Karen Evans

From:	Karen Evans
Sent:	May 3, 2018 9:05 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject:	Morning News Summary: Thursday, May 3, 2018

Good Morning,

- Peterborough this week has an editorial and letter to the editor talking about the potential sale of PDI to Hydro One. The OEB is mentioned.
- There is an article about the drop in TOU rates. The OEB is mentioned. (Full article below)
- The Reminextwork, aimed at the real estate market, has a piece accusing Ontario candidates of overstating the cost of conservation and criticizing the Global Adjustment. (Full article below)
- There is a lot of coverage of the FAO report.

Peterborough this week: Motivation to sell PDI still unclear (Letter to editor)

To the editor,

Mr. Stephenson, president of Peterborough Utilities, was asked to present to council last Monday night to clarify the situation with the potential sale of PDI to Hydro One.

A week ago the public was left with the impression that "negotiations" were back on but then a memo to PDI staff from Stephenson said that only "discussions" were underway.

What was revealing from Stephenson's answers to questions from councillors was that the motivation to sell PDI is still unclear.

Stephenson stated that he does not believe that PDI is viable in the long term. He also stated that "the future profitability that you want out of it will be challenged and not sustainable."

Mr. Stephenson also stated that some of the pending proceeds from the sale could be reinvested in generation. But this idea also appears to be questionable, especially when he stated that a) power consumption is declining; b) people are going off grid to provide their own power; c) generation is moving to "distributed generation"; d) residential customers are using less power; and, e) intensification will not result in increased power consumption.

The Ontario Energy Board is in the middle of its process to have fixed distribution charges for all local distribution companies, resulting in a predictable income independent of weather and consumer behaviour.

When the proponents of the sale were making their case a few years ago they said the infrastructure needed much work. Now they are going on record as saying it doesn't.

The Independent Electrical System Operator delivers key services across the electrical system including managing the power system. There is about 34 Gigawatts of generation connected to the system already and on any particular day 27 GW is needed.

Our provincial peak has dropped from years gone by so why the interest in more generation?

Gord Jamison,

Peterborough this week: OP ED Public opinion doesn't always measure what's best for the public

- A city councillor has suggested a referendum on the potential sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc. to Hydro One, but it's unlikely to happen - and wouldn't matter if it did.
- The "R" word was floated again this week by Coun. Keith Riel in relation to plans to sell the city-owned electrical utility company's distribution network to Hydro One.
- However, a referendum is unlikely. Coun. Riel admitted his half-hearted call to have PDI added as a ballot question in the coming October municipal election was mostly about grabbing headlines and venting frustration.
- The provincial government says that referendum results have no legal clout unless voter turnout is 50

per cent or higher, but no city election in at least 50 years has reached 50-per-cent turnout.

Elliot Lake Standard:TOU rates drop over two years

Ahh May. The snow is melting, birds are chirping and the Ontario Energy Board releases its time-of-use (TOU) rates.
While this news may generally bring about waves of panic and anxiety when faced with your monthly energy bill, there is some good news.
Off-peak rates are expected to stay the same at 6.5 cents per kWh, as well as on-peak pricing at 13.2 cents per kWh.
And while it is not a significant drop over the previous six months; the mid-peak price is listed at 9.4 cents per kWh rather than the 9.5 cents per kWh that was seen for the July to May period.
However, over the course of two years, TOU rates have been slowly dropping.
Back in 2016, rates were the highest with on-peak sitting at 18 cents per kWh and the lowest was 8.7 cents per kWh for off-peak. Mid-peak pricing also peaked at 13.2 cents per kWh, the highest it had been since prior to 2006.

Reminextwork: Ontario candidates overstate conservation costs

The upfront costs of Ontario's electricity conservation programs are lower than some candidates for provincial office are alleging. Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford recently promised that his party's plan to fund energy efficiency measures with tax revenue rather than directly through hydro rates would cut the average family's annual electricity costs by about $43. However, the average residential customer currently pays less than $28 toward conservation.
"Electricity distributors and the IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) are investing roughly $400 million annually, which is prorated to 130 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of consumption. That works out to about 0.3 cents per kWh allocated to the Global Adjustment," calculates Andrew Pride, an engineer and consultant providing guidance on environmental sustainability and energy management, who oversaw provincial conservation initiatives prior to the Ontario Power Authority's merge with the IESO. "For average households consuming 750 kWh, their share of program costs would be $2.30 per month."
Beyond debunking flawed estimates of potential savings, he argues that decoupling conservation costs from the electricity rate structure would upend the most economically rational funding formula. The user-pay approach directly links charges to consumption, allows electricity distributors to self-sufficiently finance initiatives that principally benefit their own operations and ratepayers, and makes program administrators accountable to funders who are also their customers.
"Considering that, long term, the electricity system saves more than two dollars for every dollar invested in conservation, it makes sense for the electricity system to pay the costs," Pride asserts. "Keeping the drivers aligned supports cost-effective energy savings."
"Rate-based financing for energy conservation programming is a widely accepted practice throughout North America," concurs Mark Winfield, a professor in York University's Faculty of Environmental Studies and coordinator of its Sustainable Energy Initiative.
Cost-effective investment in matching supply to demand
Expenditures to implement energy-saving measures have proven to be investments with favourable returns. The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's recently released 2018 Energy Conservation Progress Report points to both the short-term benefits of reducing peak demand that would otherwise press gas-fired generation plants into production of pricier and dirtier power, and the longer term savings from delaying or avoiding the need to build new highly capital-intensive generating facilities and associated transmission and distribution assets.
Commissioner Dianne Saxe pegs the lifecycle costs of new generation at 7 cents per kWh for wind power, 12 cents/kWh for hydroelectric and nuclear, 14 cents/kWh for solar and 16 cents/kWh for bioenergy, versus system costs of 2.1 cents/kWh as existing generating capacity is stretched through conservation and demand management. "Over the past decade, conservation has saved money for all electricity customers and delivered additional benefits to those who participate in programs, including low-income customers and Aboriginal communities," she states.

“Conservation is the cheapest way to match supply to demand,” reiterates Keith Brooks, programs director with the public interest group, Environmental Defence. “The Province should continue to put conservation first, pursue all cost-effective conservation and fund it from the rate base.”

Commercial real estate players and public sector facilities managers have clearly seen the value in energy efficiency, both individually and through industry organizations like REALPAC, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Federation of Rental-housing Providers of Ontario, the Canadian Condominium Institute and the Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society. Currently, for example, management teams and tenants from more than 500 buildings, encompassing nearly 80 million square feet of commercial space, are enrolled in the race2reduce, targeting a collective 10 per cent reduction in energy consumption (relative to 2016) for the 2018-2020 period. This follows the 12.1 per cent energy savings achieved across 200 buildings participating in an earlier 2011-2015 iteration of the race.

