

Karen Evans

From: Karen Evans
Sent: May 4, 2018 9:25 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Friday, May 4, 2018

Good morning,

Many of today's stories focus on the political parties' positions on the energy file as we near the formal launch of the election campaign.

Orillia Today has a mini-primer outlining where the parties (including the Greens) stand on energy, while in Windsor, the local NDP MPP is pushing for a bill that would require utilities to reimburse customers if there are more than three power outages in a single billing period.

There's also a story in the Port Perry Star about a funding announcement that makes **brief mention of the OEB's endorsement of guidelines to expand natural gas service.**

TVO's The Agenda featured an interview last night with noted economist Don Drummond, who takes issue with the Fair Hydro Plan and the long-term debt burden it will bring.

The National Post has a column from Energy Probe that touts Doug Ford's plan to repeal the Green Energy Act and rip up energy contracts.

[Orillia Today: Ontario political parties outline hydro plans](#)

- A news primer on the hydro promises made by the PCs, Liberals, NDP and Greens
- PCs: Fire Hydro One CEO and board of directors, scrap Green Energy Act and put a moratorium on future energy contracts are cited as the highlights of that party's promises
- Liberals: Acknowledge concern over high electricity rates, point to relief brought by Fair Hydro Plan, say they have made long overdue investments in the energy system
- Greens: Place a moratorium on rebuilding nuclear plants pending a review of all forms of generation, develop a plan for Ontario to be powered with 100 per cent renewable technology, import green hydro from neighbouring provinces
- NDP: Cut hydro bills by 30 per cent, reverse sell-off of Hydro One, rural and urban customers would pay the same delivery costs, end mandatory TOU pricing, end electricity oversupply

[Windsor Star: MPP wants power utilities to pay up](#)

- NDP MPP for Essex has introduced a motion to reimburse hydro customers if they experience more than three power failures in a single billing period
- Taras Natyshak's motion would require electricity suppliers to reimburse affected customers by an amount equal to each customer's delivery charges during the billing period in which the outages took place

[Port Perry Star: Natural gas to flow to Scugog Island](#) (**One OEB mention**)

- Enbridge Gas has secured \$6.3 million in provincial funding to expand access to natural gas on Scugog Island (April 27 announcement)
- In early 2017, Enbridge officials appeared before Scugog council to pitch their plan to bring natural gas to Ward 3. At that time, councillors were informed of **new guidelines endorsed by the Ontario Energy Board** that allow for new financing mechanisms to extend natural gas service to new communities "based on the conclusion that, for many unserved communities, a higher gas distribution rate would be more than offset by the savings the new customers would realize over

time from the conversion to natural gas.”

[TVO: The Agenda with Steve Paikin](#) (Video – 9:10 mark)

- Economist Don Drummond raises concerns with the long-term debt burden that will result from the Fair Hydro Plan.

National Post: Ending Ontario’s electric agony (Link not yet available, full story below)

- Column by Lawrence Solomon of Energy Probe that says while Doug Ford “lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of energy policy,” his opposition to the Green Energy Act and commitment to tear up energy contracts would be “the only just and honourable thing to do”

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Friday, May 4, 2018

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

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 20 Results



MPP wants power utilities to pay up

Windsor Star - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$579

Reach: 54680 Page: A3

One area MPP thinks **Essex** County residents should receive a discount for the numerous **power** outages they endure. Taras Natyshak, NDP MPP for **Essex**, introduced a motion in the legislature Thursday to reimburse ...



Natural gas to flow to Scugog Island | DurhamRegion.com

www.durhamregion.com - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Enbridge Gas has secured more than \$6 million from the province to bring natural gas service to Scugog Island.



LETTER: Businessman urges council to pursue Hydro One deal 'with vigor' - OrilliaMatters.com

www.orilliamatters.com - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Letter to Mayor and Council (with a cc to Orillia Matters) While I am no expert on this subject, I have done my homework to fully try and understand the plan going forward and offer you my opinions.



Ending Ontario's electric agony

National Post - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Lawrence Solomon

Ad Value: \$9,415
Reach: 159480 Page: FP9

By all accounts, Doug Ford, a bruiser who polls predict will be Ontario's next premier, lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of **energy** policy. The result for Ontarians, if he follows through on his election campaign's ...



