Karen Evans

From: Karen Evans
Sent: February 20, 2018 9:25 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

Good morning,

Today's highlights include a column that argues there is a major problem looming for certain electricity customers as a result of the Fair Hydro Act. There's also a couple of stories about Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro launching a survey about electrical safety awareness, as required by the OEB. The Toronto Star has a column looking at Toronto Hydro's decommissioned utility poles after a reader complained they aren't being removed.

LinkedIn: Fair Hydro Act fails major part of business sector in Ontario

- Says Fair Hydro Act (FHA) has only been applied to certain market sectors, and it hasn't been applied equitably within those sectors
- FHA has left mid-market exposed to rising costs with no protection
- Actual reduction in TOU or RPP supply rates on July 1, 2017, was about 28.6% (not applied to distribution and other charges)
- But there are customers who pay the Hourly Ontario Electricity Price (HOEP, plus Global Adjustment), and the HOEP plus the GA has continued to rise since July 1, 2017
- HOEP plus the GA has risen so much that the 28.7% credit those customers were to receive has only netted them 20.8% in savings, and it's likely to get worse

570 News: Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro launches survey on electrical safety (OEB mentioned)

- Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro survey is required by the OEB and results will be included on Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro's scorecard

Similar story in the Waterloo Region Record (OEB mentioned – survey is required by the OEB).

Toronto Star: Old utility poles never seem to die, or even fade away

- Toronto Star "Fixer" column that looks at Toronto Hydro's decommissioned utility poles after complaint that the poles aren't being removed
- Toronto Hydro says one of the reasons why it takes long to remove the decommissioned utility poles is because other utilities have been tardy about taking down their wires from them

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 25 Results

Kitchener -Wilmot Hydro launches survey on electrical safety - 570 NEWS

www.570news.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, February 18, 2018
OEB is mentioned.

It may be the age of phone scams, but a call from Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro isn't one of them.

Kitchener -Wilmot Hydro to carry out phone survey | TheRecord.com

www.therecord.com - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro will be carrying out a short phone survey about electrical safety starting next week. The survey should take about five minutes and will be carried out by UtilityPULSE, a survey company that specializes in work for utilities. ...

Three reasons to ride out Hydro One's recent downturn; Ontario utility's recent woes will soon pass and the company has well positioned itself to benefit when they do

theglobeandmail.com - Sun Feb 18 2018, 5:25pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Berman
Reach: 1188000

Hydro One Ltd. is in a slump and even enthusiastic analysts are cutting their target prices on the stock - a double whammy of bad news if you're a shareholder, and I am. But the utility is doing everything it ...

Hydro One sale benefited some, but not taxpayers

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Fredhahn

Ad Value: $1,423
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A11

People's anger towards the Ontario Liberal government is well founded, according to the province's Financial Accountability Officer (FAO). Not surprisingly, the new FAO report proves that the only people to benefit from the sell-off of ...

Ford to rivals: You're 'Liberal-lite'; Doug Ford brings fiery populism to capital

Ottawa Sun - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Aedan Helmer

Ad Value: $1,497
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A4

Doug Ford touched on each of his populist pledges Monday at his first Ottawa campaign rally, promising to "clean up the establishment and the elites at our own party" before doing the same to the province. The standing room-only crowd of ...

As Tories flail, Wynne plots her comeback

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $28,358
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

With all eyes on a Tory civil war, Kathleen Wynne is largely out of sight and out of mind. Just not out of action. While the media pay her no heed, the premier is quietly making tracks, popping up at town halls and universities across the ...

Change 'Irresponsible'; Pulling apart and remaking PC platform on the fly a recipe for disaster, Brown says

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso And James Wallace

Ad Value: $2,948
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Conservatives can't afford to "pull apart" their policy platform this close to an election if they want to defeat Kathleen Wynne, Patrick Brown told the Toronto Sun Saturday in an exclusive interview. Brown leapt into the ...