Yet, commercial electricity customers share residential customers’ concerns about escalating rates. In particular, the lack of details about the components and their relative weights within the bucket of costs known as the Global Adjustment — which now accounts for 80 to 90 per cent of the commodity cost of electricity — makes it easier for critics to typify conservation as a buried cost and to lump it with other presumed nefarious elements believed to be inflating the price of electricity.

“Right now, seniors, small businesses and families are paying for hidden expenses on their hydro bills that have nothing to do with keeping the lights on,” Doug Ford maintained, as he outlined a scheme envisioned to enable “the average Ontario family” to save 12 per cent on electricity costs. Along with transferring conservation programming to the provincial tax base, he also promised to return Hydro One dividends to ratepayers and to attempt to renegotiate some of the energy contracts now enveloped in the Global Adjustment.

Many observers acknowledge that Ford is tapping into justifiable concern about the opaqueness of the Global Adjustment. His targeting of conservation costs might be seen as a complement to the Toronto Region Board of Trade’s energy policy position paper — released to raise issues ahead of the looming provincial election — which recommends: “Costs not directly related to generation, transmission and distribution should be moved out of electricity prices and either funded by the tax base or cancelled.”

However, proponents of energy efficiency counter that conservation is directly related to those key elements.

“Electricity supply and demand are always linked. Saying that energy conservation has ‘nothing to do with keeping the lights on’ is like saying that your right hand has nothing to do with your left foot,” scoffs Corey Diamond, executive director of Efficiency Canada, a national organization promoting energy conservation. “It’s all connected.”

More transparency would serve conservation well since it should reveal its lower cost in comparison to other Global Adjustment components. Many energy management practitioners and potential recipients of program funding would also welcome more scrutiny of the communications and marketing expenditures attached to conservation.

“I think having a review of where we’re spending the money and what we’re getting for it would be a good thing,” submits Scott Rouse, managing partner of the consulting firm, Energy@Work. “But I don’t think the programs should be moved off the ratepayer base to the tax base. It’s just one of the fundamentals: electricity should pay for electricity; water should pay for water, etc.”

Barbara Carss is editor-in-chief of Canadian Property Management.

Morning News Clippings

Date: Thursday, May 3, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 24 Results

Wataynikaneyap Power Line Receives $1.6 billion in Federal Funding

electricalindustry.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The project will connect 17 remote First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario to the main electricity grid through the construction of 1,800 kilometres of transmission lines. The communities currently rely on diesel-powered electricity ...

Lower pay for Hydro One executives not a given: Minister - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

One day after calling compensation at Hydro One "unjustifiably generous," Ontario's energy minister says a review won't necessarily lead to lower pay.

Enbridge presents plans on St. Clair River pipeline project

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $229
Reach: 8941 **Page:** A5

Enbridge recently briefed the Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH) on their plans to replace an oil and **natural gas** liquids pipeline beneath the St. Clair **River**. Enbridge's Ken Hall was at the ...

Wynne's spending addiction knows no bounds

North Bay Nugget - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $295
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A5

The following is in response to the column Reckless spending pushes the province to the brink by Jim Merriam. To the editor: The greatest friend **Ontario** taxpayers have had during the Kathleen Wynne Liberals time in office has been ...

Wynne is right: Ford is just a Canadian Trump

The Globe and Mail - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: $16,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A10

When Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said recently that Doug Ford was like Donald Trump, critics called it a desperate ploy to discredit her rival before next month's Ontario election. Maybe it is. It also happens to be true. ...

Time to take the books awayfrom the cooks; The public deserves to see honest numbers

London Free Press - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Andrew Coyne

Ad Value: $5,537
Reach: 70995 **Page:** NP4

Last week's blast from the Ontario Auditor General, accusing the Wynne government of misrepresenting the true state of the province's finances to the tune of billions of dollars a year, was dismissed by the government as an "accounting ...

Ontario deficit set to hit almost $12 billion in 2018; Financial Accountability Office's figure nearly doubles government's projection

Windsor Star - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,864
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A8

A new report from the Financial Accountability Office shows that Ontario's budget deficit is actually $11.8 billion instead of the $6.7-billion figure reported by the provincial Liberals. Ontario's fiscal watchdog says the province's deficit will ...

Ontario facing $12B deficit, FAO says

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $339
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A4

For the second time in a week Ontario's Liberals were dealt a blow by a legislative watchdog, this time the Financial Accountability Office says the government's deficit projections are inaccurate. Just weeks before Ontario's provincial election, ...

Why power-hungry Ontarians need to take a new approach to technology | TVO.org

tvo.org - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

When I get up in the night, I don't need to flick on a light. My way is guided by a multitude of green and red dots — from the modem, TV, microwave, printer. They're always on, perpetually drawing power, just like the row of chargers on my ...

Catherine McKenna One-on-One

CTV NEWS CHANNEL - POWER PLAY WITH DON MARTIN - Mon Apr 30 2018, 5:00pm ET
Tone: Positive
Byline: OMAR SACHEDINA

JUSTIN TRUDEAU (**Canadian** Prime Minister): **Canadian** governments for years, for decades, have been talking about the environment but not actually doing anything concrete. And we are moving forward on a model that has been seen to ...

PCs pledge to stop Otter Creek wind farm

Sarnia This Week - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $524
Reach: 22937 **Page:** A13

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 ...

Wind farm opponents file petition against turbine noise

Times-Journal (St.Thomas) - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: $277
Reach: 8859 **Page:** A5

Citizen groups continue their effort to convince the **Ontario** government to ensure **wind** farm developers abide by the latest noise guidelines. Residents from Dutton Dunwich in Elgin County, Wallaceburg and **North** ...

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112 years of trouble, so why stop now: The, um, mildly shocking outlook for politics and Hydro One; Expect utility's stock to be buffeted in run-up to June 7 Ontario election

theglobeandmail.com - Thu May 3 2018, 5:53am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Babad
Reach: 1188000

Briefing highlights * Politics and **Hydro One** * Global markets mixed so far * New York futures up * **Canadian** dollar about 78 cents * **Toronto** home prices slip * What to watch for today Mayo Schmidt ...

People are overwhelmingly against the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

Peterborough This Week - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $18
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

To the editor: It's time to wake up or did people forget that 2016 new Environics Poll claimed 93 per cent of **Peterborough** residents did not want the sale of PDI to **Hydro One**? Correct me if I am wrong, but ...

Motivation to sell PDI still unclear

Peterborough This Week - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $39
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

To the editor, Mr. Stephenson, president of **Peterborough Utilities**, was asked to present to council last Monday night to clarify the situation with the potential sale of PDI to **Hydro One**. A week ago ...

Big government no help to the little guy

Ottawa Sun - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Matthew Lau

Ad Value: $1,040
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A13

Big-spending politicians often insist that more government spending is needed to help the poor. The cost of living is going up, therefore government must increase its spending and run bigger deficits to ensure the poor don't get left behind, or so ...

Ugly Fiscal Reality; Liberal budget plan slashes jobs and programs?