'Carbon pricing' just another name for government's carbon tax

Shoreline Week (Tecumseh) - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Peter J. Middlemore Sr.

Ad Value: \$453
Reach: 17100 Page: A7

Re: "Canadians might be okay with carbon taxes... until they see the price", April 27 Aaron Wudrick mentions in his editorial that the federal government wants to use the words carbon pricing versus using carbon tax because taxes are introduced to ...



NDP 'can smell a change'

Ottawa Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$522
Reach: 45442 Page: A6

The **Ontario** NDP unveiled election ads that try to convince voters the party is a more positive option to Kathleen Wynne's Liberals or Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives. NDP campaign director Michael Balagus said that this election ...



Doug Ford says northern Ontario voters are 'fed up,' pledges cut of resource revenue | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Permalink

Doug Ford continued to spread his message of putting northern Ontario first during another visit to Sudbury.



Ontario PC Leader in North Bay | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Doug Ford continues his tour of the north.



Ford promises to share mining taxes

Sudbury Star - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jim Moodie

Ad Value: \$1,898

Reach: 14934 Page: A1 / Front

It has become a familiar scene in **Sudbury**: a crowd of largely silverhaired supporters waving Toryblue banners, early-'80s hard rock blasting from speakers, and Doug Ford ascending a flag-decorated riser. "I've been up here more than I've ...



Ontario political parties outline hydro plans | Simcoe.com

www.simcoe.com - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)



NDP election promises for Ontario ag | Farms.com

www.farms.com - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

If elected in June, Ontario's New Democratic Party (NDP) will raise the \$100 million cap on the provincial Risk Management Program.



Vicious hydro cycle

The Sachem - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$46

Reach: 6967 Page: 1

(In response to letter, 'Questions for Ford,' April 27) I would like to commend Mr. Gris for his tenacity in finding ways to reduce his **electricity** usage. He states that his bill has gone from \$180 in 2016 to \$80 in March of 2018. I ...



Liberal budget hides massive cuts

Toronto Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,871

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

Two **independent** provincial watchdogs have determined Ontario's Liberal government is low-balling its deficit numbers. Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk last week issued a pre-election report required under **Ontario** law that ...



Despite deficit predictions, Sousa stays course

Ottawa Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,313

Reach: 45442 Page: A6

Finance Minister Charles Sousa is confidently predicting a balanced budget in the province's future despite warnings from a second fiscal watchdog that he's got a baked-in \$5 to \$6 billion deficit. The Financial Accountability Office has said that ...



TOU rates drop over two years | Elliot Lake Standard

www.elliottlakestandard.ca - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ahh May. The snow is melting, birds are chirping and the Ontario Energy Board releases its time-of-use (TOU) rates.



Evaluating Ontario's Economy | TVO.org

tvo.org - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018

Around the 9:28 mark, Don Drummond mentions Ontario's future inter-generational debt burden related to hydro.



No justification for excluding Greens from debate

Waterloo Region Record - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$4,579

Reach: 63465 Page: A7

Televised leaders' debates underpin our democracy, forcing the major party leaders to face each other onstage as voters watch them up close. Except when they can't. When television **networks** take it upon themselves to cherry pick which ...



NDP sets up group to get more oil shipped by rail | Fort McMurray Today

www.fortmcmurraytoday.com - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

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



UCP convention to be record size › Medicine Hat News

medicinehatnews.com - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, May 4, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The United Conservative Party's inaugural general meeting and convention this weekend is expected to be one of the largest political party events ever held in Alberta, with about 2,200 registered to attend.



[Why Andrew Scheer will never be prime minister - iPolitics](#)

ipolitics.ca - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
[Permalink](#)

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

With elections in the air, hope springs eternal in the politician's breast.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



[MPP wants power utilities to pay up](#)

Windsor Star - Fri May 4 2018
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Reach: 54680 Page: A3

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[Natural gas to flow to Scugog Island | DurhamRegion.com](#)

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Enbridge Gas has secured more than \$6 million from the province to bring natural gas service to Scugog Island.