Conservatives rally around carbon tax opposition

thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jaime Watt
Reach: 999000

In October 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement that Canadian provinces would be required to adopt carbon pricing was met with wide political agreement. Both the United States and China had recently agreed to the Paris ...

In with the new, but not out with old in east end; Unused utility poles stand tall beside replacements installed right beside them

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jack Lakey Special to the Star

Ad Value: $21,593
Reach: 361323 **Page:** GT3

Some people don't know when the party is over. The same can be said for a lot of decommissioned utility poles all over Toronto. One of the challenges of big-city life is the ever-increasing amount of street clutter, everything ...

(3) FAIR HYDRO ACT FAILS MAJOR PART OF BUSINESS SECTOR IN ONTARIO Flawed plan means there is a major problem on the horizon for electricity customers | LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com - Mon Feb 19 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's Fair Hydro Act has only been applied to certain market sectors – It has not been applied equitably within those sectors, and, it has left the entire mid-market exposed to rising costs with no protection.

Town wants more legal advice on turbine donation; Town debates dollar support for anti-turbine court battle

Shoreline Beacon - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: $550
Reach: 3769 **Page:** A3

Saugeen Shores councillors want to help the court challenge to help stop the Unifor **wind turbine** from operating in Port Elgin, but legal concerns halted debate on the level of that support at the Feb. 12. committee of the whole ...

Chantal Hébert: For NDP, slogans have changed but core narrative remains the same

thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Chantal Hébert
Reach: 999000

OTTAWA-Jagmeet Singh's keynote speech to the NDP weekend convention was his first major opportunity to start positioning the party for a general election that is barely 20 months away. Notwithstanding the contention of many New Democrats ...

The Government of Canada outlines next steps in clean-energy transition

www.newswire.ca - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Choosing cleaner electricity helps protect the health of Canadians, cut carbon pollution, and create opportunities for the middle class. The transition to clean energy is accelerating around the world, and Canada is part of a growing group of ...

Feds to phase out coal-fired plants

Toronto Sun - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $751
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A60

The federal Liberal government says its new regulations to phase out **power** plants fired by coal and **natural gas** will cost more than $2.2 billion, but potentially save the country billions more in reduced health care ...

Enbridge asset sales are on track: CEO; Pipeline giant says it won't accelerate dispositions, but would welcome further offers

The Globe and Mail · Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: $16,222
Reach: 372649 **Page:** B2

Enbridge Inc. is on track to shed $3-billion in assets this year and would consider opportunities to sell more if presented with attractive offers, its chief executive officer says. CEO Al Monaco reiterated plans on Friday to dispose of its onshore ...

Trudeau's Orwellian logic: We reduce emissions by increasing them; George Orwell once suggested that politicians be required to publicly admit their untruths - at the moment they utter them. When it comes to Canada's climate-versus - pipeline battle, this would be a great idea for our Prime Minister

theglobeandmail.com · Tue Feb 20 2018, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARK JACCARD
Reach: 1188000

, professor at Simon Fraser University, has done **energy**-**climate** analysis for all of Canada's major political parties. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley accuse B.C. Premier John Horgan of ...

The perpetual perils of pipeline politics in Canada

thestar.com · Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robin V. Sears
Reach: 999000

It is amusing to hear warriors in the endless battles over pipeline approval jump up and down and shout about "the law," "the environment," "regulatory approval" or even "the Constitution." Even veterans, who know better on both sides, often refuse ...

Feds announce new rules to phase out coal, reduce natural gas | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca · Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The federal Liberal government says its new regulations to phase out power plants fired by coal and reduce natural gas will cost more than $2.2 billion, but potentially save the country billions more in reduced health care costs.

Time for a pair of knuckledusters | Local News | Mountain View Gazette

www.mountainviewgazette.ca · Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Guess what two words we'll no longer hear escape the premier's lips. Here's a clue: the first one is social and the second is licence. Yep, that cute little catchphrase has run its predictable course and fallen victim to the mean-spirited ...