Toronto Sun - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: $8,448
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

The bad news isn't that Ontario's Liberal government deliberately fudged the province's books this year. Or that they'll run a $12-billion deficit in 2018, some $5 billion higher than advertised, a second provincial watchdog has now confirmed. ...

Ontario candidates overstate conservation costs - REMI Network

www.reminetwork.com - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The upfront costs of Ontario's electricity conservation programs are lower than some candidates for provincial office are alleging. Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford recently promised that his party's plan to fund energy efficiency ...

Nelson: Something smells of hypocrisy with those B.C. Greens | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Thursday, May 3, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Coming to grips with the rampant hypocrisy Victoria Greenies display is enough to make many of us consider a chemical fix to alleviate the resulting pain, confusion and depression.

Jason Kenney complains about lack of legislature decorum | Edmonton Journal

edmontonjournal.com - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Energy East is mentuioned,

ADJUST COMMENT PRINT Question period debates sometimes get heated, but this week they switched to discussions about just how nasty each party is in the legislative assembly.

Cannon to the east of them, cannon to the west of them, cannon to the south of them

www.newsoptimist.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Admittedly bad, but you get the idea. Tennyson's verse didn't leave room for Trans Mountain Expansion.

A reminder to Trudeau: Canada barely survived Brian Mulroney's constitutional blunders - Macleans.ca

www.macleans.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, May 2, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

There's a lovely symmetry in two big and growing messes. On one hand is Canada's attempt to get oil-sands bitumen to saltwater ports. On the other is its attempt to show some late-blooming virtue on greenhouse-gas emissions.

NDP setting up working group to get more oil shipped by rail | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

With pipelines facing continued uncertainty, the NDP government says more oil needs to be shipped by rail.

A reminder to Trudeau: Canada barely survived Brian Mulroney's constitutional blunders - Macleans.ca

www.macleans.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Wataynikaneyap Power Line Receives $1.6 billion in Federal Funding

electricalindustry.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

The project will connect 17 remote First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario to the main electricity grid through the construction of 1,800 kilometres of transmission lines. The communities currently rely on diesel-powered electricity generators.

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Lower pay for Hydro One executives not a given: Minister - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

One day after calling compensation at Hydro One “unjustifiably generous,” Ontario’s energy minister says a review won’t necessarily lead to lower pay.

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Enbridge presents plans on St. Clair River pipeline project

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $229
Reach: 8941 **Page:** A5

Enbridge recently briefed the Wallaceburg Advisory Team for a Cleaner Habitat (WATCH) on their plans to replace an oil and **natural gas** liquids pipeline beneath the St. Clair **River**.

Enbridge's Ken Hall was at the WATCH annual general meeting held in Wallaceburg on April 10.

The company pledged to replace the crossing of what's known as Line 5 using horizontal directional **drilling** technology as part of a deal with the State of Michigan.

Replacing Line 5's St. Clair **River** crossing was proposed by state officials as one of the actions they wanted the company to carry out.

Environmental groups and politicians in Michigan have questioned the safety of the company's Line 5 pipeline and its underwater crossing at the Straits of Mackinac, and called for the crossing to be decommissioned and removed. A lot of the criticism of the pipeline is due to a 2010 oil spill from another Enbridge pipeline into a branch of the Kalamazoo **River** near Marshall, Mich.

"That unfortunately was a fairly serious incident," said Enbridge spokesperson Hall.

"It cost us over a billion dollars to clean it up. It took us five years to clean it up," he said, noting Enbridge said it was sorry it happened and wanted to make sure it was handled right.

The Enbridge Line 5 pipeline carrying crude oil and liquid **natural gas** between Superior, Wisconsin and Sarnia was built in 1953 and becomes two pipelines as it crosses the water of the straits where lakes **Huron** and Michigan.

The timeline for the pipeline replacement was presented by Hall. He said field studies are ongoing and will continue into the fall. He also added that consultation with Indigenous and community stakeholders started earlier this year and will be ongoing.

Hall said Enbridge will submit in July an **application** to the National **Energy** Board for the Line 5 St. Clair **River** project.

He expects National **Energy** Board approval in the fall of 2019. Once Enbridge receives approval, construction would begin and last about four months. Hall said there would be downstream water monitoring during the **drilling** process.

The pipeline would be in **service** in the spring of 2020.

The pipeline crosses the **river north** of Corunna.

Hall said that he has talked with local government officials and others, and has received support for the project locally, as most people in the community recognize the significant contribution Line 5 has made in the local petrochemical industry.

"The support is very strong," Hall said.

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NUGGET

Wynne's spending addiction knows no bounds

North Bay Nugget · Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $295
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A5

The following is in response to the column Reckless spending pushes the province to the brink by Jim Merriam.

To the editor: The greatest friend **Ontario** taxpayers have had during the Kathleen Wynne Liberals time in office has been non-partisan Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk, who has submitted a number of reports pointing out the fiscal mismanagement of this government.

Her most recent report, showing Wynne, by using unacceptable accounting practices, has underestimated the actual deficit over the next two years by $18 billion.

This is mind-boggling to those of us trying to manage our own household budgets. Yet Wynne still is shelling out billions more the province simply does not have in a number of new votegetting schemes, as she desperately tries to cling to **power** and with her spending addiction knowing no bounds.

Of the $312-billion provincial debt, $174 billion was added by the McGuinty/Wynne Liberals and taxpayers are shelling now out $1 billion per month just to pay the interest.

Taxpayers also are losing millions as the Wynne Liberals sell off surplus **hydro** at a huge loss. I sure hope the AG's latest report will concentrate the minds of voters when they go to the polls in June. The report also gives credence to Doug Ford wanting an **independent** audit of the Wynne Liberals'books should he be successful. Never has any **Ontario** government so poorly managed the finances of Ontario as we have seen from the current government. Time for change before Ontario does go over the fiscal cliff.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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Wynne is right: Ford is just a Canadian Trump

The Globe and Mail · Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: $16,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A10

When Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne said recently that Doug Ford was like Donald Trump, critics called it a desperate ploy to discredit her rival before next month's Ontario election. Maybe it is. It also happens to be true.

The similarities between these men are too numerous to ignore.

Both are thin-skinned, big-talking businessmen who say they will sweep away corruption, confront vested interests and fight for the little guy.

Mr. Trump promised to "drain the swamp" in Washington. Mr. Ford and his brother Rob promised to "stop the gravy train" at Toronto city hall. Now Mr. Ford promises to put a "sanitizer right through that building at Queen's Park."

Mr. Trump wants to "Make America Great Again." Mr. Ford wants "to make Ontario the greatest place in the world."

Mr. Trump is notoriously casual with his facts. Fact checkers can barely keep up with his misstatements, distortions and outright whoppers. Mr. Ford kept the checkers just as busy when he took over from an ailing Rob and ran for mayor in 2014, leaving a trail of fractured facts in his wake.

