John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	April 30, 2018 9:28 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject:	Morning News Clippings Summary: Monday, April 30, 2018

Good Morning,

Pre-election stories dominate.

- There are a number of articles about the NDP's election platform, including buying back Hydro One.
- PC leader Doug Ford has promised to cut hydro rates by 12%, in addition to the 25% in the Fair Hydro Plan.
- Focus Ontario on Global News was one of a number of media pieces that focused on the AG's pre-election report and the higher than predicted provincial debt.
- And, Trillium Power has released new details in their $500M lawsuit against the province.

CBCNews: Doug Ford's hydro plan won't cut electricity rates, Andrea Horwath says

- NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a PC leader Doug Ford has endorsed what she calls the Liberals' disastrous hydro borrowing scheme, which will cause bills to skyrocket by 70 per cent right after the June election.
- Ford is promising to cut hydro bills by 12 per cent if he wins the election, saying it would be on top of a rate reduction from the governing Liberals, whose plan he has repeatedly criticized.
- Ford has said he'd cut rates through a variety of measures that would save the average ratepayer $173 a year.

GlobalNews: Focus Ontario- The AG's report (8:30 to 9:20)

- The AG lowered the accounting boom on the Liberal government's accounting practices saying the deficit will be $11.7 billion, 75% more than predicted by the budget
- The Premier said this is an ongoing discussion about how to count government assets and debt.
- Fair Hydro Plan lowers hydro bills now while passing costs onto future generations.
- The auditor says that debt should show up on the books and the auditor says that is wrong.
- These disagreements are a gift to the opposition parties. The NDP promises to sit down with the auditor to fix "the mess" while scrapping the Fair Hydro Plan
- The PCs have said they will keep the Fair Hydro Plan and order an inquiry into government accounting.

Global News: Trillium Power releases new evidence in $500M lawsuit against Ontario gov't

- After nearly seven years of ongoing litigation and less than two months before the trial is set to begin, the company behind the suit — Trillium Power — is making public new evidence it alleges shows staff from the office of former Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and the office of the Minister of Energy engaged in the destruction of documents relevant to their claim created prior to March 2013.
- Trillium also alleges emails provided by the government in the lead-up to the trial show that throughout 2010 and early 2011, senior staff from within McGuinty's office and several other ministries, including the ministries of energy, environment and natural resources, collaborated behind the scenes to develop a policy specifically targeting Trillium's proposed project in favour of promoting another company's ill-fated venture — that of Windstream Energy.

- The government denies these allegations. Meanwhile, in response to allegations documents were destroyed within the Ministry of Energy, a spokesperson for Ontario's current Minister of Energy, Glenn Thibeault, said the government cannot comment on the Trillium lawsuit specifically as it is still before the courts.
- However, in regard to record keeping in general, the spokesperson said the government has taken major steps to improve its practices. "With respect to record keeping, we are committed to being an open, accountable and a transparent government," said Colin Nekolaichuk. "We have taken action to strengthen the laws related to record keeping and we have ensured that there are good policies in place for document retention and staff training. We have worked closely with the Information and Privacy commissioner and the Chief Privacy Officer and Archivist of Ontario to ensure our policies are appropriate," he said.
- The Trillium trial is scheduled to begin on June 11 — four days after the provincial election — and will last for three weeks.

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, April 30, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 39 Results

NDP launch their 'biggest campaign'; Leader Andrea Horwath says platform includes child care, Hydro One

Toronto Star - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: $16,181
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A2

Ontario's New Democrat leader officially launched what her party is promising to be "the biggest campaign" in its history on Sunday, reaffirming her party's commitment to a platform released earlier in April. Andrea Horwath was nominated as a ...

Ontario NDP launching 'biggest' campaign in its history | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's New Democrats are getting to ready to launch what the party is calling "the biggest campaign" in its history on Sunday in Hamilton.

Wynne's town halls cost $209Gs

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $2,574
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

The cost of Premier Kathleen Wynne's seven town halls across Ontario totalled $209,000, a source told the Toronto Sun. Andrea Ernesaks, a spokesman for Wynne, confirmed the accuracy of the number when asked about it Sunday. ...

Doug Ford's hydro plan won't cut electricity rates, Andrea Horwath says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a hydro plan announced on Friday by Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford won't reduce electricity rates.

Is province's bottom line enhanced?

Ottawa Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $1,516
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A8

Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk challenged the underpinnings of Premier Kathleen Wynne's fiscal plan this week. The dispute over the Ontario books has been described as both a benign disagreement between ...

Auditor General Under Attack; Wynne Liberals undermining Lysyk's powers

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $4,166
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A6

One of the first things the next Ontario premier should do, assuming it isn't Kathleen Wynne, is reverse the assault on the powers of the Ontario auditor general that has taken place on her watch. This isn't about the premier ...

Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, April 29, 2018
The program mentions the recent AG report around the 8:30 mark and mentions the Fair Hydro Plan around the 9:18 mark.

Our trust's in auditor general over Wynne

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,247
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A17

One of the first acts of the spanking new Dalton McGuinty Liberal government in 2003 was to call in former provincial auditor Erik Peters to determine whether Ontario was running a deficit. Then, as now, there was significant debate over ...

Grits Caught In The Act; McGuinty's financial transparency rules expose Wynne's budget baloney

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Andremarin

Ad Value: $6,515
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A6

True to form, the Ontario Liberals have maintained their ongoing fight with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk. It's the classic case of "live by the sword, die by the sword." When freshly elected premier Dalton McGuinty took over the reins ...

ONTARIO'S BUDGET SWAMP

The Globe and Mail - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Nicholson

Ad Value: $2,715
Reach: 372649 **Page:** O10

While Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne may describe it as a disagreement between the government and the Auditor-General, that's just further smoke and mirrors. The significant issue is that the impact of the 25-per-cent rebate ...

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne defends minimum wage increases to business group

Stoney Creek News - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $57
Reach: 31639 **Page:** 1

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne defended her government's decision to boost the minimum wage over the next two years in an effort to help people who were living below the poverty line. Talking to the Ontario Chamber of ...

NDP couldn't be worse than Liberals

The Belleville Intelligencer - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $369
Reach: 9723 **Page:** B2

(Re: Colin MacKay: NDP a bold choice, April 25 edition) For those Ontarians wanting more perpetuation of the nanny state and running up bigger deficits and debt, than we are seeing from the Wynne Liberals, I agree, selecting the Horwath NDP would be ...

[MARIN: Thank McGuinty for revealing Wynne's budget fudge | The London Free Press]

lfpress.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

True to form, the Ontario Liberals have maintained their ongoing fight with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

Doug Ford's hydro plan won't cut electricity rates, Andrea Horwath says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a hydro plan announced on Friday by Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford won't reduce electricity rates.

Ford vows to cut 12% more from hydro bills

Toronto Star - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Ad Value: $4,410
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A10

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford is promising to cut an additional 12 per cent from **electricity** bills, despite criticizing a 25-per-cent **rate** reduction put in place by the governing Liberals. Recycling a pledge from ...

Ford promises 12% hydro rate cut if Tories elected; Plan that would see more costs shifted to all taxpayers borrows idea from ousted PC leader

The Globe and Mail - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: $15,019
Reach: 372649 **Page:** A16

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives say they will cut **hydro** **rates** by 12 per cent if they win the June election by shifting more of the costs of the **electrical** system to all taxpayers. Tory Leader Doug Ford promised ...

Ford unrolls 12% cut to hydro bills; Builds upon Liberal plan derided by Tory leader

Toronto Sun - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $3,886
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A6

Doug Ford is promising to cut **hydro** bills by 12 per cent if he wins Ontario's spring election, saying it would be on top of a **rate** reduction from the governing Liberals, whose **plan** he has repeatedly criticized. The ...

[PC Leader Doug Ford pledges to cut hydro bills by 12% if elected | CBC News]

www.cbc.ca - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford said he will cut hydro bills by 12 per cent, if elected.

Doug Ford promises hydro rate cut for Ontario - CHCH

www.chch.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford is promising a 12 per cent cut to hydro rates if elected premier in June. Ford says under his hydro plan, the government would give ratepayers the dividends it gets from Hydro One.

Ford promises to cut Ontario hydro rates by 12 per cent - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Doug Ford is promising to cut hydro rates by 12 per cent if he wins Ontario's spring election, saying the reduction would be on top of the Liberal government's electricity rate cut plan, which he has repeatedly criticized.

Putting 'Humpty Dumpty back together again': Ontario NDP's hydro plan leaves experts cold - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario New Democrats say they can buy back Hydro One and cut rates by 30 per cent, all with no extra costs — to which experts say: bunk.