The B.C.-Alberta pipeline fight could undo our national climate plan - Macleans.ca

www.macleans.ca - Mon Feb 19 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, February 19, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

When you think about pipelines and climate change, you probably think about protesters trying to stop one in the name of the other. Since 2011, our news media has been full of images, from both north and south of the border, of exactly that.

The perpetual perils of pipeline politics in Canada | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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It is amusing to hear warriors in the endless battles over pipeline approval jump up and down and shout about "the law," "the environment," "regulatory approval" or even "the Constitution."

Brian Jean Guest Column: Canadians must start working for each other | Calgary Sun

calgarysun.com - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, February 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

The people of Fort McMurray are tough and resilient, but they've had enough of seeing politicians either work against them or kick them when they're down.

Letter: Childish political nonsense - Penticton Western News

www.pentictonwesternnews.com - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, February 16, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

As much as I abhor political games, I find your editorial piece as nothing more than pandering to the local B.C. Wine producer community.

[Three Ontario solar companies challenge Trump's tariffs in court; The manufacturers argue that the White House has misinterpreted the findings of the International Trade Commission]

theglobeandmail.com - Sun Feb 18 2018, 4:20pm ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn McCarthy
Reach: 1188000

Three **Canadian** **solar** manufacturers have gone to a U.S. federal court to challenge the Trump administration's recently imposed tariffs on imported panels, saying the trade penalties could force them out of business. The ...

[Farmers should make the decisions that affect farmers]

The Sachem - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $63
Reach: 6967 **Page:** 1

The 2.2 million people working in agri-food boosts Ontario's rural and small town economy, and that of the entire province for that matter. As the Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, I co-chaired a provincial policy ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

[Kitchener -Wilmot Hydro launches survey on electrical safety - 570 NEWS]

www.570news.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

It may be the age of phone scams, but a call from Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro isn’t one of them.

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[Kitchener -Wilmot Hydro to carry out phone survey | TheRecord.com]

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Three reasons to ride out Hydro One's recent downturn; Ontario utility's recent woes will soon pass and the company has well positioned itself to benefit when they do

theglobeandmail.com - Sun Feb 18 2018, 5:25pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Berman
Reach: 1188000

Hydro One Ltd. is in a slump and even enthusiastic analysts are cutting their target prices on the stock - a double whammy of bad news if you're a shareholder, and I am.

But the utility is doing everything it should, from cutting costs to boosting dividends to expanding its footprint, which is why the stock looks to be a wonderful bargain right now.

After the province of Ontario privatized Hydro One through an initial public offering in 2015, investors were initially keen: The share price rose 30 per cent within eight months. Since then, the shares have retreated about 20 per cent, dipping below the IPO price of $20.50 last week.

What explains this rough ride?

Bond yields have surged over the past two months, weighing on the valuations of dividend-generating stocks in general, and regulated utilities in particular. As well, the Ontario government has continued to reduce its significant stake in the company, flooding the market with additional shares in 2016 and 2017.

And in the run-up to the Ontario provincial election later this year, Hydro One has become a political football. The NDP wants to return it to government ownership, and has thoughts on everything from bill design to usage rates. Even the Conservative party wants to rein in corporate salaries.

No wonder many investors have been turned off.

But there are three compelling reasons why Hydro One is a solid, long-term bet - especially after the sell-off.

First, elections bring out all sorts of politically motivated noise that goes quiet soon after votes are counted.

It's hard to believe that a new government would nationalize Hydro One so soon after its privatization, whipsawing investors, surrendering billions of dollars in gains and casting a pall over the province's commitment to business. (Hydro One's IPO prospectus didn't even mention a government takeover as a potential risk, so perhaps it isn't.) After the election, expected in June, the political overhang will likely disappear.

Second, Hydro One shares have been hit by rising bond yields, but the downturn looks overdone.