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[LETTER: Businessman urges council to pursue Hydro One deal 'with vigor' - OrilliaMatters.com](#)

www.orilliamatters.com - Thu May 3 2018
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Letter to Mayor and Council (with a cc to Orillia Matters)

While I am no expert on this subject, I have done my homework to fully try and understand the plan going forward and offer you my opinions.

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Ending Ontario's electric agony

National Post - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lawrence Solomon

Ad Value: \$9,415

Reach: 159480 Page: FP9

By all accounts, Doug Ford, a bruiser who polls predict will be **Ontario's** next premier, lacks a deep understanding of the intricacies of **energy** policy. The result for Ontarians, if he follows through on his election campaign's unsophisticated themes, will be basic, and beneficial: an end to the esoteric policies that have brought the province to ruin.

Ford vows to stop taxing carbon by scrapping the Wynne government's capand trade system, which currently costs a typical **Ontario** household \$500 a year, projected to rise to \$2,500 a year by 2022. Doing so would pit Ford against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the federal government, which threatens to carbon-tax Ontarians if Ford refuses to. But that seems an empty threat - the federal Liberals would be reluctant to impose a carbon tax on Ontarians when running for re-election next year. Even if the federal government does impose a carbon tax on **Ontario**, the Supreme Court may strike it down as unconstitutional - some legal scholars believe Trudeau has improperly intruded into an area of provincial jurisdiction.

Ford also vows to slash **Ontario's** skyrocketing **power** prices - the chief reason businesses are fleeing the province - by matching Premier Kathleen Wynne's 25-per-cent **rate** reduction and boosting it by another 12 per cent. Critics say he can't fulfil that promise simply through the trims he's stressing, such as cutting the remuneration of the **power** company's top brass and shifting conservation expenses away from **electricity** billpayers to taxpayers, and they're right. But Ford could easily keep his promise, and without the deep indebtedness Wynne would be incurring, by following through on what the Liberals fear most: repealing the **Green Energy Act** and challenging the odious **renewable-energy** contracts that Liberal governments parcelled out to their cronies.

"We're troubled by the fact that Doug Ford would recklessly tear up a **contract**, where an agreement had already been signed - a harmful signal to businesses looking to invest in **Ontario**," recently stated **Ontario Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, in trying to sidetrack any effort at ending the lavish deals with the **wind** and **solar** companies that enriched his party with donations, while impoverishing **electricity** billpayers. "And not just that, cancelling contracts would leave the province dealing with major lawsuits and penalties and likely increase **electricity rates** due to these costs."

Thibeault must know that he's wrong in law and in history: Governments in Canada - and especially **Ontario** governments - have a long history of tearing up ill-advised contracts they've entered into, most prominently in the **electricity** sector. The practice of governments tearing up contracts, in fact, is as old and well established as the **electricity** sector itself. The developers a century ago who built **power** plants and **transmission** lines on the basis of what they thought were ironclad contracts saw them later nullified, even when a **contract** was backed by legislation, when a new government amended the legislation in response to **public** outrage over sweetheart deals. To cut off any argument a developer might want to make in court, the province even passed a law denying companies legal redress. "If the Legislature says, it is your duty not to try such and such an action, it is my duty not to try it," Justice W. R. Riddell explained at the time. "I am here to carry out the laws."

A Ford government would be following a time-honoured practice in overturning the sweetheart deals cooked up by its Liberal predecessors and their cronies,

and it would be immune to any penalties, as long as the contracts were torn up the right way.

"The right way is to legislate: to enact a statute that declares green contracts to be null and void, and the province to be free from liability," explains Bruce Pardy, professor of law at Queen's University, a former adjudicator for the **Ontario** Environmental **Review** Tribunal and author of the 2014 Fraser Institute study, Cancellling Contracts: The **Power** of Governments to Unilaterally Alter Agreements. "Statutes can override ironclad provisions in a **contract** because that is the nature of legislative supremacy: Legislatures can pass laws of any kind, as long as they are within their jurisdiction and do not offend the Constitution. Legislating on **electricity** production is clearly a provincial **power**."

Many would be repulsed at the thought of cancelling contracts between governments and developers - especially those Ford refers to as "the political elites and the establishment" who have been "lining their pockets" - on grounds that all contracts are "sacred." Their views are mistaken. It is the rule of law that is sacred, and the rule is clear: governments in our democracy can and do cancel odious contracts. There's nothing sacred about contracts that threaten businesses, worsen the lives of 13-million citizens and place **Ontario** in debtor's prison.