THE EXPOSITOR

Carbon pricing, political pricing; Doug Ford gets away with a promise to repeal carbon pricing because of a confused electorate

Brantford Expositor - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: R. Michael Warren

Ad Value: $1,287
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A5

Memo to Doug Ford: Carbon pricing works Despite mounting evidence that carbon pricing works, there are still pockets of political opposition to putting a price on carbon to fight **climate change**. Witness the recent policy ...

Cap-and-trade is doing what it's supposed to do in Ontario

Waterloo Region Record - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Doris Grinspun and Tim Gray

Ad Value: $3,107
Reach: 73852 **Page:** A8

Cap-and-trade is working. Leave it alone. Cap-and-trade has become an election issue in Ontario, which is a shame. The program has been running for over a year now. It ...

Cheap hydro brought in much tax revenue

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Stan Marshall

Ad Value: $174
Reach: 11903 **Page:** A6

Did you ever consider the effects of "cheap, government subsidized, hydro"? Cheap hydro attracted industry, which paid taxes. Industry needed employees who also paid taxes. Industry needed raw materials from sources who paid ...

Trillium Power releases new evidence in $500M lawsuit against Ontario gov't | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

It's the $500 million wind energy lawsuit the Ontario Liberals can't make go away — despite their very best efforts.

It's time to dethrone Saint Suzuki

Toronto Sun - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Candice Malcolm

Ad Value: $4,200
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A15

The University of Alberta has decided to grant an honorary doctorate to the infamous David Suzuki, the charlatan who has long advocated for Alberta's hydrocarbon industry to be shut down. Suzuki received a PhD in zoology in the 1960s and uses it as ...

Interview with Andrew Scheer

CTV - QUESTION PERIOD - Sun Apr 29 2018, 11:00am ET
Tone: Positive
Byline: EVAN SOLOMON

EVAN SOLOMON: Well the pipeline is in limbo. British Columbia has turned to the court to find out if they have the power to stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline. And guess what? They say it's highly unlikely their court challenge will get a ...

A primer on the Kinder Morgan pipeline | CBC Radio

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, April 29, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

There is no more bitter divide in Canada today, than the one between British Columbia and Alberta over plans to build the Kinder Morgan pipeline from the oil fields to the sea. It's a complicated issue with competing players and interests from ...

It's showtime for PM; An Inability To Be A Leader On Pipelines Will Be The Ruin Of Trudeau

National Post - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Conrad Black

Ad Value: $19,813
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A15

The issue of pipelines is a key in Canada's latest crossroads of national seriousness. The country didn't arise from an anti-colonial revolution, like others in the Americas, or from a unique cultural homogeneity like Norwegians, Finns, Israelis and ...

The great pipeline debate: Why isn’t more oil refined in B.C.?

www.timescolonist.com - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, April 29, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Here’s where the economic and environmental arguments clash. Those who want to ship Alberta oil from B.C. say being shut out of Asian markets costs Canada billions of dollars.

The great pipeline debate: Is it good for the economy?

www.timescolonist.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, April 28, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

On the day that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau approved the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project in late 2016, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley hailed the decision as a turning point for her province.

Regulation And Pipeline Delays Stall Growth At Imperial Oil; 'Four And A Half Years To Get A Project ... Is Inordinately Long'

National Post - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $12,040
Reach: 185480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

Capital investment by Imperial Oil Ltd. is at a historic low because expanding regulatory timelines, market access challenges and escalating fiscal costs make it hard to start new projects, the company's CEO said Friday. Rich Kruger said the ...

Rex Murphy: Grants to anti-pipeline activists a hammer blow to the heads of the unemployed | National Post

nationalpost.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, April 27, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

If you are an Albertan, or a Newfoundlander, or for that matter a person from any Canadian province or territory, who has been laid off and out of work for the past couple of years because of the downturn in the oil industry, and the fierce ...

BC govt court case another ‘stall tactic’ to block Trans Mountain expansion – CAPP

www.miningweekly.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, April 27, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

A reference court case brought by the environment-focused minority provincial government of British Columbia that seeks a confirmation of the province's constitutional rights to defend against the risks of a bitumen spill has been criticised by ...

Trans Mt to brink - April 29, 2018 - Petroleum News

www.petroleumnews.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, April 27, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Faced with a May 31 deadline set by Kinder Morgan, the Canadian government is under pressure to assure the company that it will not face further legal challenges to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, or any financial risks to its shareholders.

Pipeline pawns no more: As politicians bicker, steelworkers fight for jobs | Regina Leader-Post

leaderpost.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, April 27, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Bill Edwards has been through much of this before. As he approaches 35 years of continuous service at the steel mill on Regina’s northern edge, he’s seen just about every up and every down that comes around in the steel and oil industries.

Conrad Black: An inability to be a leader on pipelines will be the ruin of Justin Trudeau | National Post

nationalpost.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, April 27, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The issue of pipelines is a key in Canada’s latest crossroads of national seriousness. The country didn’t arise from an anti-colonial revolution, like others in the Americas, or from a unique cultural homogeneity like Norwegians, Finns, Israelis ...

Tories would scrap hot-button Otter Creek wind farm: Bailey

Chatham Daily News

The Chatham Daily News - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $533
Reach: 8244 **Page:** A1 / Front

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says if a Progressive Conservative government is elected in June, a controversial **wind turbine** project slated the border of Lambton County and Chatham-Kent will be scrapped. Bailey is concerned ...

April 2018 Issue: Wind makes a good neighbor

www.windpowerengineering.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Last year, my good friend Anna spent the summer in a small, rural Ontario Airbnb. She was unaware when booking the home that it was near a wind farm, and was concerned initially about noise and shadow flicker.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

NDP launch their 'biggest campaign'; Leader Andrea Horwath says platform includes child care, Hydro One

Toronto Star - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press

Ad Value: $16,181
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A2

Ontario's New Democrat leader officially launched what her party is promising to be "the biggest campaign" in its history on Sunday, reaffirming her party's commitment to a platform released earlier in April.

Andrea Horwath was nominated as a candidate in her riding of Hamilton **Centre** at an event in Hamilton that also featured community leaders, other legislators and Tom Wilson of Blackie and the Rodeo Kings.

The vote in June marks the third election in which Horwath has led the NDP.

The NDP's platform promised free child care for families earning less than $40,000 and a boost to hospital budgets if elected.

Horwath reiterated those promises at Sunday's launch, along with a pledge to bring **Hydro** One back into **public** hands, and once again presented the NDP as an alternative to the governing Liberals and the Opposition Progressive Conservatives.

"Let's knock on more doors than ever before," Horwath told the gathered **crowd**. "Let's replace the cynicism of those other parties with hope."

But the party has projected five consecutive deficits to pay for its **plan**, with a $3.3-billion shortfall in 2018-19 falling to $1.9 billion by 2022-23.

The Liberals, too, have said they would run multi-year deficits.

And while the Tories have yet to release a costed platform, leader Doug Ford has said he would eventually bring the province back into the black - just not in his first year in office.

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Ontario NDP launching 'biggest' campaign in its history | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario's New Democrats are getting to ready to launch what the party is calling "the biggest campaign" in its history on Sunday in Hamilton.

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Wynne's town halls cost $209Gs

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $2,574
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

The cost of Premier Kathleen Wynne's seven town halls across **Ontario** totalled $209,000, a source told the **Toronto** Sun. Andrea Ernesaks, a spokesman for Wynne, confirmed the accuracy of the number when asked about it Sunday.

"The premier held seven different town halls in all corners of the province to hear directly from voters about their concerns, anxieties and hopes for the future," Ernesaks said in an e-mail. "There is, of course, a cost associated with conducting these town halls, a venue needs to be rented, a livestream set up and there are, of course, security considerations that need to be met.

"Regardless, we believe it's important that elected officials, including the premier, be held accountable to the constituents they serve," she said.

The town halls were not easy for the Wynne as the premier was grilled repeatedly on unemployment, school safety and other difficult issues.

The seventh and last town hall was held in early March, just before Doug Ford was picked as leader of **Ontario** Progressive Conservatives.

MPPs of all stripes have held town halls to discuss matters of interest to their local communities such as the partial privatization of **Hydro** One and health care.

Still, Ford has been highly critical of more recent events that Wynne has held to promote her budget, accusing her of campaigning on the taxpayer's dime.

The Tories have asked Elections **Ontario** to investigate the matter.

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Doug Ford's hydro plan won't cut electricity rates, Andrea Horwath says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a hydro plan announced on Friday by Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford won't reduce electricity rates.

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Is province's bottom line enhanced?

Ottawa Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $1,516
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A8

Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk challenged the underpinnings of Premier Kathleen Wynne's fiscal plan this week.

The dispute over the Ontario books has been described as both a benign disagreement between accountants and a dangerous precedent-setting government scheme that misleads voters.

The Ontario Liberals, under former premier Dalton McGuinty, passed a law that requires the government to submit a report on the province's finances for auditor general review prior to an election.