As the share price has declined over the past 12 months, the dividend yield has risen to 4.3 per cent from 3.5 per cent. That's a hefty yield, and it's well beyond anything you can get from a government bond. Even after a sharp increase, the yield on the 10-year Government of Canada bond is still below 2.4 per cent.

And keep in mind that Hydro One has been boosting its quarterly dividend. Okay, the increases have been a humble penny a year so far (a hike of less than 5 per cent), but the payouts should accelerate as financial results improve. After all, the utility expects to pay out 70 per cent to 80 per cent of its annual profit in dividends.

Which leads us to the third reason for buying this stock: Financial results are promising.

In its fourth-quarter report, **Hydro** One said its profit was 26 cents a share, up 18 per cent from the same period last year. After some adjustments, profit was 29 cents a share and above most analysts' estimates.

Its **plan** to expand into the United States with a US$3.4-billion deal for Avista Corp. is expected to boost profit if it clears regulatory approval in the second half of this year. Lower valuations for **utilities** could make further expansion cheaper.

Hydro One is also showing it can cut costs and improve efficiency as it adjusts to life outside of government control, adding another engine to profit growth. In 2017, these savings rose to $89.5-million, up from $24.9-million in 2016.

"We see productivity enhancements and cost savings as a way to generate near-term earnings while in the long term allowing for capital investment into the system," Robert Kwan, an analyst at RBC Dominion Securities, said in a note.

Mr. Kwan trimmed his target price on **Hydro** One to $26 from $28, partly reflecting the impact of U.S. tax reform on Avista's expected profit contribution. Analysts at Raymond James lowered their target price to $25 from $26, acknowledging the impact of rising bond yields on stock valuations.

But both shops still recommend buying **Hydro** One shares: Their lower target prices imply double-digit returns from the current share price, while the high dividend yield provides steady income while you wait for next rally to arrive. And it will.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Three reasons to ride out **Hydro** One's recent downturn (www.theglobeandmail.com) The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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Hydro One sale benefited some, but not taxpayers

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Fredhahn

Ad Value: $1,423
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A11

People's anger towards the **Ontario** Liberal government is well founded, according to the province's Financial Accountability Officer (FAO).

Not surprisingly, the new FAO report proves that the only people to benefit from the sell-off of **Hydro** One, were the Liberal party's corporate friends and bankers - unless you also count the donations those friends gave back to the **Ontario** Liberal Party.

Sure, the sale of shares brought in an initial wad of cash to make the government's books look good before the election, but as soon as the election's over the province starts to bleed money from the loss of ongoing revenue - $1.1 billion next year and hundreds of millions more for years to come.

It also turns out the premier's story - that selling **Hydro** One was the only way to pay for needed infrastructure - proves to be a complete falsehood. It would have been $1.8 billion cheaper to take out a lowinterest loan than to sell off our **public** **hydro** system.

That's $1.8 billion that will either need to be cut from our **public** services or made up for through tax increases.

So, the Liberals'corporate friends are richer and the rest of us are stuck with the fallout.

What's worse is this report only scratches the surface of the problem.

Privatizing our **hydro** system means shareholders require ever-increasing profits and those profits mean ever-increasing **electric** bills for the rest of us.

All of our lives depend on **electricity**. Beyond our homes and our businesses, **electricity** powers our hospitals, schools, transit, street lamps, water treatment and all the other services we depend on. As all **electricity** bills rise, more of our tax dollars will be used to pay for private profit rather than the services we need.

The impact of the Liberals'decision to privatize our **hydro** system will be felt for generations.

We've seen this movie before when the Conservatives privatized Highway 407. This is just the truth about privatization of **public** services - it's a complicated scheme between our governments and corporations where we lose control over our valuable assets, we pay more for the services we need, and they make lots of money.

The privatization of **Hydro** One, can and must be reversed - it's too important to our provinces future.

Our government originally brought a privatized **hydro** system under **public** control. Our next government needs to do the same.