The Fords, he claimed straightfaced, had achieved 98 per cent of their agenda since Rob became mayor in 2010. Sometimes, he upped it to 99 per cent for good measure.

Mr. Trump likes firing people.

The phrase "You're Fired" helped make him a reality-TV star. Since becoming President, he has fired or forced out an FBI director, an acting attorney-general, a White House communications director and his chief strategist, not to mention all those who have simply fled the Trumpocalypse.

Mr. Ford hasn't even won election yet and he is vowing to fire people. He says the first thing he will do if he becomes premier is fire the richly compensated head of the Hydro One power utility, "Kathleen Wynne's $6-milliondollar man." At city hall, Mr. Ford and his brother forced out the respected head of the Toronto Transit Commission, Gary Webster, after he stood up to them over their transit plans. Doug memorably said that the TTC needed "a complete enema."

Mr. Trump says the media is out to get him. Any critical story in the media is "fake news." The Fords were the same during their city hall years. Doug once referred to the media as "sucky little kids" who "lie through their teeth." He hasn't changed. Just look at how chippy he got last month with a CBC interviewer who had the temerity to ask him a few obvious questions about his plans.

Mr. Trump tends to lash out at anyone he sees as an enemy. He gets personal when he does. Mr. Ford has the same habit.

During the Rob Ford drug scandal, he unleashed a rant against former police chief Bill Blair, saying the chief wanted to "put a political bullet right between the mayor's eyes."

In a recent release about Liberal budget practices, Mr. Ford seemed to suggest that some Liberals deserved to go to jail. The echo of Mr. Trump's "Lock her up" chant aimed at Hillary Clinton was unmistakable.

There were more echoes this week when Mr. Ford put his foot in it over the Greenbelt.

He was caught telling developers he would let them build on a "big chunk" of the protected farmland and green space that surrounds the **Toronto** region.

That sounded a lot like Mr. Trump when he promised to make it easier for oil and **gas** companies to **drill** on **public** lands. Mr. Ford's furious rowback had a familiar populist ring, too. He said: "I govern through the people, I don't govern through government. The people have spoken - we won't touch the Greenbelt."

So there is no getting around it: Doug Ford is indeed an awful lot like Donald Trump.

Perhaps voters don't care. Perhaps they will toss Ms. Wynne out on her ear June 7 anyway. She and her Liberals have certainly given them plenty of good reasons, from the **gas**-plants scandal to the doubling of the provincial debt to the gross mismanagement of the **electricity** system.

But if they do opt for Mr. Ford, they should at least be aware they are putting Canada's Trump in charge of the country's most populous province.

Desperate or not, Ms. Wynne is well within her rights to point it out.

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Time to take the books awayfrom the cooks; The public deserves to see honest numbers

London Free Press - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Andrew Coyne

Ad Value: $5,537
Reach: 70995 **Page:** NP4

Last week's blast from the **Ontario** Auditor General, accusing the Wynne government of misrepresenting the true state of the province's finances to the tune of billions of dollars a year, was dismissed by the government as an "accounting dispute." This is true, in the sense that it is a dispute with the accountants, i.e. the people with the authority to decide these things. In the same way, an accusation of tax fraud may be described as a "tax dispute," or a theft as a dispute over property. If a **corporation** were found to have misstated its books the way the Wynne government has, its CEO would not be able to shrug it off quite so insouciantly. Only it's the government, so as usual the normal **rules** don't apply.

At any **rate**, now the province's Financial Accountability Office has weighed in. Where the government's 2018 budget projects deficits of roughly $6.5 billion a year over the next three years, the FAO, like the Auditor General, puts the true figure at more than $12 billion.

As for that "accounting dispute," it's true that not everyone agrees with the Auditor General on the question of whether surpluses in the province's two largest public pension plans should be recorded as assets on the government's books. That does not entitle the government to simply ignore her.

First, it's not clear the government has access to those surpluses in any meaningful sense. Certainly it could not do so by unilaterally reducing its contributions to the plans, which are co-managed with its employees.

And second, it's not clear the surpluses even exist. As the C. D. Howe Institute has noted, public pension plans tend to discount their liabilities at higher rates than is either usual or prudent - and the province discounts them at a higher rate still.

"Using a more appropriate discount rate," the Institute argues, "would show not pension surpluses, but deficits - and likely big ones." Neither is the pension issue the only count on which the Wynne government stands indicted. There is also the "Fair Hydro Plan," under which it suppressed the soaring electricity rates that were killing its chances of re-election, borrowed the difference, then understated the debt by recording a phantom asset against it - the higher revenues it will supposedly collect years hence when it jacks up rates again. The AG calls this attempt to book revenues that may or may not materialize in future as if they were earned in the present "bogus" accounting.
Another "dispute"? But then, these are just the most obvious dodges the Ontario Liberals have employed to obscure their fiscal record. The budget deficit, in particular, has ceased to mean much of anything, as the government has moved more and more of its borrowing off-budget. So even as recent budgets showed the deficit declining to near zero, the debt was growing by tens of billions.

As indeed it will continue to do. Over the next three years, the FAO projects the province will add another $70 billion to its net debt.

While the government forecasts a balanced budget by 2024-25, that's based on a sudden and hitherto-undetected commitment to restraint: after growing for three years at 4.2 per cent per year, spending later slows to just half that pace.

On more realistic assumptions, the FAO finds, deficits would grow steadily worse. The debt-to-GDP ratio, already at nearly 40 per cent, would exceed 45 per cent - roughly twice what it was when Bob Rae's NDP government was freaking everyone out.

Understated expenses.

Overstated revenues. Hidden debts. Conveniently optimistic assumptions. One wishes this were unusual. But in fact, as a new C. D.

Howe report finds, Ontario is not even the worst offender among Canada's governments (PEI is worse). Generally, provincial financial statements can charitably be described as inconsistent - inconsistent with each other; inconsistent between budgets, estimates, and public accounts; inconsistent with generally accepted accounting practices.

This is, needless to say, unacceptable. It is our money governments are spending; those in temporary charge of their finances are our employees. Their responsibility is to tell us clearly how much of our money they are spending, and on what; instead, they seem to do their level best to be as obscure and misleading as possible.

Which raises the question, again, of why we entrust the public accounts to people with a proven record of lying to us? It is time, surely, to take the books away from the cooks: to hand formal responsibility for recording and stating the government's financial position to an independent and impartial body, at arms' length from ministers and their staff. Governments would have access to these figures on the same basis as anyone else, without the ability to spin or manipulate them to their advantage.

Watchdogs like the Parliamentary Budget Officer or the Auditor General can only do so much: they can present their findings, but they are not binding on governments, who are free to pretend they are mere matters of opinion, or "accounting disputes." Neither are opposition parties much use. As politicians, they have as much of an interest as those in government in pretending resources are more plentiful than they are. **Ontario**'s current opposition leaders are typical: puffed up with pretended rage at the government's "fraud," while quietly basing their own election promises on the same discredited numbers.