That way, the Liberals said, any future government would not be sideswiped by a hidden $5.6-billion deficit like the one they say they inherited from the Ontario Tories.

Unlike in previous election years, this review by the auditor general did not go smoothly. SHE SAID, SHE SAID Wynne budget: Ontario's operating deficit - $6.7B in 2018/19, $6.6B in 2019/20, $6.5B in 2020/21 Lysyk review: Ontario's operating deficit - $11.7B in 2018/19, $12.2B in 2019/20, $12.5B in 2020/21 Wynne budget: No hidden deficit Lysyk review: Baked in $5B deficit Wynne budget: Net debt in 2020/21 - $360.1B Lysyk review: Net debt in 2020/21- $393B EXPLANATION FOR TWO SETS OF NUMBERS

Fair Hydro Plan Lysyk: It's a government program and its costs should be reflected in the government books, but the Ontario Liberals left it out of their spring budget making the bottom line look $2.4B better than it really is in 2018/19. Wynne: The Fair Hydro Plan reduces electricity bills by an average of 25%, and hydro costs should stay in the hydro file. Public Pension Assets Lysyk: The government had recorded pension revenue from the Ontario Teachers'Pension Plan and insufficient pension expense from the OPSEU plan to reduce its pension expense, despite having no legal right to unilaterally reduce its future contribution or withdraw surpluses. Improves bottom line by $2.6B in 2018/19. Wynne: The government appointed an expert panel that concluded it could continue accounting for pension assets in this way as it had for many years before Lysyk objected.

POLITICAL PARTY POSITIONS

Liberal Finance Minister Charles Sousa-Treasury Board President Eleanor McMahon joint statement: "The government's opinions on these two matters are well supported by internal and external experts, and have always informed the government's ongoing reporting on its fiscal status. Given these disagreements on accounting questions, there is also a difference of opinion on deficit numbers between the Auditor General and the government." PC Leader Doug Ford: "What (Lysyk) uncovered is one of the largest financial scandals in Canadian history ... She uncovered that in their desperation, the Wynne Liberals have cooked the books." NDP Finance Critic John Vanthof: "The auditor general reported that the Wynne government's Pre-Election Report is 'not a reasonable presentation of Ontario's finances.'What the AG has confirmed is that the Liberals' hydro scheme is designed to conceal billions of dollars in hydro debt from the **public**." aartuso@postmedia.com

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Auditor General Under Attack; Wynne Liberals undermining Lysyk's powers

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $4,166
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A6

One of the first things the next **Ontario** premier should do, assuming it isn't Kathleen Wynne, is reverse the assault on the powers of the **Ontario** auditor general that has taken place on her watch.

This isn't about the premier and her cabinet ministers disagreeing with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk's annual, value-formoney reports, or her periodic special investigations into provincial finances.

All governments do that, although former Wynne **energy** minister Bob Chiarelli jumped the shark in 2014 when he said he disagreed with Lysyk's conclusions in a critical report on the province's installation of smart meters, condescendingly claiming Lysyk didn't understand the **electricity** file because it's complicated.

Asked about Chiarelli's comments at the time, Wynne said there was "no doubt" the **electricity** system is complex, in also disputing Lysyk's findings.

Chiarelli is a lawyer and long-time politician.

Wynne is a former **Toronto** school trustee with a master's degree in linguistics and adult education.

Lysyk is a former senior executive with Manitoba **Hydro**, a chartered accountant and a certified internal auditor, with an MBA.

Enough said. More alarming was Wynne's decision in 2015 to gut a 2004 law, the Government Advertising Act - passed by her Liberal predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, no less - that gave the auditor general the authority to veto politically partisan government advertising.

That's because when the government uses **public** money for advertising that has little or no purpose beyond making the governing party look good, it is in effect, funding its re-election campaign with money taken from taxpayers to provide government services.

Wynne steamrolled over Lysyk's objections, amended the law using her legislative majority, and as a result, according to Lysyk, Wynne's Liberal government has since spent millions of taxpayers'dollars on partisan government advertising that Lysyk would have disallowed under McGuinty's legislation.

Wynne also ignored unanimous warnings in 2015 from Lysyk and seven other non-partisan, **independent**, legislative watchdogs - who report to the people of **Ontario** through the legislature, rather than to the government of the day - that her sale of majority control of **Hydro** One to the private sector would hide it from **public** scrutiny.

Because of the sale, these eight financial and ethical legislative watchdogs of the government can no longer investigate the troubled giant **utility**, the monopoly owner of the province's **transmission** grid, which also supplies **electricity** directly to 1.3 million residential and business customers, mainly in rural and **northern Ontario**.

Wynne also took the unusual step of hiring an "expert" panel to refute another of Lysyk's reports, which was backed by the legislature's Financial Accountability Office, that her government ran a multi-billion-dollar deficit last year, contrary to her claim of a $600-million surplus.

The four members of this government-created panel were paid up to $435,000 in total, with the chairman eligible for $2,000 a day for up to 75 days, or $150,000; and the three other members each eligible for $1,900 a day for up to 50 days, or $95,000.

The Liberals also used the findings of this panel to refute Lysyk's report last week, which she is mandated by law to provide, that the financial documents contained in Wynne's pre-election budget released March 27 for the June 7 election, were "not reasonable" because they underestimated the government's projected deficits for the next three years by billions of dollars.

Wynne's efforts to undermine the authority and credibility of the auditor general are alarming because of the imbalance of **power** between the government and the auditor general's office.

Lysyk, her predecessor, Jim McCarter, and all auditors general, have no legislative authority to change government policy, or amend laws in light of the waste and incompetence they uncover in their reports.

The only powers the auditor general's office has are granted to it by the Legislature through the Auditor General Act, because the auditor general is not an elected official but an appointee of the government, with the consent of the opposition parties. (Lysyk was appointed in 2013.)

The auditor general's office, with about 105 staff, and a budget last year of just over $18 million, is one of the few **independent** voices at Queen's Park which objectively assesses government spending, which this year is projected at $158.5 billion, while the government has an army of spin doctors and **public** servants portraying that spending in the best possible light.

The only tools the auditor general has are publicity - its reports are **public** documents - and moral suasion, meaning the political pressure put on the government if the **public** is concerned enough about the auditor general's findings that it demands reforms the government cannot ignore.

Both opposition parties condemned the Wynne government when it gutted the auditor general's **power** to veto politically partisan advertising in 2015.

An appropriate symbolic step towards **greater** government transparency and accountability, would be for a new Progressive Conservative government under Doug Ford, or a new NDP government under Andrea Horwath, to reinstate McGuinty's 2004 law, giving the auditor general the **power** to veto politically partisan government advertising, as its first piece of legislation.

Of course if Wynne and the Liberals win on June 7, we already know that won't happen. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Focus Ontario | Global News

globalnews.ca · Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

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Our trust's in auditor general over Wynne

Toronto Sun - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,247
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A17

One of the first acts of the spanking new Dalton McGuinty Liberal government in 2003 was to call in former provincial auditor Erik Peters to determine whether **Ontario** was running a deficit.

Then, as now, there was significant debate over the status of the government's books and McGuinty asked Peters to provide an unbiased assessment of the province's accounts.

He concluded the deficit had been understated.

The Liberals were soon using the "inherited deficit" as justification to break a key election promise to run balanced budgets without tax hikes - and both hiked taxes and ran a deficit in their first budget.

Apart from being dubbed "Fiberals" by the **Toronto** Sun, that marked the beginning of a decade and a half of practically continuous annual budget deficits and ever-growing **public** debt.

However, in those early days, the Liberals respected the role of the province's **public** watchdogs.

McGuinty gave the auditor "new powers to examine the broader **public** sector, providing Ontarians with more information about how their tax dollars are spent."

And he empowered the auditor to conduct a preelection report before any future election to provide an unbiased snapshot of the province's finances and ensure future governments were transparent and accountable during election campaigns.

But as Lorrie Goldstein reports in the Sunday Sun, the relationship between the governing Liberals, the provincial auditor and other **public** watchdogs has soured to point under Kathleen Wynne where the government routinely disputes and even attempts to discredit watchdog reports it doesn't like.

This past week, the current auditor general, Bonnie Lysyk, reported the Liberals are "drastically" underestimating the borrowing costs for their 25% **hydro rate** cut and improperly counting **public** sector pension plans as assets.

Lysyk concluded the government's actual deficits will be "$11.7 billion for 2018-19 (or 75% more than the reported $6.7 billion), $12.2 billion for 2019-20 (or 85% more than the reported $6.6 billion) and $12.5 billion for 2020-21 (or 92% more than the reported $6.5 billion)."

The Conservatives are now the ones promising an **independent** look at the provincial books.

"Once again, the Liberals used accounting tricks to hide a $5 billion deficit," **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford said in a tweet. "As premier, I will initiate a full end-to-end **independent** commission of inquiry, whose mandate is to get to the bottom of the deficit scandal and propose solutions to the deficit problem."