Fred Hahn is the president of CUPE **Ontario**

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Ford to rivals: You're 'Liberal-lite'; Doug Ford brings fiery populism to capital

Ottawa Sun - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Aedan Helmer

Ad Value: $1,497
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A4

Doug Ford touched on each of his populist pledges Monday at his first **Ottawa** campaign rally, promising to "clean up the establishment and the elites at our own party" before doing the same to the province.

The standing room-only **crowd** of about 400 supporters at the Infinity Convention **Centre** cheered as Ford invoked his late brother, former **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford, and jeered as he blasted his favourite target, Premier Kathleen Wynne.

"This **Ontario** government is in a financial mess, not with their money, with all of our money, our grandchildren's money as well," he said, saying he would put the "grassroots people first, not the establishment, not the elites."

Ford billed himself as a "principled leader," and acknowledged opponent Christine Elliott as a "wonderful person," while saying he has the "utmost respect" for Caroline Mulroney. He did not mention Patrick Brown while touting himself as the true voice for fiscal conservatives.

"It's one thing to replace Kathleen Wynne," said Ford. "It's another thing to replace Kathleen Wynne with Liberal-lite."

Ford criticized his own party for what he called "internal issues" with the nomination process at "40 or 50 ridings" across the province.

Ford did not delve into specifics, but said the issues are "dividing the party.

"That's scandalous," he said, likening the nomination process to "a Ponzi scheme."

"You need a principled leader, you need someone with integrity. I'm the only person that's going to go down there and clean house. I've said it over and over again: I'm cleaning house from top to bottom. The party's over."

Ford touted his experience with **Toronto** City council for his solutions to the province's "skyrocketing" debt.

"People are being forced to choose between heating and eating," he said. "We need someone that has experience with a budget - not in the opposition benches asking four or five questions a year, someone that's actually worked on a budget."

There was a decidedly mixed reaction in the room when Ford brought up **Ontario**'s sex-ed curriculum, with some supporters whooping and crying "Shame!" while others stayed silent.

After sharing a story about the Ford brothers'battling council - "where it was always 44 against one" - during budget negotiations, Ford told a story about his nephew, Rob Ford's son Dougie.

Ford said Dougie, a Grade 2 **student**, was mortified one day to tell his uncle they had learned about sex in class.

"That's staggering," said Ford. "So those are things we need to change. We are going to revise (the curriculum). It's done. I feel the parents are the first educators. And I'm not saying get rid of it. We're going to critique it."

Ford was more direct, and earned a significantly healthier applause, when he turned his attention to the carbon tax.

"The carbon tax is gone.

It's a job-killer. I'm environmentally friendly, but this **Green Energy Act** is a scam," he said, claiming "**Bay** Street is making billions."

"The party's over with the taxpayers'money," he said. ahelmer@postmedia.com Twitter.com/helmera

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As Tories flail, Wynne plots her comeback

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $28,358
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A6

With all eyes on a Tory civil war, Kathleen Wynne is largely out of sight and out of mind.

Just not out of action.

While the media pay her no heed, the premier is quietly making tracks, popping up at town halls and universities across the province. With a spring election looming, it's like spring training camp - on campus, on stage, on the road.

Is this the calm before the comeback?

Wynne strides into Wallace Hall at Queen's University, where nearly 200 **students** are poised to question her on the state of the province. Stern paintings of past university presidents hang on the wood-panelled walls as the premier returns to the campus where she once studied English and history as an undergraduate.

A soft winter sun streams through the high windows as ceiling fans rotate slowly above, returning heat onto the premier, who is perched on a stool. Global warming, sexual harassment and mental health are top of mind, with the economy a strong undercurrent.

The premier is ready with her answers and her offerings: free tuition for eligible **students**, free prescription medicines up to age 25, a $15 minimum wage.

She deflects their queries with a recurring rhetorical question of her own, turning the focus onto her political rivals: What's their alternative?

When a **student** asks why she opposes the Progressive Conservatives' proposed carbon tax, Wynne counters that, "actually, the Conservatives are against" their own election platform's **climate** change measures.