That's not good enough.

There's no reason why everyone - government, opposition, and **public** - should not be working off the same set of honest numbers. Governments are entitled to their own policies. They are not entitled to their own figures.

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WINDSOR STAR

Ontario deficit set to hit almost $12 billion in 2018; Financial Accountability Office's figure nearly doubles government's projection

Windsor Star - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,864
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A8

A new report from the Financial Accountability Office shows that **Ontario**'s budget deficit is actually $11.8 billion instead of the $6.7-billion figure reported by the provincial Liberals.

Ontario's fiscal watchdog says the province's deficit will jump to almost $12 billion this year as a result of higher spending in the Liberal government's 2018 budget and weak revenue gains.

The FAO also says the government's spending **plan** will add about $70 billion to the province's net debt, increasing it to almost $400 billion in 2020-21.

The findings come in the FAO's Spring 2018 Economic Outlook, released Wednesday, just a week before the provincial election campaign kicks off.

"Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals are untrustworthy. They will do, say or promise anything to cling to **power**," **Ontario** PC finance critic Vic Fedeli said.

"When it comes to a dispute between the financial accountability officer and the auditor general versus the Wynne Liberals, we will always side with the **independent** experts."

The Liberal government's spring budget had said the deficit for 2018 would be $6.7 billion, with the books expected to stay in the red for six years.

The FAO report warns that the **plan** to balance the budget by 2024 involves a dramatic cut in spending growth.

It says the government has provided few specifics about those spending cuts but says it would need to find $15 billion in reductions by 2025, or the equivalent of an eight per cent drop in program spending, to achieve its goal. J. David Wake, the temporary financial accountability officer, said the government's **plan** "shifts the burden of stabilizing **Ontario**'s **public** finances from current taxpayers to younger Ontarians and leaves the province with less flexibility to respond to future crises, including recessions."

The report echoes some of the findings from the auditor general, who said last week that the government had understated its deficit numbers in the 2018 budget, saying they were off by 75 per cent for 2018-19, with that jumping to 92 per cent for 2020-21.

Bonnie Lysyk said the government has not accurately reflected the true cost of its borrowing plan to cut hydro rates by 25 per cent, and also raised questions about how the province accounts for revenues related to two teacher pension plans it includes on the books as assets.

"Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals cooked the books. They aren't telling the people of Ontario the whole story. They're trying to bury the true costs of their scandal, waste and mismanagement," added Fedeli.

"An Ontario PC government led by Doug Ford will respect the taxpayer. We will commission a full audit of the government's books and will deliver responsibility, accountability, and trust back to Queen's Park."

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Ontario facing $12B deficit, FAO says

The Beacon Herald

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $339
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A4

For the second time in a week Ontario's Liberals were dealt a blow by a legislative watchdog, this time the Financial Accountability Office says the government's deficit projections are inaccurate.

Just weeks before Ontario's provincial election, the FAO said Wednesday the province's deficit will jump to almost $12 billion this year as a result of higher spending in the Liberal government's 2018 budget and weak revenue gains.

Those figures - released in the FAO's Spring 2018 Economic Outlook - stand in stark contrast to the $6.7 billion deficit projected just weeks ago by the Liberals in their spring budget and already called into question last week by Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

FAO chief economist David West said at a basic level the government's current spending levels are unsustainable.

"We use the word structural deficit," he said. "There is a fundamental imbalance between revenues and spending. The 2018 budget just added to that imbalance. The conclusion of that ... is that economic growth alone will not be sufficient to allow the government to eliminate the deficit."

The Liberal government's spring budget has projected six consecutive deficits to fund billions in new spending on child care and health care.

The FAO report said the government's spending plan will add about $70 billion to the province's net debt, increasing it to almost $400 billion in 2020-21.

It also warns that the Liberal government's plan to balance the books by 2024 involves a dramatic cut in spending growth, and said the government has provided few specifics about those spending cuts.

It would need to find $15 billion in reductions by 2025, or the equivalent of an eight per cent drop in program spending, to achieve its goal, the report notes. J. David Wake, the Temporary Financial Accountability Officer, said the government's plan "shifts the burden of stabilizing Ontario's public finances from current taxpayers to younger Ontarians and leaves the province with less flexibility to respond to future crises, including recessions."

The report echoes some of the findings from the auditor general who said that the government had understated its deficit numbers in the 2018 budget, saying they were off by 75 per cent for 2018-2019, with that jumping to 92 per cent for 2020-2021.

Lysyk said the government has not accurately reflected the true cost of its borrowing **plan** to cut **hydro rates** by 25 per cent, and also raised questions about how the province accounts for revenues related to two teacher pension plans it includes on the books as assets.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said his financial projections incorporate restrained estimates and he isn't concerned the FAO's warnings will come to pass.

"We've always beaten those expectations," he said. "We will do so again because I've been taking very cautious measures and I have put in contingencies and reserves to ensure that we track back."

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Why power-hungry Ontarians need to take a new approach to technology | TVO.org

tvo.org · Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

When I get up in the night, I don’t need to flick on a light. My way is guided by a multitude of green and red dots — from the modem, TV, microwave, printer. They’re always on, perpetually drawing power, just like the row of chargers on my kitchen counter.

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PCs pledge to stop Otter Creek wind farm

Sarnia This Week · Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $524
Reach: 22937 **Page:** A13

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 Progressive Conservatives form 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 caused problems in other areas of Chatham-Kent.

Water wells in the former Chatham and Dover Townships, south of Wallaceburg, are now unusable following **wind turbine** construction, as they have become black with turbid water. "(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 the Otter Creek project, as well as having contracts in place, does not faze Bailey, who is seeking election in the Sarnia-Lambton riding. He said the **wind** companies 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."

During Question Period on Wednesday, Bailey asked Premier Kathleen Wynne to cancel the Otter Creek project to protect residents'water wells.

Both the Premier and Environment Minister Chris Ballard both dodged the question, said Bailey.

He also asked the Premier to take the immediate step of adding the protection of private wells to the mandate of the **Thames**-Sydenham and Region Source Water Protection Committee. Currently, the mandate of **regional** Source Water Protection Committees, as with the **Thames**-Sydenham Committee, is to protect municipal sources of water. But the water from private wells is not considered.

The **Renewable Energy** Approval **Application** for the Otter Creek project is currently under final technical **review** by the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change. It's anticipated that 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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Wind farm opponents file petition against turbine noise

Times-Journal

Times-Journal (St.Thomas) - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: $277
Reach: 8859 **Page:** A5

Citizen groups continue their effort to convince the **Ontario** government to ensure **wind** farm developers abide by the latest noise guidelines.

Residents from Dutton Dunwich in Elgin County, Wallaceburg and **North** Stormont in eastern **Ontario** enlisted the support of their Progressive Conservative MPPs - Jeff Yurek, Monte McNaughton and Jim McDonnell - to deliver a petition this week with more than 3,000 signatures to Queen's Park that demands new **wind power** projects follow **Ontario**'s new **wind turbine** noise guidelines.