For her part, Wynne disputes Lysyk's numbers suggesting the auditor's concerns are simply part of a longstanding "accounting dispute."

Given the choice between the auditor's accounting and the accounting of a government that has repeatedly broken its word and repeatedly demonstrated it has little interest in actual transparency, accountability or the concerns of its watchdogs - we believe the auditor general.

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Grits Caught In The Act; McGuinty's financial transparency rules expose Wynne's budget baloney

Toronto Sun · Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Andremarin

Ad Value: $6,515
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A6

True to form, the **Ontario** Liberals have maintained their ongoing fight with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

It's the classic case of "live by the sword, die by the sword."

When freshly elected premier Dalton McGuinty took over the reins of **power** in 2003, an audit he ordered found the outgoing Progressive Conservatives had amassed a $5.6-billion (instead of the stated $3-billion) deficit.

Much outrage ensued and the Liberals passed the Fiscal Transparency and Accountability Act requiring a tellall, pre-election audit by the auditor general so that voters never got duped again about the deficit situation.

Fast forward to 2018. Last Wednesday, the auditor general issued a 27-page report called, "**Review** of the 2018 "Pre-Election Report on **Ontario**'s Finances," which sounded more like a seven-alarm fire than an audit report. According to Lysyk, this year's budgetary shortfall is $11.7 billion, not $6.7 billion as Wynne claimed. And it gets worse. Next year's forecast is pegged at $12.2 billion, not the $6.6 billion Finance Minister Charles Sousa promised it would be.

According to Wynne, it's all just a little misunderstanding that they're working through with "ongoing discussions" with the auditor general. It's a minor technical, accounting "difference of opinion."

But it's a lot more serious than that. The Wynne government has misled us on two fronts. First, on the true impact of its **Fair Hydro Plan**, which just like magic, gave us an instant 25% reduction in **hydro** charges. The **plan** should be renamed the "Fake" **Hydro Plan**.

Second, Wynne underestimated the cost **public**-sector pension expenses by billions of dollars.

Call it creative accounting or political cooking the books. It is unforgivable for this government to play around with financial numbers to fit its agenda. To them, it's just a game. And we're the losers.

To any **independent** observer, it's just shocking that Wynne plainly and continually ignores **independent** audits and it is quite telling of what she thinks of our hard-earned money. She simply doesn't care.

Wynne has been a career, ego-driven politician who likes to play hard ball. She's precisely why people are cynical of politicians and explains the rise of populism. She's a gift to Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford.

Ford announced a commission of inquiry into government spending. He said: "We're going to restore responsibility, accountability, and trust in government. **Ontario** deserves answers about how big (Premier) Kathleen Wynne's mess really is."

Given the track record of Wynne's Liberals, who can take offence to that? If Ford wins, which appears quite likely at this point, he'll want to make sure he has a sharp eye on Ontario's financial fiasco that he will inherit.

In the meantime, let's give McGuinty a big thanks for laying the ground work and giving us the tools to keep Wynne's feet to the fire. It may yet be his most important legacy.

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ONTARIO'S BUDGET SWAMP

The Globe and Mail - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Nicholson

Ad Value: $2,715
Reach: 372649 **Page:** O10

While Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne may describe it as a disagreement between the government and the Auditor-General, that's just further smoke and mirrors.

The significant issue is that the impact of the 25-per-cent rebate on our hydro bills is not properly reflected on the balance sheet.

Why? Because at some later date our next generation will pay for this vote-buying scam through even higher hydro bills.

Under the Liberal Party's mismanagement, our hydro bills have gone through the roof - but that's not the end of the story.

Think skyscraper's roof for our children.

John Nicholson Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

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Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne defends minimum wage increases to business group

Stoney Creek News - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $57
Reach: 31639 **Page:** 1

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne defended her government's decision to boost the minimum wage over the next two years in an effort to help people who were living below the poverty line.

Talking to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce annual general meeting in Hamilton April 27, Wynne said despite the minimum wage rising to $14 per hour in 2018 from $11.40 per hour, the province's economy continues to expand.

"The minimum wage actually creates economic prosperity," said Wynne. "There is still a need to support people in this province. There has not been a falling off in prosperity."

Wynne acknowledged to the business group, who opposed the government's plan to increase the minimum wage, "there are challenges. This is a big discussion."

One of those "challenges" includes reviewing one of the "unintended consequences of Bill 148: holiday pay provisions. For some businesses with a large part-time work force, the changes mean that during some months they will pay more in additional holiday salary than they pay for the minimum wage hike.

Wynne told the nearly 200 people in the room that "we are looking at that."

She said wages had been stagnant for years, while corporate profits skyrocketed. Wynne said with the increase in the minimum wage - with an expected jump to $15 per hour starting Jan. 1, 2019 - **Ontario** still has had record employment numbers and the economy leads the G7 nations.

"**Ontario** has all the fundamentals to be able to lead in terms of innovative job creation," she said.

But chamber officials said there are people who had been earning a minimum wage who want their hours cut. They said those workers are making too much money and taxes are cutting into their higher earnings.

Vic Fedeli, Tory MPP for Nipissing, who spoke on behalf of party leader Doug Ford, said the party's **plan** is to eliminate any taxes for people who earn a minimum wage. Ford has indicated he will not allow the minimum wage to jump by a dollar next year.

Ford was attending a rally in **Kitchener** "that was already advertised" and couldn't attend the chamber meeting, said Fedeli.

"We will put more money into the pockets of people earning a minimum wage," said Fedeli. "It will be a real savings."

Wynne cautioned that providing a tax break won't help people earning a minimum wage.

"That may not benefit you at all," she said.

Wynne, who outlined the Liberals' record over the past few years, as all three parties prepare to campaign for the June 7 election, highlight such programs as providing free tuition for **students**, spending more on senior care, expanding child care and proposing a limited pharmacare program for youths.

"We are at an important juncture in this province," said Wynne. "We have Doug Ford who has a different world view, who will stop fighting **climate** change, hold back on the supports that people live on. That is exactly the wrong way to go. It's time to invest in people."

Fedeli, though, made a case that the Liberals have turned **Ontario** into a "have not province," losing 300,000 manufacturing jobs due to poor policies, including record high **hydro rates**, and there has been "years of waste, mismanagement and scandal."

He said the recent announcement by the Auditor General of **Ontario** that **Ontario**'s debt is actually over $11.7 billion instead of the $6.7 billion, the Liberals have boasted about, shows just how much the governing party is misleading people.

"They have kicked the fiscal can down the road," he said.

Fedeli said later Ford is expected to release a "costed out" budget for his proposed programs.

"You will see it shortly," he said. "He's out making announcements every day.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath who touted her party as being "different" from the other parties, referred to the NDP's recently released platform that includes cutting **hydro** costs by 30 per cent; creating 27,000 **student** jobs; provide universal pharmacare and full dental coverage.

"I believe we can make **Ontario** a more affordable place to live - and do business," she said.

The NDP has surged into second place according to the most recent Forum Research poll that has them at 27 per cent, followed by the Liberals at 21 per cent. The Tories sit comfortably at 46 per cent.

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NDP couldn't be worse than Liberals

The Intelligencer

The Belleville Intelligencer - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $369
Reach: 9723 **Page:** B2

(Re: Colin MacKay: NDP a bold choice, April 25 edition) For those Ontarians wanting more perpetuation of the nanny state and running up bigger deficits and debt, than we are seeing from the Wynne Liberals, I agree, selecting the Horwath NDP would be a bold, albeit risky choice.

Many of us old enough remember the fiscal disaster the last NDP government, under Bob Rae, left this province in. Currently, Horwath is trying to out promise and out spend Premier Wynne with handouts. Both parties are very socialist in their views.

Speaking of reckless spending, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk released a scathing report indicating the Wynne deficit will be $11.7 billion not the $6.7 billion reported by the Wynne government. Wynne's new **hydro** accounting method alone will cost Ontarians an additional $4 billion. This figure has been supported by the **independent** Financial Accountability Office. Wynne's new accounting scheme violates government accounting standards and her figures simply cannot be relied upon. Even while buried under massive deficits and debt, Wynne is promising to spend billions more if elected.

With such a huge discrepancy in the deficit figures, it is hard to disagree with Doug Ford wanting to call in an **independent** audit of the books if he wins the election.

In fact, a criminal investigation may be required to discover where all the billions have been squandered. Let's not forget, besides this humungous deficit, **Ontario** Liberals have added $174 billion to the provincial debt.

This is costing taxpayers billions just to **service** the annual interest costs.