With the stroke of a pen, a newly elected Premier Doug Ford could and should undo the grievous wrongs done to the **Ontario** economy and the **Ontario** citizenry, and set the province on a sustainable course for the future. It is the only just and honourable thing to do.

Lawrence Solomon is executive director of Torontobased **Energy** Probe.
LawrenceSolomon @nextcity.com

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'Carbon pricing' just another name for government's carbon tax

Shoreline Week (Tecumseh) - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Peter J. Middlemore Sr.

Ad Value: \$453

Reach: 17100 Page: A7

Re: "Canadians might be okay with carbon taxes... until they see the price", April 27

Aaron Wudrick mentions in his editorial that the federal government wants to use the words carbon pricing versus using carbon tax because taxes are introduced to raise revenue while the carbon pricing's purpose is to make things more expensive to change people's behaviours.

They've certainly done a good job in this area of the price of **gasoline** and **natural gas**.

The price of a US gallon of **gas** in Michigan presently is \$2.83 or \$3.34 considering **Canadian** dollar is 78 cents to the US dollar. The US gallon = 3.79 litres = a Michigan price of 70 cents US per litre or 92 cents using **Canadian** currency.

The present (average) price of **gasoline** in Windsor is \$1.34 per litre with its 10 cent federal tax, 14.7 per cent provincial tax, and 13 per cent **HST** = 27.9 cents plus 4.5 carbon tax = 32.4 cents total tax cost per litre in **Ontario**.

Michigan residents pay just under half the taxes on a litre per their US gallon converted to litres.

Between 1992 and 2018, **gasoline** prices averaged 95 cents per litre, but today, with the cost US\$60 per barrel of oil and variables in the world related to refineries demand, prices per litre of **gasoline** can rise by 16 cents in a day.

Prime Minister Trudeau's incoming \$10 per tonne carbon tax that will be increased to \$50 by 2022, apparently is nowhere near the \$300 per tones that would be required for Canada to hit its emission target. Who knows what the future will bring! How do Canada and **Ontario** compete on the world stage in manufacturing, and **consumer** consumption, having outpriced itself related to manufacturing costs, wages, or the everyday needs of businesses and consumers for items such as **gasoline**, heating oil, or **natural gas**, that are not a luxury in Canada, but necessity due to our cold winters? How will many Ontarians survive, faced with the continual increased prices of food products, homes, maintenance of homes, protective insurances, cars, household sundries, not including the increased cost of government services, and municipal taxes? Ontarians find themselves-whether they believe in global warming or not-being financially affected by the **Ontario** Liberal government's **cap and trade** programs while our U.S. neighbour-because of President Trump having withdrawn from the Paris **Climate** Accord-has a manufacturing cost advantage due to lower **hydro**, **gasoline**, **natural gas** costs, while also eliminating many environmental regulations.

Ontario's increasing **gasoline** prices, labour costs, environmental regulations, have put this province in a place, where there's a likely hood more manufacturing jobs might be lost, causing less tax revenue, **greater** debt due to continuing costly government programs.

I have always voted because I've felt that so many brave men and woman died to give me the right to vote. However, I'm angry because I don't know who to vote for, because it seems that our provincial party leaders have forgotten their responsibility to those brave men and woman, who gave our nation, their ultimate sacrifice.

I honestly don't know what political party to vote for because none of them seem to grasp the realities of where our province finds itself today related to its economy and its debt. It's just been ignored while Ontarians line up at the **gas** pumps to save a buck or two because **gasoline** prices have dropped that day.

Provincial political leaders seem to have no stomach to explain to Ontarians why the almost daily rise and fall of **gas** prices, sometimes equating to more than 20 cents per litre in one day.

Peter J. Middlemore Sr.

Windsor

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NDP 'can smell a change'

Ottawa Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$522

Reach: 45442 **Page:** A6

The **Ontario** NDP unveiled election ads that try to convince voters the party is a more positive option to Kathleen Wynne's Liberals or Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives.

NDP campaign director Michael Balagus said that this election offers a unique opportunity for leader Andrea Horwath and her party's slate of candidates.