Bonnie Rowe, spokesperson for Dutton Dunwich Opponents of **Wind** Turbines, said the MPPs all delivered the same petition from their constituents.

"We tried to the make the point that it was a widespread issue, it wasn't just a few NIMBYs (Not in my backyard) around Dutton Dunwich," Rowe said.

She believes they got their point across but admits it's "rather frustrating."

Rowe said the petition is related to the creation of "transition provisions" by the Environment Ministry in the **Renewable Energy** Approval process that allow **wind power** developers to ignore new noise guidelines.

"The (ministry) recognized that the previous requirements for **turbine** noise modelling were inadequate and they revised them," Rowe said.

The intent was to protect the health and safety of people living near turbines, she said.

"But now, the government has allowed the developers for the new projects to use the old ones. We think that's wrong."

Speaking in the **Ontario** Legislature on Monday, Yurek, who represents Elgin-Middlesex-**London**, raised the issue of Dutton Dunwich surveying residents before declaring the municipality as a non-willing host, with 84 per cent of those who participated in the survey against **wind** turbines.

"Unfortunately, the government chose to ignore the people of Dutton Dunwich and move forward with the project," Yurek said.

In January, Dutton Dunwich Opponents of **Wind** Turbines filed a notice of **application** for a judicial **review**, alleging the Ministry of Environment has allowed companies promoting at least five large-scale **wind** projects to ignore new government guidelines that limit the amount of noise residents should have to tolerate. -The **London** Free Press

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

112 years of trouble, so why stop now: The, um, mildly shocking outlook for politics and Hydro One; Expect utility's stock to be buffeted in run-up to June 7 Ontario election

theglobeandmail.com · Thu May 3 2018, 5:53am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Babad
Reach: 1188000

Briefing highlights

* Politics and **Hydro** One

* Global markets mixed so far

* New York futures up

* **Canadian** dollar about 78 cents

* **Toronto** home prices slip

* What to watch for today

Mayo Schmidt has been making a lot of money off **Hydro** One as the **Ontario** government has been losing it.

This is not to wade into the controversy over Mr. Schmidt's $6.2-million 2017 pay packet as chief executive officer, but rather to note how the "noise" surrounding **Hydro** One has helped buffet the **utility**'s stock price.

And how it has always been thus.

And how it could affect shareholders, including the province, which owns 47 per cent, going forward.

"Unfortunately, Ontario has a long history of painful politics associated with the electricity sector that, arguably, date back to the turn of century ... with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario's formation in 1906," said Credit Suisse stock analyst Andrew Kuske.

"Roughly since that date, Ontario has been embroiled in politics with the electricity sector," he added in a research note on the utility.

To recap, as The Globe and Mail's Andrew Willis and Justin Giovannetti report, Ontario's Liberal government doesn't like how much Mr. Schmidt earned. So much so that it plans to vote against his compensation when Hydro One holds its annual meeting in mid-May.

That followed a declaration from Ontario's Conservative leader, Doug Ford, that he'd fire the entire board and replace Mr. Schmidt so he could bring down electricity rates.

Hydro One chair David Denison has since said the board will talk to other shareholders and get independent advice.

Because, you know, "this will further assist us in seeking the direct input of shareholders on matters related to executive compensation, inclusive of change of control and severance provisions."

The phrase change of control is interesting in this case as Ontario heads toward a June 7 election, with Mr. Ford challenging Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals.

Going forward, being a shareholder could be like sticking your finger in a light socket.

"Prior to Ontario's June 7 election, we anticipate a lot of political posturing around power rates, Hydro One issues along with other factors that will occupy front-page news and dialogues at Queen's Park," said Credit Suisse's Mr. Kuske.

"From our perspective, the key Hydro One stories are the Avista closing path and rolling up Ontario's electrical utilities," he added, referring to Hydro One's megamerger with Avista Corp. in the United States, which is going through a regulatory process.

"Despite the governance agreement between the province of Ontario and [Hydro One], political 'noise' looks to surround [Hydro One] through the political season - and potentially beyond."

Just this week, UBS analysts slapped a "sell" recommendation on Hydro One stock.

Laurentian Bank Securities, in turn, has a "buy" rating, with a one-year price target of $24.

Laurentian analyst Mona Nazir expects Hydro One to report earnings per share of 32 cents when it reports first-quarter results later this month. That would be up four pennies from a year earlier, but two cents below the consensus of analysts.

"Management is anticipating mid-single-digit bottom-line growth, and we expected dividend growth to closely follow such," Ms. Nazir said, citing the various issues, including compensation, which she deemed "fair."

"This is critical as the messaging for the Hydro story has not changed following its [initial public offering] three years ago, despite macro/company-specific challenges."

Read more

Andrew Willis, Justin Giovannetti: Hydro One to revisit executive pay after Ontario Liberals vow to oppose compensation plan www.theglobeandmail.com

Gordon Pape: Hydro One: Buy, sell or hold? This is what I would do www.theglobeandmail.com

Justin Giovannetti: Ford promises 12-per-cent cut to Ontario hydro rates but doesn't say how Tories would replace lost revenue www.theglobeandmail.com

David Denison: Facts versus politics: The truth about Hydro One and executive compensation www.theglobeandmail.com

Janet McFarland, Justin Giovannetti: Hydro One board increases price tag for Ontario government intervention by raising CEO severance provisions www.theglobeandmail.com

Stocks mixed

Global markets are mixed so far, with the Canadian dollar still stuck at about 78 US cents.

Tokyo's Nikkei was closed, but Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 1.3 per cent while the Shanghai composite gained 0.6 per cent.

In Europe, London's FTSE 100 was up by about 5:45 a.m. ET, though by less than 0.1 per cent, with Germany's DAX and the Paris CAC 40 down by 0.2 per cent.

New York futures were down.

Read more

Follow our Inside the Market www.theglobeandmail.com

Market stabilizing

Toronto's housing market continued to show signs of stabilizing in April, but sale prices remain significantly below the record levels hit last spring, The Globe and Mail's Janet McFarland reports.

New sales data from the Toronto Real Estate Board shows the average home sold for $804,584 in the Greater Toronto Area in April, a 12-per-cent drop from April last year. April's average sales price was 0.2 per cent below the average sales price in March this year, based on preliminary seasonally adjusted numbers.

The numbers suggest that recent policy changes - including tougher new mortgage qualification rules that took effect Jan. 1 - have not sent the housing market into steep decline as some analysts had feared, and the impact may already be moderating.

Read more

Janet McFarland: Toronto home prices tumble but market shows signs of stability www.theglobeandmail.com

Brent Jang: Vancouver house sales hit 17-year low for April as government measures spook buyers www.theglobeandmail.com

Plan on growing marijuana at home? There goes the neighbourhood, realtors warn www.theglobeandmail.com

Why so many Canadians face so much mortgage misery www.theglobeandmail.com

What to watch for today

Economists expect Statistics Canada's monthly look at trade to show the deficit narrowed to somewhere between $2-billion and $2.3-billion in March from February's $2.7-billion.