The bottom line is, neither the NDP nor Conservatives could be any worse at fiscally managing **Ontario** than what we have seen under the spend-happy, fiscally irresponsible, Wynne Liberals. Because the further prosperity of the province is at stake, I sure hope voters think long and hard when casting their vote on June 7.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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MARIN: Thank McGuinty for revealing Wynne’s budget fudge | The London Free Press

lfpress.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

True to form, the Ontario Liberals have maintained their ongoing fight with Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

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Doug Ford's hydro plan won't cut electricity rates, Andrea Horwath says | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says a hydro plan announced on Friday by Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford won't reduce electricity rates.

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Ford vows to cut 12% more from hydro bills

Toronto Star - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Ad Value: $4,410
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A10

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford is promising to cut an additional 12 per cent from **electricity** bills, despite criticizing a 25-per-cent **rate** reduction put in place by the governing Liberals.

Recycling a pledge from former PC leader Patrick Brown's People's Guarantee platform, Ford said a Tory government would fund the subsidy by returning to **ratepayers** the province's annual $350-million dividend from its 49-per-cent share in **Hydro** One.

"We all know we are paying billions more for Kathleen Wynne's desperate attempt to cling to **power**," the rookie leader told reporters Friday in **Kitchener**.

Ford's campaign promise for the June 7 election builds on Wynne's controversial **Fair Hydro Plan**, which uses borrowed money to bankroll the 25-per-cent **rate** cut.

While Ford blasted the Liberals' **Fair Hydro Plan** for its "shady accounting tricks," his own **rate**-reduction proposal would bring 12-per-cent relief over and above the current 25-per-cent cut.

"We're going to be reviewing that," he said of the Liberal **plan** he would retain. "That was, as far as I'm concerned, the wrong thing to do - borrowing down the future."

But Ford conceded that he would not immediately scrap the **Fair Hydro Plan** even though he has promised a "commission of inquiry" to look into the government's accounting.

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Ford promises 12% hydro rate cut if Tories elected; Plan that would see more costs shifted to all taxpayers borrows idea from ousted PC leader

The Globe and Mail · Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JUSTIN GIOVANNETTI

Ad Value: $15,019
Reach: 372649 **Page:** A16

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives say they will cut hydro rates by 12 per cent if they win the June election by shifting more of the costs of the electrical system to all taxpayers.

Tory Leader Doug Ford promised on Friday that his party would save the average family about $14 a month on their hydro bills if he becomes the province's next premier by having the government pay for some electrical costs.

He said the reduction would come on top of the 25 per cent cut the Liberal government introduced last year.

"We're going to put more money in your pocket without shady accounting tricks," Mr. Ford said at a hotel in Kitchener, Ont.

Mr. Ford said his plan, which is nearly identical to the one former leader Patrick Brown unveiled last year, would cost the government about $800-million annually. The Conservatives would direct the province's share of dividends from Hydro One, the partly privatized utility, to reduce rates. The cost of energy conservation programs would be shifted from hydro bills to the government's books and the Tories would place a moratorium on new energy contracts.

The dividends currently go into general revenue, and Mr. Ford did not say how the Tories would replace the money.

The announcement comes nearly a year after Premier Kathleen Wynne's government put forward its plan to cut hydro rates by a quarter. Dubbed the Fair Hydro Plan, the policy was introduced after electricity bills had nearly doubled over the previous decade, causing widespread anger in the province.

Ontario's Financial Accountability Office has said the plan could cost $45-billion over the next three decades.

Mr. Ford said on Thursday that he would call an independent inquiry to probe government spending after a report from Ontario's Auditor-General highlighted several issues with the way the province has accounted for the Fair Hydro Plan. While Mr. Ford repeatedly called the report's conclusions on the Liberal government's hydro plan a "scandal," on Friday he said his hydro cut would be built on top of the rate deduction from the existing policy.

"We're going to be reviewing that," he said of the Liberal policy. "That was, as far as I'm concerned, the wrong thing to do, borrowing down the future and the only people who are going to pay for it is our children, our great-grandchildren."

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for the Ministry of Energy, said Mr. Ford's decision to support the Liberal government's energy policy was a welcome move. However, he said Mr. Ford's previous commitment to fire Hydro One's chief executive and replace the utility's board was the creating uncertainty in the electricity sector. Mr. Ford said he was reacting to the large salaries paid to executives at the former Crown corporation.

"Doug Ford's plans don't add up to anything but empty promises that will eventually dig their way into people's pockets," Mr. Nekolaichuk said.

The spokesman said the government has no new energy projects for Mr. Ford to stop. Any move to halt existing contracts, he said, would invite "massive lawsuits."

Todd Smith, the PC Party's energy critic, said it could be difficult to cancel the government's "convoluted" hydro plan.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath said she would scrap the Fair Hydro Plan and bring Hydro One back into public hands. Her party has pledged to reduce bills by 30 per cent overall.

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Ford unrolls 12% cut to hydro bills; Builds upon Liberal plan derided by Tory leader

Toronto Sun · Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $3,886
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A6

Doug Ford is promising to cut hydro bills by 12 per cent if he wins Ontario's spring election, saying it would be on top of a rate reduction from the governing Liberals, whose plan he has repeatedly criticized.

The Progressive Conservative leader said Thursday he would cut rates through a variety of measures that would save the average ratepayer $173 a year.

"I think that's a pretty good start," he said. "Putting $173 back in the taxpayer pocket."

The Tory plan would see the government give ratepayers the dividends it gets from its share of the partly privatized Hydro One.

It would also shift the cost of energy conservation programs from hydro customers to the tax base. Ford added that he would place a moratorium on new contracts and renegotiate existing deals where possible.

The plan comes as Ford continues to bemoan the fact the governing Liberals will borrow billions to lower hydro rates by 25 per cent in the short term. But he said their plan will remain in place, at least initially, if he wins this spring.

"We're going to be reviewing that," Ford said of the Liberals' Fair Hydro Plan. "That was, as far as I'm concerned, the wrong thing to do, borrowing down the future and the only people who are going to pay for it is our children, our great-grandchildren."

The Liberals' hydro plan came after bills in the province roughly doubled in the last decade, and widespread anger helped send Premier Kathleen Wynne's approval ratings to record lows.

The plan lowers time-ofuse rates by removing from bills a portion of the global adjustment - a charge consumers pay for above-market rates to power producers - for the next 10 years.

In the meantime, producers will be paid the same, so Ontario Power Generation has been tapped to oversee the debt used to pay that difference through a new entity called OPG Trust.

That financing structure will cost an extra $4 billion, according to both the province's auditor and the financial accountability officer. The Liberals have said the financing will cost closer to $2 billion.

Ford said that Wynne "hoodwinked" taxpayers by creating the **Fair Hydro Plan**, but said he'd maintain it, with his proposed 12 per cent **rate** cut being over and above the Liberal reduction.

Tory **energy** critic Todd Smith said the party may have a difficult task ahead if it wants to alter the **Fair Hydro Plan** because of the complexity of the borrowing vehicle.

"This was a very convoluted, confusing **plan** that the Liberals put in place," he said. "They concocted this for one reason and that was to hide it from the province's books, to make it seem like they had more money than they actually have."

Earlier this week, auditor general Bonnie Lysyk said the government's deficit projections over the next three years were understated by billions, in part because of the **Fair Hydro Plan**.

Ontario heads to the polls June 7.

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PC Leader Doug Ford pledges to cut hydro bills by 12% if elected | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford said he will cut hydro bills by 12 per cent, if elected.

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Doug Ford promises hydro rate cut for Ontario - CHCH

www.chch.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford is promising a 12 per cent cut to hydro rates if elected premier in June.

Ford says under his hydro plan, the government would give ratepayers the dividends it gets from Hydro One.

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Ford promises to cut Ontario hydro rates by 12 per cent - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

Doug Ford is promising to cut hydro rates by 12 per cent if he wins Ontario's spring election, saying the reduction would be on top of the Liberal government's electricity rate cut plan, which he has repeatedly criticized.

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Putting 'Humpty Dumpty back together again': Ontario NDP's hydro plan leaves experts cold - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca · Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario New Democrats say they can buy back Hydro One and cut rates by 30 per cent, all with no extra costs — to which experts say: bunk.

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THE EXPOSITOR

Carbon pricing, political pricing; Doug Ford gets away with a promise to repeal carbon pricing because of a confused electorate

Brantford Expositor · Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: R. Michael Warren

Ad Value: $1,287
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A5

Memo to Doug Ford: Carbon pricing works Despite mounting evidence that carbon pricing works, there are still pockets of political opposition to putting a price on carbon to fight **climate** change.

Witness the recent policy machinations within the **Ontario** Progressive Conservative party. Former leader Patrick Brown advanced a revenue-neutral carbon tax that would help pay for a progressive package of income tax reform, lower **hydro rates** and investments in mental health.

The newly elected PC leader, Doug Ford, promises to repeal **Ontario**'s carbon tax (it's actually a **cap-and-trade** program).