"This is the No. 1 threat to humanity," she intones, touting the Liberal government's own **cap and trade** **plan**. "Don't know what the Conservatives are going to do - they're saying they're going to do nothing."

Watching Wynne over two days of meeting university and college **students** in **Toronto** and **Kingston**, the personal animus tends to diminish in person - even if it hasn't dissolved in **public** opinion polls. On campus, the premier's policies appear to be popular, but is her well-honed town hall skill set transferable to the general electorate?

To make the most of the ongoing Tory storm, Wynne must emerge from a maelstrom of her own making after five years in **power**. That means confronting the demons that have dragged her down.

Perhaps the demonization ebbs when voters notice that she has no horns on her head nor those horn-rimmed glasses (recently replaced by contact lenses as she hones her **public** image). Yet no one knows more than Wynne how far she has fallen in **public** esteem, and how little time is left to recover.

At a lunch stop on her daylong tour, the premier tells me she considered quitting a year ago, when the chorus of naysayers was at its peak.

"I'm not going to pretend I didn't think about it seriously - I did a lot of soul-searching about it."

Still trailing in the polls, and personally unpopular, the dial has barely moved.

"I understand that, and I can't explain it," she muses, poking at her half-eaten salad.

But Wynne has her answer - the one she gave herself a year ago, and the one she gives today: "If we are going to go by the polls, people like the things that we're doing - and at the end of the day that's all I can do."

She is relentlessly upbeat despite the political downturn, selling her policies during long days of campus tours and town halls in what looks like a dry run for the spring campaign. Undaunted by the risk of embarrassing questions.

"You don't know what's coming," Wynne says. "That's why I'm always nervous before I go into these things, there's always the danger, the risk that you're not going to be able to handle it."

Is the premier winning converts among voters? Wynne is surely no Justin Trudeau on tour, lacking the love and buzz of the prime minister, not to mention the fealty of his followers.

Even when she connects with voters, she doesn't always convert them. When she stops at Toni Parisi's table at a Queen's cafeteria, the philosophy **student** is beaming.

"To meet such a successful woman as yourself," gushes Parisi, 20. "It was so great meeting you."

As Wynne moves onto the next handshake, I drop back for a word with Parisi, who tells me she comes from a low-income family that benefits from better tuition and loan programs under the Liberals. All that said, and after all that effort by the premier, Parisi hedges - she still can't decide who has her vote.

In our interview, Wynne concedes time is running out for a turnaround.

"Yep, I get that - we are very close to an election," she says, lips pursed.

Despite the appetite for change after so many years of Liberal rule, and her own declining popularity, she is counting on voters like Parisi to look at policy over personality at a time of Tory disarray on key issues.

"I really think this election has to be about, 'Will change to what?' Right? We're offering change, and the other two (PC and NDP) are going to have to say what they'd change to, and so far we haven't seen that."

Can she change the ballot question from a referendum on the Wynne Liberals to a three-way assessment of what all major parties are offering? Citing the latest Tory tumult, Wynne offers but one certainty:

"There's a lot that can happen between now and June 7."

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Change 'Irresponsible'; Pulling apart and remaking PC platform on the fly a recipe for disaster, Brown says

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso And James Wallace

Ad Value: $2,948
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A4

Ontario's Conservatives can't afford to "pull apart" their policy platform this close to an election if they want to defeat Kathleen Wynne, Patrick Brown told the **Toronto** Sun Saturday in an exclusive interview.

Brown leapt into the Conservative leadership race hours before the deadline closed Friday, vowing to recapture his job, now that he has "cleared" his name after stepping aside as party leader following sexual misconduct allegations.

"I want to finish the job I started," Brown told the Sun. "I want to elect a Progressive Conservative government and bring positive change to **Ontario**."

Brown must still receive final approval from party executives to cement his place in the race.