"I can smell a change election when it's coming and this is a change election," Balagus said Thursday.

People aren't happy with hospital staffing levels, **hydro** bills and **student** debt, and "they hold Kathleen Wynne responsible for much of this and they want her to pay the price," he said.

Although Ford is currently leading in the polls, Balagus said Horwath is clearly the most popular provincial leader in **Ontario**.

The ads try to hit a more positive note than the negative messaging the **public** has heard between Wynne and Ford, he said.

The Liberals have already launched pre-writ campaign ads that attack the PC party leader, claiming he'd fire tens of thousands of **public** servants, interfere in a woman's abortion rights and give large corporations huge tax breaks.

Balagus said the NDP ads aim to hit a far different note.

In one NDP ad, two people are bombarded with dodgeballs representing Liberal and Tory ideas.

A second ad features Horwath meeting with Ontarians and talking about the "deep sense of disappointment" that people have with the province's direction.

"It absolutely does not have to be this way," Horwath says.

"I really believe that there are decisions that governments can make that will make it easier for people to have a good life."

Provincial voters go to the polls June 7.

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Doug Ford says northern Ontario voters are 'fed up,' pledges cut of resource revenue | CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford continued to spread his message of putting northern Ontario first during another visit to Sudbury.

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Ontario PC Leader in North Bay | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca · Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford continues his tour of the north.

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Ford promises to share mining taxes

Sudbury Star · Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jim Moodie

Ad Value: \$1,898

Reach: 14934 Page: A1 / Front

It has become a familiar scene in **Sudbury**: a **crowd** of largely silverhaired supporters waving Toryblue banners, early-'80s hard rock blasting from speakers, and Doug Ford ascending a flag-decorated riser.

"I've been up here more than I've been in my own riding," the PC leader remarked Thursday, to a hearty round of applause from the 200-odd faithful who filled half a gym at College Boreal.

The rally marked the third time the PC leader has been in the Nickel City since late February, when he first appeared as a candidate for the party leadership. He was back three weeks ago, at Cambrian college, vowing to replace Kathleen Wynne and put money in the pockets of taxpayers.

Ford stuck to a similar script this time around, in many cases repeating the same phrases. He still wants to reduce **hydro** bills, fire the CEO of **Hydro** One, and resuscitate the Northlander train.

What's new is an apparent urge to do a bit of trolling and casting in the region. "Hey Fred, are you going to take me fishing sometime?" he asked, addressing former PC candidate Fred Slade.

There were also, however, some fresh policy planks to highlight, most noteworthy of which for Sudburians is a pledge, announced earlier this week, to implement a resource revenue sharing agreement.

"Everything from mining to aggregates to **forestry**, we're going to keep a good percentage of that money (from fees and taxes paid to the province) right here in **Sudbury**," he said.

Ford said as a municipal politician he was always irked when the province "came along with a bit of money and said 'here's where you are going to spend it'... Who is Queen's Park to tell local folks how to spend your money?" The candidate also said Thursday he would provide more funds and flexibility to hunters and anglers to manage resources and habitat.

"I've heard so many stories across the province about how they take the fees (from licences and tags) and put it in the general coffers," he said. "We're going to take those fees and put them right back into conservation."

He said outdoorspeople are "good stewards" of the land and the water, and should be allowed to oversee efforts to maintain and enhance the environment. "What's frustrating is when the government sticks their nose into everything," he said.

The populist candidate pointed to an "unbelievable" example of how the province has allegedly encouraged species preservation.

"I heard a story today, and I don't know if it's the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Ministry of the Environment, but what they're doing is they put rubber snakes on the road," he said. "And if the truck driver stops and gets out before he runs over the snake, which is fake by the way, they get a gold star. Like, who does that?" Ford said under his leadership, there would be a wiser use of funds for environmental protection.

"If the province is paying a good chunk of money to put rubber snakes on the road, we're going to change that."

He said a PC administration would take a hard look at every aspect of government spending to find efficiencies and weed out cronyism.

"We're going to do a line-item-byline-item audit and eliminate solesource deals to political insiders," he said. "We're going to bring in a third party to validate it, and we'll make sure who is making money off of each and every one of you."

