview this week.

"We also need to be environmentally responsible as well so we need to look at it with eyes on a number of issues but we can do that in very short order."

A survey conducted by Elliott's campaign found 92 per cent of more than 1,500 respondents oppose the carbon tax, her team said.

Mulroney said she believes the Tories could find savings elsewhere to help offset the loss of the carbon tax revenue.

"There are a lot of things in the platform and we're looking at all of them but I can tell you that after 15 years of the Liberals at Queen's Park, no one thinks that the Wynne government isn't wasteful and so there are a lot of places that we can start to look," she said in an interview.

Experts note that while cutting the tax might win points with some voters, in the end **Ontario** will nonetheless have a carbon pricing system as a result of federal **rules** that require provinces adopt either a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system.

"Any political leader who suggests scrapping carbon pricing entirely (with no tax nor trading system) would do so foolishly, since it has become a national requirement under federal law in any event," said Nathalie Chalifour, co-director of **Centre** for Environmental Law and Global Sustainability at the University of **Ottawa**.

The Progressive Conservatives are set to select a new leader by March 10.

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Oil issues follow PM to Cali; American pipeline protesters demonstrate outside Trudeau meetings

Niagara Falls Review - Sat Feb 10 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jordan Press

Ad Value: \$775

Reach: 11236 **Page:** B1 / Front

Opposition to Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline has followed Justin Trudeau to sunny California, where protesters demonstrated Friday outside the hotel where the prime minister was holding meetings with top state officials.

About a dozen protesters made up of local **climate** change activists held signs demanding Trudeau reverse his decision on the project, chanting anti-pipeline slogans from across the street.

Three of the protesters briefly got inside the hotel and demonstrated with their backs up against the wall directly outside the room where Trudeau met with California Gov. Jerry Brown.

Trudeau has given no indication he's willing to back down from the project, pledging to get it built one way or another.

One of the protesters, Vanessa Butterworth, said Trudeau must back up his talk about protecting the environment and **climate** by rejecting the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

"If you want to be a real **climate** leader, you're going to have to live up to your Paris agreement and say no to Kinder Morgan or the communities are going to shut it down," said Butterworth, who is from **Toronto**.

The message was different than the one Trudeau received inside the stately hotel first from Brown, and then his deputy Gavin Newsom, who is a favourite to replace Brown at the end of the Democrat's term.

During staged photo-ops, Brown said his state and Canada had much to do while the White House was "temporarily missing in action in terms of **climate** action." Newsom thanked Trudeau for his leadership "at a time when that's not lost on many of us in the political sphere out here."

California and more than a dozen other states have moved ahead with carbon pricing schemes, including a **cap-and-trade** system with **Ontario** and Quebec. Brown said he wants to forge other agreements with various provinces, and push for growth in zero-emission vehicles.

Tensions around the development of the controversial \$7.4-billion pipeline project escalated last week when the B.C. government announced plans for more consultations on oil spill readiness and a limit on increased diluted bitumen shipments until it can be confident of response measures.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer asked for an emergency debate on the pipeline impasse, but deputy Speaker Bruce Stanton told him the issue does not meet the criteria.

"The House of Commons should discuss all options in order to put an end to this crisis," Scheer said in French in the House of Commons.

Earlier during question period, Kim Rudd, the parliamentary secretary for the minister of natural resources, said Canada won't let B.C. kill off the pipeline.

"Any decision by the B.C. government to limit the flow of bitumen through the pipeline would be outside the province's jurisdiction," Rudd said.

Protester David Turnbull, with Oil Change International, said Americans are also worried about what could happen to the waters along their western **coast** if Kinder Morgan is built.

"The Kinder Morgan pipeline, if it was built, would increase the tanker traffic along the **west coast**, including in the United States along Seattle's **bay** as well," Turnbull said.

"We're concerned that the Kinder Morgan would both imperil our **climate** and also imperil our **coast** lines as well."

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