"Export growth will be led by agricultural products after **transportation** bottlenecks led to an unprecedented 17-per-cent decline in February, concentrated in grains," **Toronto**-Dominion Bank economists said.

?[**Canadian** dollar] depreciation should also lend a hand, with the cumulative decline from the Q1 highs reaching 6.7 per cent by mid-March," they added.

"However, **energy** products represent a downside risk on maintenance shutdowns that were pulled forward due to market conditions. On the other side of the ledger, imports should see a more modest increase after a 1.9-per-cent advance in February."

The United States also reports its trade deficit, expected to show a narrower US$55.6-billion.

More news

China says it won't submit to U.S. threats as trade talks begin www.theglobeandmail.com

Streetwise

Tim Kiladze: 'Baby Valeant' Concordia to **restructure**, wiping out shareholders www.theglobeandmail.com

Insight

David Parkinson: Fed **rate** decision could foreshadow Bank of Canada's stand www.theglobeandmail.com

Inside the Market

David Milstead: Mogo's mixed message: Is it a bank or not? www.theglobeandmail.com

In case you missed it

Christina Pellegrini: Cannabis consolidation picks up speed as MedReleaf seeks deal www.theglobeandmail.com

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: 112 years of trouble, so why stop now: The, um, mildly shocking outlook for politics and **Hydro** One www.theglobeandmail.com The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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People are overwhelmingly against the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

Peterborough This Week · Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $18
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

To the editor:

It's time to wake up or did people forget that 2016 new Environics Poll claimed 93 per cent of Peterborough residents did not want the sale of PDI to Hydro One?

Correct me if I am wrong, but wasn't it last week Peterborough council decided against remodeling the Parkway due to public outcry, but 93 per cent is not enough of an outcry to stop this sale? (Editor's note: The Province after for a further environmental assessment due to public concerns. Council had voted to go ahead, but the vote was not unanimous.)

Well, I strongly suggest you vote against our mayor come this year's election, because if not, then for sure it'll be pushed through, whether you wanted it or not.

The same goes for Kathleen Wynne.

I would rather pay a little more in hydro knowing the public owns it with oversight, than pay a lot more with no oversight.

It's your decision, Peterborough, I only hope you don't regret the decision.

Cory Crete

Peterborough

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Motivation to sell PDI still unclear

Peterborough This Week · Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $39
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

To the editor,

Mr. Stephenson, president of Peterborough Utilities, was asked to present to council last Monday night to clarify the situation with the potential sale of PDI to Hydro One.

A week ago the public was left with the impression that "negotiations" were back on but then a memo to PDI staff from Stephenson said that only "discussions" were underway.

What was revealing from Stephenson's answers to questions from councillors was that the motivation to sell PDI is still unclear.

Stephenson stated that he does not believe that PDI is viable in the long term. He also stated that "the future profitability that you want out of it will be challenged and not sustainable."

This well scripted answer was not challenged by any councillor. How would he know what "future profitability" this council or the next council wants from PDI?

And has he forgotten the savings that are realized by the city for having a shared services model for water, electricity, the zoo and the Civic Data Centre. It has been estimated that disentanglement could result in the loss of $4 million.

Every business faces the risk of viability in the long term due to technology, competition, changing **customer** needs, etc. If you want an example, look down the street to GE.

Stephenson also stated that PDI will have record profits this year, that there are no maintenance issues, the infrastructure is good and that they have done a good job of removing PCBs from transformers.

So what is the motivation behind wanting to sell?

Mr. Stephenson also stated that some of the pending proceeds from the sale could be reinvested in generation. But this idea also appears to be questionable, especially when he stated that a) **power** consumption is declining; b) people are going off grid to provide their own **power**; c) generation is moving to "distributed generation"; d) residential customers are using less **power**; and, e) intensification will not result in increased **power** consumption.

The **Ontario Energy Board** is in the middle of its process to have fixed **distribution** charges for all local **distribution** companies, resulting in a predictable income **independent** of weather and **consumer** behaviour.

When the proponents of the sale were making their case a few years ago they said the infrastructure needed much work. Now they are going on record as saying it doesn't.

The **Independent Electrical** System Operator delivers key services across the **electrical** system including managing the **power** system. There is about 34 Gigawatts of generation connected to the system already and on any particular day 27 GW is needed.

Our provincial peak has dropped from years gone by so why the interest in more generation?

Gord Jamison,

Peterborough

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Big government no help to the little guy

Ottawa Sun · Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Matthew Lau

Ad Value: $1,040
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A13

Big-spending politicians often insist that more government spending is needed to help the poor. The cost of living is going up, therefore government must increase its spending and run bigger deficits to ensure the poor don't get left behind, or so the profligate politicians like to claim.

But there are a few problems with this claim. Firstly, making government bigger to reduce poverty is problematic because big government and existing bad policy are largely to blame for driving up the cost of living and reducing economic opportunity for people at the bottom of the economic ladder.

For example, the high price of **electricity** in **Ontario** is responsible both for making life more expensive and killing jobs and causing businesses to shut their doors or move out of the province.

Another problem with politicians saying more government spending is needed to tackle poverty is that overwhelmingly, increasing the size of government makes the poor worse off. People often imagine that the government takes money from the rich and uses it to help the poor, but this is a myth.

In reality, when politicians make government bigger, the poorest citizens usually pay the cost while others benefit. Since poor people tend to have little political influence and few political connections, they're the ones who get shafted when politicians hand out favours to politically powerful special interest groups - such as government employee unions.

Many studies show that government workers get paid far more than comparable private sector workers. So when politicians increase government employee wages to please the unions, they are giving special benefits to a relatively higher-paid and more privileged class of workers, at the expense of the taxpaying **public**.

Crony capitalism - in the form of subsidies, regulations, tariffs, and other arrangements that benefit certain businesses or segments of the population to the detriment of the **public** at large - is another way people are hurt as politicians rush to provide special privileges to the rich and politically connected. (Hello Bombardier!) In **Ontario**, the recent ramp-up in cronyism is largely due to the Liberal government's environmental zeal, according to a report last year from the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation. "The new frontier in corporate welfare," wrote author Mark Milke, "is a bonanza for companies producing green products and services."

A prime example of special interest spending that benefits the rich at the expense of the poor is the $47-million spent so far on **electric** vehicle subsidies in **Ontario** (plus tens of millions more for **electric** vehicle "education" and infrastructure). Much of this money has gone to subsidizing luxury cars that retail over $70,000.

Another example is the $150,000 per year subsidy that the **Ontario** government gives companies to hire "Multi-Site **Customer** **Energy** Managers." It's a program that benefits **energy** managers who get paid six figures, and the businesses that hire them. But it's bad for the rest of us who pay the bill.