A Tory government would also reduce red tape to allow business to get projects off the ground more quickly, he promised.

"There was a mining company I talked to and they said it's taken five years to get approvals," he said. "Five years when they could have been employing people."

Companies have been additionally hampered by high **hydro rates**, he said, but that will change if he is elected.

"The **minister of Energy** said **hydro rates** are **fair**," remarked Ford. "So he considers the highest **hydro rates** in **North America** as **fair**."

(To be **fair** to **Glenn Thibeault**, the **Sudbury** MPP and **energy** minister has said **hydro rates** are "smack dab in the middle," based on an **independent** analysis, and the province is "not the highest when it comes to **electricity** prices.") A PC government is committed to making **electricity** more affordable, however, and will "put 12 per cent right back in your pockets," said Ford. "It may not be a lot - it's about \$173 - but that's just the beginning. That's a start, and it's responsible."

Ford repeated his claim that **Ontario** has become a have-not province (although the Liberals argue the province is a net contributor toward equalization and has been characterized as a 'have province' by the **independent** parliamentary budget officer) and promised to blaze a "new trail of prosperity," returning **Ontario** to its historic role as the economic engine of the country.

He said **Northern Ontario** has plenty of room to grow and can play a big part in the overall revitalization of the economy.

"When I am up here, I see endless opportunity," he said.
jmoodie@postmedia.com

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[Ontario political parties outline hydro plans | Simcoe.com](#)

www.simcoe.com - Thu May 3 2018
 Tone: **Neutral**

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[NDP election promises for Ontario ag | Farms.com](#)

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[Vicious hydro cycle](#)

The Sachem - Thu May 3 2018
 Tone: **Neutral**
 Ad Value: \$46
 Reach: 6967 Page: 1

(In response to letter, 'Questions for Ford,' April 27)

I would like to commend Mr. Gris for his tenacity in finding ways to reduce his **electricity** usage. He states that his bill has gone from \$180 in 2016 to \$80 in March of 2018. I would like to know how he did it.

This is my experience. I believe we received our **smart meter** in 2009. Immediately, I came up with a **plan**.

First, we replaced all our old bulbs with low wattage spiral bulbs.

Next, I began doing laundry after 7 p.m. and literally stopped using the dryer by hanging the clothes on lines in the basement. With these changes we did see a small reduction in our bill. But then the **rates** went up and we were back to square one.

So, it was back to planning. I began to vacuum after 7 p.m. or on Saturday and we were very careful with lights, but then the **rates** went up.

Next, I planned meals that could be cooked in the evening or Saturday and reheated in the microwave. All my baking was done after 7 p.m. or on Saturday. I also used the barbecue when possible. That helped, but it would not be long until the **rates** increased.

Then, the brainwave. We would get rid of our **electric** hot **water heater**, **electric** range and old furnace and go to **gas**. We had to have propane because **natural gas** was not available to us. All this was quite costly, but our **electricity** bill was nicely reduced.

You know it! The **rates** were increased and we also had a **gas** bill to pay! By-the-way, that was the year propane went sky high.

We all know that **electricity** producers have to be paid and when consumption is reduced, the **rates** are increased, and we have the **feed in tariff**. Also, the CEO of **Hydro** One receives an exorbitant paycheck of \$6 million plus yearly and the board, several millions more. There's something definitely wrong here.

Mr. Gris says government should never be run like a business. I believe an understanding of business is an important asset for any politician. A successful business person has learned how to balance a chequebook. Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Liberals have no clue.

I am 78 years old and would appreciate the opportunity to relax in the evening, not start a day's work, but Mr. Gris seems to have it all worked out.

Helen Belbeck,

Cayuga

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Liberal budget hides massive cuts

Toronto Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,871

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

Two **independent** provincial watchdogs have determined **Ontario's** Liberal government is low-balling its deficit numbers.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk last week issued a pre-election report required under **Ontario** law that concluded the government understated the costs of its **hydro rate** cut **plan** and improperly calculated pension costs for two **public** sector unions.

Both issues made the government's books appear better than they actually are.

The auditor pegged the real deficit number at almost double the government's

estimate - \$11.7 billion for 2018-19 instead of the reported \$6.7 billion, \$12.2 billion in 2019-20 instead of \$6.6 billion and \$12.5 in 2020-21 instead of \$6.5 billion.