Abandoning this program would mean losing billions of dollars in auction proceeds that are being re-invested in new anti-**climate**-change technology and projects. He also says **climate** change is a non-issue.

Ford should read the latest report from Canada's Ecofiscal Commission titled Clearing the Air: How Carbon Pricing Helps Canada Fight **Climate** Change. It makes the key point that carbon pricing can support both a clean economy and a prosperous economy. It doesn't have to be either/or, as Ford suggests.

"(Carbon pricing) achieves these goals by changing incentives and unleashing market forces," the report says.

"It lets businesses and individuals identify the best ways to reduce their (greenhouse **gas**) emissions and at a time and place best for them."

Ford is right that fighting **climate** change is not at the top of voters'list of pressing issues. But it's not as far from the top as he suggests.

A 2018 Abacus Data survey of perceptions of carbon pricing in Canada found a large majority of Canadians want a transition to a low-carbon economy, but with care to manage impacts. Seventy-five per cent say action on **climate** change should be a priority. Sixty per cent want governments to take more action.

While support for carbon pricing has increased since 2015, there is still widespread confusion.

Fewer than half of Canadians feel familiar with carbon pricing.

This allows politicians like Ford in **Ontario** and Progressive Conservative Leader Jason Kenny in Alberta to troll for votes in a sea of misunderstanding with their simplistic, anti-carbon pricing slogans.

The Ecofiscal Commission acknowledges that governments and the commission have to do a better job of explaining how carbon pricing works. There are two basic approaches to carbon pricing: A carbon tax sets a price on carbon directly. It is applied to specific **fuels** like **gasoline** based on how many greenhouse **gases** (GHG) are emitted when burned.

A **cap-and-trade** system begins with government putting a cap on the allowable level of GHG emissions. It then allocates permits among major emitters.

Businesses are allowed to trade permits among themselves. The supply and demand for permits determines the price of carbon.

There is strong evidence grounded in solid economics and policy experiences that carbon pricing works: Cali???nia int??duced a capand-trade program in 2012.

Emissions are falling in the state and are scheduled to fall faster as the program ramps up. California is on track to reduce its GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The **cap-and-trade** program has not hindered the state's economic growth.

B?itish C?lu?bia was the first jurisdiction in **North** America to implement a carbon tax in 2008. B.C.'s GHG emissions would have been between five and 15 per cent higher without the tax. There was only a slight impact on B.C.'s economy.

The United Kingd?? has combined the two systems.

Emissions have fallen sharply in recent years while the U.K.'s ec?n??y has g?? wn at a comparable **rate** to the Eu??pean Uni?n's ec?n??y.

Ford may be surprised to hear who supports putting a price on carbon.

Inventor and entrepreneur Elon Musk says, "The fundamental problem is the **rules** today incent people to create carbon… So what can we do? Whenever you have the opportunity, talk to your politicians; ask them to enact a carbon tax."

When Steve Williams, the CEO of Suncor **Energy**, Canada's largest oil producer, speaks, Ford should listen. Williams acknowledges **climate** change is happening and says, "We think a broad-based carbon price is the answer."

Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, says the world's priority must be to get prices right on all forms of **energy** to support low-carbon growth. "Achieving a predictable price on carbon that accurately reflects real environmental costs is key to delivering emission reductions at scale."

The proceeds from **Ontario**'s **cap-and-trade** permit auction program - from April 2017 to March 2018 - are a staggering $2.4 billion. That money must go into the **Ontario** Greenhouse Reduction Account and must be invested in projects that reduce GHG emissions.

The **Ontario** electorate needs to know if they elect Doug Ford we will lose billions in funding for new technologies and eco-jobs that combine to directly fight **climate** change. R. Michael Warren is a former corporate director, **Ontario** deputy minister, TTC chief general manager and Canada Post CEO. r.michael.warren@gmail.com

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Cap-and-trade is doing what it's supposed to do in Ontario

Waterloo Region Record · Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Doris Grinspun and Tim Gray

Ad Value: $3,107
Reach: 73852 **Page:** A8

Cap-and-trade is working. Leave it alone.

Cap-and-trade has become an election issue in **Ontario**, which is a shame. The program has been running for over a year now. It hasn't damaged the economy or cost jobs, but it is starting to cut carbon and spurring a low-carbon transition.

What is **cap-and-trade**? It's essentially a system that limits the amount of carbon pollution allowed in **Ontario**. It helps to protect the environment and protect people's health at the same time, by helping **Ontario** reach its greenhouse **gas** emission targets.

Under **cap-and-trade**, industry and businesses that want to pollute need a permit, which they can get from the province. Fewer permits are issued each year, meaning the amount of pollution allowed in **Ontario** is reduced each year. The permits can be bought and sold and traded, and the trading is intended to allow the market to find the lowest cost reductions.

Cap-and-trade is a form of carbon pricing. It's being called a tax by some but it's not. It's been said by some that it will kill jobs, but it hasn't and it won't. We know this because we have evidence, which can be found in three recent reports: one from the Ecofiscal Commission, one from **Canadian Centre** for Policy Alternatives, and one from the Clean Economy Alliance.

Facts should matter. And the fact is, **cap-and-trade** is working in other jurisdictions, including California, Quebec, and the U.K. And it's starting to work here, too.

Our report, from the Clean Economy Alliance, looks explicitly at **Ontario**.

Among the findings: 2017, the first year of **cap-and-trade**, was a very strong year for **Ontario**'s economy. **Ontario**'s unemployment **rate** is at a six-year low, and is lower than the national average.

The claim that **cap-and-trade** or carbon pricing will kill jobs might be powerful rhetoric, but it's not true. The province added more than 155,000 new jobs in 2017, the first year of **cap-and-trade**.

We won't have data on **Ontario**'s 2017 carbon emissions for more than a year, but already the signs are very positive.

First, carbon emitters readily adapted to **cap-and-trade**, buying up virtually all of 2017 carbon permits put up for auction. The auctions were a stunning success and showed that the business community has literally bought into the program.

Second, there is already progress in reducing emissions. While **natural gas** use climbed in the rest of Canada, it shrank in **Ontario**, driven by reductions from industry.

It's important to note that this reduced **natural gas** use is not because of reduced industrial activity. During 2017, manufacturing employment grew by 4.5 per cent while industrial **natural gas** use shrank by 15 per cent.

There are other signs of progress, including the fact sales of **electric** cars grew by 120 per cent during 2017, in part thanks to generous rebates made possible by the money raised by **cap-and-trade**. All told, the province raised $2.4 billion so far from the sale of permits from **cap-and-trade**, all of which must, by law, be reinvested into programs that reduce polluting emissions.

Doing away with **cap-and-trade** won't help the economy. **Ontario**'s economy is doing fine with it in place. And getting rid of it certainly won't help the environment. And then there's the federal government, which will make sure every province has carbon pricing, one way or another.

Ontario's **cap-and-trade** system is working, and there have been no negative impacts. It should stay in place and continue to do its work to reduce pollution in the province and help **Ontario** citizens transition to a low-carbon future.

Dr. Doris Grinspun is the chief executive officer of the Registered Nurses' Association of **Ontario**. Tim Gray is the executive director of Environmental Defence.

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Cheap hydro brought in much tax revenue

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Stan Marshall

Ad Value: $174
Reach: 11903 **Page:** A6

Did you ever consider the effects of "cheap, government subsidized, **hydro**"? Cheap **hydro** attracted industry, which paid taxes. Industry needed employees who also paid taxes.

Industry needed raw materials from sources who paid taxes, and who also needed employees who paid taxes.

All these employees needed homes and paid municipal taxes.

Companies who built the homes paid taxes and needed tradesmen who paid taxes.

All these people needed food, clothing and household items so they went to stores, who paid taxes and hired people who paid taxes and because they were consuming items more companies were needed to make the goods in the stores and to supply the stores and they and their employees paid taxes, and so on and so on.

What do you suppose happened when cheap **hydro** was not kept cheap? Would you call this **Ontario**?

Stan Marshall

Brockville

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Trillium Power releases new evidence in $500M lawsuit against Ontario gov't | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon Apr 30 2018
Tone: Neutral

It's the $500 million wind energy lawsuit the Ontario Liberals can't make go away — despite their very best efforts.

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It's time to dethrone Saint Suzuki

Toronto Sun - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Candice Malcolm

Ad Value: $4,200
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A15

The University of Alberta has decided to grant an honorary doctorate to the infamous David Suzuki, the charlatan who has long advocated for Alberta's hydrocarbon industry to be shut down.

Suzuki received a PhD in zoology in the 1960s and uses it as a ploy to pretend he's an expert on everything from **climate** science to agriculture to immigration to fossil **fuels**.

And while many remember him fondly as a presenter on CBC's The Nature of Things, Suzuki's political and academic record is marred with scandal and dishonesty.

Suzuki once said that humans are "maggots" that "defecate all over the earth." He called for an end to immigration, calling our program "disgusting" and insisting that "Canada is full."