But on his first day of campaigning, Brown called plans by the four other candidates in the race - Christine Elliott, Doug Ford, Caroline Mulroney and

Tanya Granic Allen - to rework the party's People's Guarantee policy platform politically dangerous.

"Look what happened with the 100,000 job cuts and that criticism of a past PC platform," Brown said, referring to a mid-election promise to reduce the civil **service** through attrition that torpedoed Tim Hudak's 2014 election campaign.

"Conservatives should learn a lesson from the past," he said. "We have a policy document that is ready to go, that was a home run that was praised across the province. It's called the People's Guarantee."

"And there's one lesson we've learned from past elections is developing policy on the fly at the last-minute is risky business," Brown said.

"The notion that we're going to develop our policy platform all over again right in the midst of an election campaign is irresponsible," he said.

"We shouldn't be doing what is convenient and easy during a leadership campaign, we should be doing what is right, and what is right for **Ontario**."

Brown took specific aim at carbon tax proposals by the four other leadership candidates, who have all said they'll oppose a federally mandated carbon tax.

Brown differs, arguing the only pragmatic route is to impose the tax and return the billions in revenue it generates in tax cuts.

"Where this (carbon tax) ends up in courts down the road will be a hypothetical question," Brown said.

"But anyone who's expected to form a government in… less EXCLUSIVE than five months is frankly going to have to answer the question, 'What are you going to do with that revenue?'" he said.

"Are you going to trust Justin Trudeau to keep it or are you going to give it back to the people? I believe the Conservative response is to give every cent back to the people of **Ontario** in broad-based tax relief."

Changing the party's position on the carbon tax also undermines the PC party's costing for the People's Guarantee policy document, he said.

"It's important to have a costed platform and I worry when you're taking apart a platform and not costing it that you're vulnerable to attacks from the Liberals," Brown said.

On reforms to classroom sex education policy, which provoked dissent in the recent PC party leadership debate, he suggested the party needs to remain inclusive.

"We do have sex education in the schools," he said.

"I think it's important to have sex education in the school system and it needs to be updated on a regular basis.

"But I believe in a modern PC party and frankly I've taken steps to show that in a very visible fashion. If you look at our membership, it's more reflective of the province than ever before and I've done things no PC leader has done before.

"I was proud to march in the **Toronto** Pride Parade and the **Ottawa** Pride Parade, to say love is love is love and frankly, everyone is welcome in our modern PC party," he said.

On Friday, when Brown registered to join the PC leadership race, three of the four other candidates suggested his participation would be a distraction that undermined party unity.

Caroline Mulroney tweeted, "A leadership election is not the place for him to try to clear his name."

Doug Ford said the PC party should be about more than any one person, and referred to the "rot" that Interim Leader Vic Fedeli has said pervaded the party under Brown's leadership.

And Christine Elliott was the least critical of the four, calling only for party unity at this time.

Brown fired back, Saturday, saying: "The most important task for party unity is to win the election on June 7 and not having a policy platform, writing policy on the fly, not being ready would be a recipe to reelect Kathleen Wynne.

"I'm ready to defeat Kathleen Wynne," Brown said.

"I have a platform ready to defeat Kathleen Wynne and that's the most important aspect of party unity."

"This is a great platform for the province of **Ontario**, a recipe to get **hydro** **rates** down," he said, citing promised new spending for mental health, middle class tax relief, child care, stimulus for **Northern** **Ontario** and help for small business.

"This is our **plan** for June 7," he said. "This is our path forward for **Ontario**. There is tremendous support for the People's Guarantee and it is the product of our membership." aartuso@postmedia.com jawallace@postmedia.com

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Conservatives rally around carbon tax opposition

thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jaime Watt
Reach: 999000

In October 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau's announcement that **Canadian** provinces would be required to adopt carbon pricing was met with wide political agreement.

Both the United States and China had recently agreed to the Paris **climate** accord, and provincial governments in Canada's three largest provinces had already committed to some form of carbon pricing.