Then this week, J. David Wake, **Ontario's** financial accountability officer, issued a spring economic and budget outlook that confirmed the Liberals mixed a lot of fudge into their budget recipe. Wake's deficit estimates almost exactly match those issued by the auditor.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa dismissed both **independent** watchdog reports as an accounting dispute, which is a pitiful deflection.

The Liberals passed the law that mandates an **independent**, pre-election report but now find that inconvenient, and with good reason.

Wake in another part of his outlook estimates the government needs to cut \$15 billion in spending (or 8% of the provincial budget) to meet its own "fiscal recovery **plan**" to bring the budget into balance by 2024.

That **plan** envisions "dramatically" cutting spending growth right after the current election, something the Liberals aren't broadcasting.

Meanwhile, Premier Kathleen Wynne is campaigning on free daycare, free dental and prescription drug programs, free tuition and a 25% **hydro rate** cut - with money the government doesn't have.

Wynne can't keep living off deficits, Wake's report suggests, because tax revenues and federal transfer payment growth isn't keeping up with government spending. The Liberals have run deficits for 12 of the past 15 budgets and **plan** deficits into the foreseeable future.

Massive tax hikes or massive cuts to **public** sector jobs and programs are inevitable if the Liberals continue to use borrowed money to spend on "free" programs.

Using job cut numbers Wynne attributed to **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford's **plan** to dump federal **cap and trade** revenue - as many as 90,000 teaching, nursing and other **public** sector jobs.

That should be the obvious consequence of living so long on a credit card.

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Despite deficit predictions, Sousa stays course

Ottawa Sun - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: \$1,313

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Finance Minister Charles Sousa is confidently predicting a balanced budget in the province's future despite warnings from a second fiscal watchdog that he's got a baked-in \$5 to \$6 billion deficit.

The Financial Accountability Office has said that economic growth alone will not bridge the large gap between revenue and spending over the next few years, that instead new revenue sources or dramatic reductions in spending will be required.

When asked Thursday what if any significant spending cuts were planned to bring the province's books into the black, Sousa said the government would continue on its current track.

"The FAO has made projections in the past, as has everybody else, as have we. The budget is a living document. I adjust them as things proceed over the year," Sousa said. "Every year I put in prudence and I build in caution. Every year we've beaten the FAO's targets and we've beaten our own."

The FAO is basing its deficit projections on accounting assumptions made by Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk, and Sousa argued that other experts do not agree with her conclusions.

Jean-Paul Lam, an associate professor of economics at University of **Waterloo**, said there's nothing illegal about the way the government has come to the conclusion that it will have a \$6.7-billion deficit in 2018-19, not the \$11.8 billion forecast by the FAO.

"At the end of the day, it comes (down) to who do you believe in terms of the accounting standards they've used," Lam said.

For instance, the government has opted to count as current revenue the higher **hydro** fees it plans to collect, starting in 2028, to cover the cost of borrowing for its 25% break on **hydro rates**, known as the **Fair Hydro Plan**, he said.

However, if the **public** were to accept the auditor general and FAO numbers, that would mean that any government elected on June 7 would have to take the highly unlikely step of cutting spending by about 8% if it wanted to return to balance by 2028, Lam said.

Sousa argued the real question should be what would PC Leader Doug Ford cut since he has promised to end the **cap-and-trade** program, which brings in significant revenues, and to lower corporate taxes.

"(The Tories will) have to explain themselves ... that's over \$15-16 billion," Sousa said.

When asked about Sousa's claim that Ford would need to make \$15-16 billion in cuts, spokesman Melissa Lantsman said the extent of Premier Kathleen Wynne's "fiscal mess."

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[TOU rates drop over two years | Elliot Lake Standard](#)

www.elliottlakestandard.ca - Thu May 3 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ahh May. The snow is melting, birds are chirping and the Ontario Energy Board releases its time-of-use (TOU) rates.

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[Evaluating Ontario's Economy | TVO.org](#)

tvo.org - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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[No justification for excluding Greens from debate](#)

Waterloo Region Record - Fri May 4 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: \$4,579
Reach: 63465 Page: A7

Televised leaders' debates underpin our democracy, forcing the major party leaders to face each other onstage as voters watch them up close.