He told McGill **students** that politicians who don't meet his arbitrary standards of "**climate** activism" should be incarcerated. Forget about the rule of law - Suzuki challenged **students** to find a "way of throwing our so-called leaders into jail."

On just about every issue Suzuki weighs in on, he pushes a narrow ideology while sacrificing facts. He insists genetically modified food is dangerous, saying "any politician or scientist who tells you these products are safe is either very stupid or lying."

Meanwhile, the government of Canada says, "after 12 years of reviewing the safety of (these) foods, Health Canada is not aware of any published scientific evidence demonstrating (these products) are any less safe than traditional foods."

Speaking at an event with world-renowned **climate** scientists in Australia, Suzuki was entirely out of his depth and responded to question after question by denying reality and making up facts.

When asked about the scientific data sets on global **climate** that seem to run counter to his theory, he suggested that a "**climate** skeptic down in Huntsville, Ala." must have manipulated the research.

Suzuki wrote an article saying the Great Barrier Reef was being destroyed by cyclones, and when a scientist told him that simply wasn't true, he threw his hands in the air and admitted he hadn't bothered to look it up.

He destroyed his reputation that day, and embarrassed all Canadians with his profound ignorance.

Suzuki rails against free markets and the business sector while earning millions through his leftist activism. He demands we make huge sacrifices to reduce our **carbon footprint** while he owns multiple mansions and flies around the world.

Suzuki pretends to be an environmentalist, but a quick examination of his career shows something totally different: a conspiracy theorist, a xenophobe, a totalitarian ideologue, a hypocrite, a pseudo-intellectual and a fraud.

In 1996, the University of Alberta offered an honorary degree to premier Ralph Klein, but due to protests by left-wing **students** over cuts to their subsidies, Klein graciously bowed out. He declined the offer because he didn't want to embarrass the university.

If Suzuki had any sense of decency, or half the class of Klein, he'd do the same.

Suzuki has led a malicious and decades-long campaign to demonize Alberta's **energy** industry, a top employer of U of A grads, and his efforts have helped to destroy the livelihood of thousands of Canadians.

He should be persona non grata to people who care about Alberta's economy and people who care about facts and the truth.

One would think the University of Alberta would fall into that category. That it doesn't demonstrates that my alma mater has been infected with the same poisonous anti-Alberta ideology that **fuels** Suzuki's dishonest work.

@CandiceMalcolm

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A primer on the Kinder Morgan pipeline | CBC Radio

www.cbc.ca - Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

There is no more bitter divide in Canada today, than the one between British Columbia and Alberta over plans to build the Kinder Morgan pipeline from the oil fields to the sea. It's a complicated issue with competing players and interests from politics, economics, and the environment.

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It's showtime for PM; An Inability To Be A Leader On Pipelines Will Be The Ruin Of Trudeau

National Post - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Conrad Black

Ad Value: $19,813
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A15

The issue of pipelines is a key in Canada's latest crossroads of national seriousness. The country didn't arise from an anti-colonial revolution, like others in the Americas, or from a unique cultural homogeneity like Norwegians, Finns, Israelis and Czechs. It was a group of British-settled or occupied territories strung along the American border and hastily put together when the U.S. emerged united at last and with the greatest army and generals in the world after its Civil War, and unencumbered with any affection for the British Empire.

John A. Macdonald, the great and racially tolerant founder of the country, and George-Étienne Cartier and George Brown, conceived the only transcontinental, bicultural, parliamentary confederation in the history of the world, and secured its approval by squabbling colonial legislators in what are now four provinces (**Ontario**, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), and by the British Parliament. Benjamin Disraeli was chancellor of the Exchequer, deputy prime minister and leader of the House of Commons in a government officially led by the Earl of Derby, who as colonial secretary had completely misjudged the issue of responsible government in Canada after the 1837 rebellion.

Disraeli and William Ewart Gladstone, in the midst of their great rivalry of more than 35 years (during which they served as prime minister and chancellor a total of 13 times) had little knowledge of Canada, were skeptical about its survival, and Gladstone generally thought the Empire was nonsense anyway. They interrupted the intense debate over the Second Reform Bill, vastly expanding the British electorate, to put Macdonald's British **North** America Act through. The colonial secretary, Lord Carnarvon, said they were creating what would eventually be one of the world's great nations, and the governor general of Canada, Viscount Monck, spoke in the House of Lords in support of it with some eloquence.

Macdonald was nominated and elected the first prime minister but realized the new country needed a national purpose beyond not being American. He soon unveiled his "national policy," which consisted of setting up more provinces, imposing a tariff that would facilitate the creation of a manufacturing industry, and most ambitiously, building a transcontinental railway that would connect the new country and be the spine of it. This was an immense undertaking: the Americans were pursuing the same objectives but they could lay track on farmland and gentle **hills** all the way to the Rocky Mountains and had a huge capital market to finance their railways. **Canadian** Pacific was largely built upon the rock of the **Canadian** Shield, and **Canadian** financial markets could finance only about a quarter of the costs. The financial centres of New York and **London**, where funds would have to be raised, were heavily influenced by forces connected to competing American railroads. Macdonald got his entire program through, and was followed by 15 years of Wilfrid Laurier extending rail **service** in the country and incentivizing immense waves of immigration. Macdonald and Laurier, prime ministers for 34 of Canada's first 44 years as a Dominion (there were five prime ministers in the other 10 years), built a credible country, able to play an important and distinguished part in the First World War.

Other prime ministers were more than placemen. Robert Borden took the country through the First World War (though he used the English majority to impose conscription on French Canada). Mackenzie King ran always as a figure of French-English conciliation, and got the country through the Second World War without a major split, running a very distinguished war effort, and even taking the lead in urging president Harry Truman and British prime minister Clement Attlee into the Cold War after the Igor Gouzenko affair broke in Canada in 1946. Louis St. Laurent presided over peace and prosperity in the '50s, Lester Pearson was a wide-ranging reformer. The only reason Pierre Trudeau entered pubic life was to defeat the Quebec separatists, and he did it when no one else could. Brian Mulroney tried unsuccessfully to complete the constitutional process but did succeed in putting through free trade and in moving the basis of federal income from taxes on income to taxes on goods and services, both vital achievements.

Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin eliminated the federal deficit and passed the Clarity Act, making provincial secession more complicated after almost losing the 1995 Quebec independence referendum. Stephen Harper tried to shrink the **public** sector durably by reducing **HST**. Other leaders governed too briefly to leave much of a mark.

For two-and-a-half years, the Justin Trudeau government has been preoccupied with full-body immersion in politically correct pandering to native people, gender warriors, and eco-alarmists, in fiscal extravagance, collective apologies, and Peter Pan posturing in the world. In strategic terms, Canada is a mockery for importing 700,000 barrels of oil a day in eastern Canada while being unable to move oil from Alberta to eastern markets. The accomplished financier and philanthropist Seymour Schulich last week sent round a letter to a Vancouver newspaper from a man in Seattle thanking Canada for the gift of "$100 million a day" because of the low oil price forced on Alberta by British Columbia, by preventing Alberta from exporting oil to world markets.

The failure to supply our eastern provinces and to access fully the trans-Pacific markets, squabbling and envious provinces, and the lack of any effective federal leadership are a disgrace that makes Canada appear completely dysfunctional; a chump among the world's nations we so tiresomely lecture on their moral duties.

I like Justin Trudeau personally and urged readers to vote for him in 2015, because of the Harper autocracy and sclerosis (after a generally successful period as prime minister).

While the financially and oratorically extravagant political correctness of the government is grating, there have not been disasters until recently. Failure to get some movement on pipelines will sink this government.

The stalling of the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, which would almost triple the flow of Alberta crude oil to the **West Coast**, to 890,000 barrels daily, and the cancellation of the **Energy** East pipeline in October of last year, which would have brought more than a million barrels a day east from Alberta and Saskatchewan for refinement and sale or export, are both traceable to the absence of federal leadership.

Underlying the travails of both projects is the moral incapacity to face down the nativist and ecological scaremongers.

The natives are ambiguously divided on the Trans Mountain pipeline and do not play an important role in the eastern project.

And the climatic debate is nonsense: alleged (completely implausible) danger to 76 orca whales on the southern British Columbia **coast**, and esoteric discussion about the impact on ability to meet the insane carbon-emission targets we foolishly committed to in the Paris **climate** agreement. (It doesn't matter much because the entire fairy tale evaporated with the withdrawal of the United States, while the chief offenders, China and India, charge ahead making no commitment to do anything.) We will find out soon enough if **climate** is changing, if the world is warming, and if the conduct of man has anything to do with any of it. We need not amuse the world by pre-emptively punishing ourselves as we are.