Yet more special subsidies and corporate welfare programs are funded by the **Ontario** government's capand-trade system, which costs **Ontario** residents billions of dollars annually with minimal environmental benefits. If government wants to help poorer Canadians, cutting this wasteful spending and keeping **energy** costs down would be a good start.

Lau is an economics writer in **Toronto** and a contributor to Canadians for Affordable **Energy**

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Ugly Fiscal Reality; Liberal budget plan slashes jobs and programs?

Toronto Sun · Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: $8,448
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

The bad news isn't that **Ontario**'s Liberal government deliberately fudged the province's books this year.

Or that they'll run a $12-billion deficit in 2018, some $5 billion higher than advertised, a second provincial watchdog has now confirmed.

It's that Kathleen Wynne, should she get re-elected, will need to slash government spending by $15 billion annually by 2025 - cutting the equivalent of some 90,000 nurses, teachers and other public-sector jobs - to balance her government's out-of-control budget. J. David Wake, Ontario's financial accountability officer (FAO), released what can fairly be characterized as a fiscally terrifying report on the province's economic health Wednesday.

It suggests Ontario's Liberal government has painted itself and the province into an impossible corner - balance its books either by dramatically slashing spending or dramatically hiking taxes.

And a $15-billion tax hike doesn't seem a plausible option.

Wynne and Finance Minister Charles Sousa have repeatedly insisted they've charted a sound and responsible plan to achieve "fiscal responsibility" and a balanced budget by 2024.

Wake's report suggests that won't happen without deep and painful spending cuts.

"Based on the FAO's analysis, severely restraining the growth in program spending, below the pace of population growth and price inflation, could lead to a balanced budget by 2025-26," Wake wrote in his Economic and Budget Outlook for Spring 2018.

"However, this plan implies that the province would have to lower spending by approximately And the Liberals plan to start "dramatically" cutting spending right after the election.

"The (government's) fiscal recovery plan provides few policy specifics, but assumes that the government will dramatically cut spending growth from an average of 4.2% over the next three years, to just 2.1% from 2020-21 to 2025-26," Wake wrote.

The eventual 8% or $15 billion cut in government spending they'll need to make to balance their books will profoundly impact core government services - health care, education, transit, social programs, as well as public-sector jobs.

How can they not? The Liberals have suggested Ontario PC leader Doug Ford will devastate public services with his promise to find efficiencies and reduce government spending by half that amount.

Wynne suggested in a March 11 tweet that Ford's $6.4-billion promise "to kill carbon pricing and rush to balance the budget will put as many as 40,000 public-sector jobs at risk.

That means higher class sizes, longer waits for healthcare and fewer community supports."

Her plans appear Nor will her government have many options besides spending cuts apart from tax hikes, begging more cash from Ottawa, or borrowing more money.

The Liberals have been living off borrowed money and deficits for years. Ontario's net debt will reach $400 billion by 2020-21 and debt repayment costs will reach $13.6 billion by 2020-21 - 8.4% of government revenue.

They will run deficits of $11.8 billion in 2018-19, $12.4 billion in 2019-20 and $12.7 billion in 2020-21, Wake calculates.

So having lived off deficits for a decade and a half, borrowing more has become problematic and carries increasingly irresponsible consequences, suggests Wake.

The government's current plan to continue running deficits "shifts the burden of stabilizing Ontario's public finances from current taxpayers to younger Ontarians and leaves the province with less flexibility to respond to future crises, including recessions," Wake said in a release accompanying his report.

So the Liberals are dumping our debt problem onto the backs of future generations.

Neither will new tax revenue offset the gap between spending and a balanced budget, Wake suggests.

Taxes are expected to grow moderately over the next several years, federal cash transfers to slow. Ontario is no longer a have-not province, receiving federal transfer payments.

There's no bucket of gold at the end of that rainbow.

Is there any way out? Wake does detail possible options to bridge the deficit gap.

The government could raise income tax to generate 10% more income, or $6.5 billion by 2025-26. It could also raise the HST to 9% to earn another $6 billion. Or reduce healthcare spending by 1% "in each year of the projection" to reduce Ontario's deficit by $7.5 billion by 2025-26. All that in addition to constraining costs.

But Wynne's not campaigning on tax hikes and health-care cuts.

And the government's own estimates suggest we need to increase health spending by 5% annually simply to tread water - which doesn't prepare the province to deal with the imminent need of aging baby boomers.

Meanwhile, the Liberals can't pay for the promises they're currently making - free daycare, free tuition, free prescription medication for youth and seniors, a 25% hydro rate cut.

"While many of these new programs would provide significant social and economic benefits for Ontarians, the government has not raised adequate revenue to pay for them, adding to continued deficits over the outlook," Wake wrote in his report.

Two independent public watchdogs have now disputed the Liberal government's financial numbers - first Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

And now Wake. Stripped bare of the rhetoric, posturing and virtue signaling that characterizes this broken and irresponsible government, the cold, hard and ugly numbers tell an awful truth.

It will take a generation to fix the fiscal mess left by this government. Cuts are coming and we're not prepared for the future need.

And regardless of whether Doug Ford or NDP leader Andrea Horwath replaces Wynne, either will face the same crushing fiscal reality.
jawallace@postmedia.com

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Ontario candidates overstate conservation costs - REMI Network

www.reminetwork.com - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral

The upfront costs of Ontario's electricity conservation programs are lower than some candidates for provincial office are alleging. Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford recently promised that his party's plan to fund energy efficiency measures with tax revenue rather than directly through hydro rates would cut the average family's annual electricity costs by about $43.

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Nelson: Something smells of hypocrisy with those B.C. Greens | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: Neutral

Coming to grips with the rampant hypocrisy Victoria Greenies display is enough to make many of us consider a chemical fix to alleviate the resulting pain, confusion and depression.

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Jason Kenney complains about lack of legislature decorum | Edmonton Journal

edmontonjournal.com - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

ADJUST COMMENT PRINT Question period debates sometimes get heated, but this week they switched to discussions about just how nasty each party is in the legislative assembly.

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Cannon to the east of them, cannon to the west of them, cannon to the south of them

www.newsoptimist.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

Admittedly bad, but you get the idea. Tennyson's verse didn't leave room for Trans Mountain Expansion.

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A reminder to Trudeau: Canada barely survived Brian Mulroney's constitutional blunders - Macleans.ca

www.macleans.ca - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

There's a lovely symmetry in two big and growing messes. On one hand is Canada's attempt to get oil-sands bitumen to saltwater ports. On the other is its attempt to show some late-blooming virtue on greenhouse-gas emissions.

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NDP setting up working group to get more oil shipped by rail | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Wed May 2 2018
Tone: Neutral

With pipelines facing continued uncertainty, the NDP government says more oil needs to be shipped by rail.

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A reminder to Trudeau: Canada barely survived Brian Mulroney's constitutional blunders - Macleans.ca

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