Except when they can't.

When television **networks** take it upon themselves to cherry pick which leaders can come onstage - and which parties shall be arbitrarily excluded - they do a disservice to democracy. And deprive voters of choice.

Ontario's first televised debate takes place Monday evening, two days before the official campaign kickoff. A second debate on **northern** issues is scheduled for May 11, and a final provincewide debate will be televised on May 27, ahead of the June 7 vote.

But for Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner, there will be zero televised debates. He is being shut out, along with hundreds of thousands of party supporters - not to mention a broader audience of potential voters who deserve the chance to hear him out.

His exclusion from Monday's debate is doubly unfair given that the host broadcaster, CityNews, wants to focus on **Toronto** issues: The greenbelt has become a major campaign flashpoint after a video revealed PC Leader Doug Ford promising to let developers rip up the protective band that preserves farmland around the GTA - only to hastily reverse himself under fire.

If this issue is front and **centre**, how can Schreiner be kept off **centre** stage? Why are we convening a debate on the greenbelt with the Green Party muzzled?

To their credit, the Liberals and New Democrats had previously agreed to invite the Greens into the studio. They also issued challenges to hold several televised debates among all the major leaders.

But **Ontario**'s television **networks** are trapped in time - running their own shows without **public** accountability. This isn't the first time they have conspired to exclude the Greens, but this time the exclusion is more egregious than ever.

We've seen this script before, in federal elections, where the major **networks** - in cahoots with the federal Conservatives and New Democrats - contrived to keep Green Party Leader Elizabeth May off the set. When the Greens threatened court action and the court of **public** opinion turned against the **networks**, the major broadcasters backed down and allowed her participation.

Adding May didn't detract from the debate. Today, with Ford's Tories vowing to dismantle **cap and trade**, and block any form of carbon pricing to reduce global warming, excluding the Greens from the discussion will deprive voters of an important voice.

Then as now, the **networks** argued against giving the Greens a voice because they didn't yet have a seat. But this is putting the cart - or in this case, the seat - before the horse. How is a political movement supposed to make headway without having a way to be heard?

Then as now, the **networks** argued that the Greens have no prospect of winning **power**, so it's pointless to distract voters with also-rans. This is another Green Party red herring, for the television **networks** had previously invited the Western-based Reform party and the Bloc Québécois to participate, despite their narrow **regional power** bases.

May ultimately won a federal seat, as did her fellow Greens in B.C., New Brunswick and P.E.I., after debate appearances - proof that (televised) appearances matter. Adding a fourth leader to the fray in **Ontario** would not

render this month's debates any more unwieldy than the five-person debates of past federal elections.

The Greens have consistently run candidates in every riding in **Ontario**, and attracted significant voter support in past elections, ranging as high as 8 per cent. That's far more than any fringe party.

But there is one new factor that changes the calculation: Like the three biggest parties, the Greens receive a per-vote **public** subsidy, as part of the campaign finance reforms brought in before the election to curb the influence of corporate and union donors.

Even if the Greens don't win **power**, and even if they don't win a seat this time, it is manifestly unfair to deprive them of the chance to attract voter support - and the financing that follows - during a debate. It is also anti-democratic to deny voters the chance to scrutinize the performance of any publicly subsidized party.

For too long, the so-called network consortium has consorted behind closed doors to arrange ad hoc debates to its own tastes, instead of displaying transparency and fidelity to democracy. Ontarians deserve an open discussion about election debates, so that voters are free to make their own choices - without TV **networks** deciding on their behalf who is and isn't worth considering.

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NDP sets up group to get more oil shipped by rail | Fort McMurray Today

www.fortmcmurraytoday.com - Fri May 4 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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

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UCP convention to be record size › Medicine Hat News

medicinehatnews.com - Fri May 4 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The United Conservative Party's inaugural general meeting and convention this weekend is expected to be one of the largest political party events ever held in Alberta, with about 2,200 registered to attend.

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Why Andrew Scheer will never be prime minister - iPolitics

ipolitics.ca - Thu May 3 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

With elections in the air, hope springs eternal in the politician's breast.

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