What is required is a federal enunciation of a right of eminent domain that enables the federal government to fulfill its mandate to provide peace, order and good government. This could require the patient appointment of high court judges who will not be as easily gulled as they have been recently by woeful tales of the ubiquity and fragility of native religion and the susceptibility of nature to the safest of all **energy transmission** methods. And above all, it will require leadership. It's showtime for Justin Trudeau; to take a phrase from the Quebec of Pierre Trudeau's politically formative years: "Un chef ou pas un chef?" (a leader or no leader?).

National Post cbletters@gmail.com

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The great pipeline debate: Why isn’t more oil refined in B.C.?

www.timescolonist.com · Sun Apr 29 2018
Tone: Neutral

Here’s where the economic and environmental arguments clash.

Those who want to ship Alberta oil from B.C. say being shut out of Asian markets costs Canada billions of dollars.

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The great pipeline debate: Is it good for the economy?

www.timescolonist.com - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral

On the day that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau approved the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project in late 2016, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley hailed the decision as a turning point for her province.

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Regulation And Pipeline Delays Stall Growth At Imperial Oil; 'Four And A Half Years To Get A Project ... Is Inordinately Long'

National Post - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $12,040
Reach: 185480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

Capital investment by Imperial Oil Ltd. is at a historic low because expanding regulatory timelines, market access challenges and escalating fiscal costs make it hard to start new projects, the company's CEO said Friday.

Rich Kruger said the 138-year-old company had hoped to have regulatory approval in hand by now for its 150,000-barrel-a-day Aspen project. Imperial had counted on Aspen to lead its next major oilsands growth spurt. The project uses industry-leading solvent-assisted SAGD technology that is 25 per cent more capital efficient and produces 25 per cent fewer greenhouse **gas** emissions than SAGD projects already in operation.

Instead, Aspen, expected to cost $2 billion for each 75,000 barrels a day phase, has been under **review** by the Alberta **Energy** **Regulator** for four and a half years, leaving the company with no new major projects to work on.

"I have lived and worked in a lot of places, and four and a half years to get a project that has strong economics, pace-setting environmental performance, is inordinately long," Kruger said to reporters after addressing the company's annual shareholders meeting in Calgary.

"We have provided answers to every question that (was) asked," Kruger said. "We engaged with whomever we needed to engage.

This is an illustration of the long, costly, uncertain regulatory environment that the **energy** industry faces in this country right now."

Imperial is 70 per cent owned by Exxon Mobil Corp., one of the few international oil majors still committed to the oilsands after major competitors pulled out to invest in friendlier jurisdictions.

Multiple executives have criticized expanding and uncertain regulatory processes for stifling investment.

The head of TransCanada Corp. said there was no way his company could revive the $15-billion **Energy** East pipeline.

Instead, TransCanada is expanding in the U.S. and Mexico.

"I can't think of a better opportunity for this nation than **Energy** East. Unfortunately, the hurdles to get to the finish line were insurmountable and watching what's happening right now, on the **West** **Coast**, it's hard to imagine how we could resurrect that project," TransCanada president and CEO Russ

Girling said at the company's annual meeting on Friday, referring to the pipeline fight over competitor Kinder Morgan Canada's Trans Mountain expansion.

"I never say never to anything but it's hard to see how the stars and the moon could align so that could be a viable opportunity for us in the near term," Girling said, confirming that **Energy** East is cancelled rather than just suspended.

Imperial Oil is a shipper on Trans Mountain and has signed up for space in the proposed expansion, which the British Columbia government wants to derail.

Kruger said the Aspen project may not go ahead even if it receives regulatory approval if it can't transport the oil to consumers.

"For the industry to have confidence to materially invest in growth, we are going to need new market access," he said. "In the absence of confidence of that ... it will be a big part of our deliberations and consideration on any new expansion."

Already, the company had to curtail production at its Kearl oilsands project by 12,000 barrels a day in the first quarter because it had no place to put it, Kruger said.

Lack of **transportation** capacity has meant **Canadian** oil producers have not participated in strengthening global oil markets, he said.

In first quarter results announced Friday, Imperial said net income grew to $516 million, from $333 million in the same period a year ago; production decreased to 370,000 barrels a day from 378,000 barrels a day; and bitumen sold for $35.61 a barrel on average, 60 cents less than in the same period last year, while synthetic crude was sold for $77.26 a barrel, $9.47 a barrel higher than a year ago.

Kruger said Imperial is focused on boosting the performance of its existing asset base and giving back to shareholders, including raising its dividend by nearly 20 per cent.

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Rex Murphy: Grants to anti-pipeline activists a hammer blow to the heads of the unemployed | National Post

nationalpost.com · Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

If you are an Albertan, or a Newfoundlander, or for that matter a person from any Canadian province or territory, who has been laid off and out of work for the past couple of years because of the downturn in the oil industry, and the fierce opposition to all efforts — pipeline construction — to revive it, the news that your federal government is funding summer jobs for professional groups whose only goal is to kill the oilsands forever, must be a hammer blow to the head.

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BC govt court case another ‘stall tactic’ to block Trans Mountain expansion – CAPP

www.miningweekly.com · Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

A reference court case brought by the environment-focused minority provincial government of British Columbia that seeks a confirmation of the province's constitutional rights to defend against the risks of a bitumen spill has been criticised by Canada’s petroleum producers as “just another stall tactic”.

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Trans Mt to brink - April 29, 2018 - Petroleum News

www.petroleumnews.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

Faced with a May 31 deadline set by Kinder Morgan, the Canadian government is under pressure to assure the company that it will not face further legal challenges to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, or any financial risks to its shareholders.

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Pipeline pawns no more: As politicians bicker, steelworkers fight for jobs | Regina Leader-Post

leaderpost.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

Bill Edwards has been through much of this before.

As he approaches 35 years of continuous service at the steel mill on Regina's northern edge, he's seen just about every up and every down that comes around in the steel and oil industries.

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Conrad Black: An inability to be a leader on pipelines will be the ruin of Justin Trudeau | National Post

nationalpost.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

The issue of pipelines is a key in Canada's latest crossroads of national seriousness. The country didn't arise from an anti-colonial revolution, like others in the Americas, or from a unique cultural homogeneity like Norwegians, Finns, Israelis and Czechs.

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Tories would scrap hot-button Otter Creek wind farm: Bailey

Chatham Daily News

The Chatham Daily News - Sat Apr 28 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $533
Reach: 8244 **Page:** A1 / Front

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says if a Progressive Conservative government is elected in June, a controversial **wind turbine** project slated the border of Lambton County and Chatham-Kent will be scrapped.

Bailey is concerned that construction of the 12-**turbine** Otter Creek **wind** project is near an aquifer that runs in the vicinity of the county border. The Progressive Conservative MPP said the project risks contaminating the water supply for St. Clair Township residents and others who draw their water from private wells in the area.

But if the Tories form the government after June 7, the proposed Otter Creek **wind** farm won't be permitted to proceed, said Bailey. He said it's something party leader Doug Ford has also said publicly.

"That project will be dead, Doug Ford said it," Bailey said. "I have great concerns about it."

Even though the Otter Creek turbines are scheduled to be located in Chatham-Kent, Bailey said there are concerns the industrial turbines will make local water wells unusable in both Chatham-Kent and St. Clair Township when construction begins - because it's being built on the same Kettle Point black shale geology that has reportedly caused problems in other areas of Chatham-Kent.

Water wells in the former Chatham and Dover Townships, south of Wallaceburg, have been challenged with black water and other problems following **wind turbine** construction. "(St. Clair Township) thinks it could come as far as four concession roads into the township, so I think they have a very valid point," Bailey said.

The fact that corporations have already spent a lot of money developing Otter Creek, as well as having contracts in place, does not worry Bailey, who is seeking re-election in Sarnia-Lambton. He said windfirms will have to deal with a new government if they're elected.

"Rightly or wrongly, at the end of the day, the government holds all the cards."

In question period Wednesday, Bailey asked Premier Kathleen Wynne to cancel the Otter Creek project to protect residents'wells, but Wynne and Environment Minister Chris Ballard dodged the question, he said.

He also asked the premier to add protection of private wells to the mandate of the **Thames**-Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Committee. Currently, their mandate is to protect municipal water sources.

currently under final technical **review** by the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change. It's anticipated the technical **review** will be completed at any time in the next few weeks. Once completed, an REA approval can be issued and construction can begin.

The **wind** turbines in the Otter Creek **wind** project are expected to be the tallest **wind** turbines erected in Canada.

Otter Creek officials said they don't anticipate much construction in 2018, with most of the Otter Creek **wind turbine** construction scheduled for 2019.

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April 2018 Issue: Wind makes a good neighbor

www.windpowerengineering.com - Fri Apr 27 2018
Tone: Neutral

Last year, my good friend Anna spent the summer in a small, rural Ontario Airbnb. She was unaware when booking the home that it was near a wind farm, and was concerned initially about noise and shadow flicker.

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