Alberta, home of Canada's most abundant oilsands and a traditional bastion of conservative support, had broken with decades of Progressive Conservative leadership, electing an NDP government that presented carbon pricing as a critical part of the oil industry's social license to export its products to market. Across the country, Liberal provincial governments held **power**. Conservatives were at a historically low ebb.

Former Prime Minister Harper's inability to adequately address **climate** change had hurt perceptions of **Canadian** resources; a new approach was needed.

What a difference 16 months make. Alberta is locked in a battle with its provincial counterparts in British Columbia over the Trans Mountain Pipeline. While the federal government has expressed support for the project, the provincial governments are no longer in the same agreeable position.

Albertans, who have long memories of the misguided National **Energy** Program devised by Pierre Elliott Trudeau's government, are increasingly conscious of the oilsands' vulnerabilities and are strongly resistant to any measures that may diminish its growth. Enter Jason Kenney.

Breaking from years of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party's efforts to court a bigger tent of voters, the former Harper cabinet minister has united the province's right-wing forces under a series of unapologetically conservative stances, including strident opposition to the carbon tax.

As this takes place, action and rhetoric from the Trump administration has added pressure to **Canadian** oil producers.

While Prime Minister Trudeau and President Barack Obama struck similar tones about building social license for oil extraction, Trump has a drastically different vision for competitiveness, unlocking millions of jobs by slashing regulations.

Suddenly, carbon pricing is facing serious political headwinds as conservatives across Canada spring into action.

While some Conservatives briefly toyed with Michael Chong's **plan** for a revenue neutral carbon tax, Andrew Scheer won the leadership race by promising to scrap carbon pricing. He rejects the premise that taxes can fight **climate** change and has ardently emphasized their impact on affordability. The recent political **climate** has only contributed to his resolve.

He has allies. With Trump's election, the Liberal's newly created **Canadian Energy Regulator** and the harsh impact of the oilsands downturn on our national productivity, carbon pricing is beginning to feel like too much too soon for many Canadians. And in an era where political conversations are increasingly framed around affordability, the added burden of taxes has become problematic.

This explains the recent shift in **Ontario** politics. Former Progressive Conservative Party of **Ontario** leader Patrick Brown shocked pundits and delegates alike when he announced his support for a revenue neutral carbon tax in March 2016. Many pundits saw this as a critical point in national discussions around carbon pricing.

But his swift removal as leader has provided a window for anti-carbon pricing advocates to rebound in **Ontario**. While there may have been no appetite for such a position in 2016, leadership candidates are now willing to fight against carbon taxation in spades.

All three leading leadership candidates for the Progressive Conservative Party of **Ontario** have promised to oppose **cap and trade**, carbon taxation and any former of carbon pricing in no uncertain terms. Call it pandering. Call it impractical. But it represents a growing and formidable opposition from the most likely candidates to take over as premier of Canada's largest province this June.

To add to that, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe threatened that Trudeau's government would enforce the carbon tax on his province over "[his] dead body."

What's clear is that after several years of standing down on the issue of the carbon tax, conservative parties and politicians are no longer willing to sit idly by and allow the Liberals to steer the agenda.

What's problematic for the federal government is that in many provinces, those same vocal opponents look to be set on a path to **power**.

Just as the political tides have turned on this issue before, it seems they have once again - at least amongst the conservative base.

The result? Prime Minister Trudeau has a fight on his hands.

Jaime Watt is the executive chairman of Navigator Ltd. and a Conservative strategist.

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In with the new, but not out with old in east end; Unused utility poles stand tall beside replacements installed right beside them

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jack Lakey Special to the Star

Ad Value: $21,593
Reach: 361323 **Page:** GT3

Some people don't know when the party is over. The same can be said for a lot of decommissioned **utility** poles all over **Toronto**.

One of the challenges of big-city life is the ever-increasing amount of street clutter, everything from road signs and advertising to residential recycling bins that end up scattered across the sidewalk on a windy day.

It's among the reasons why city dwellers find the countryside restful; there's a lot less stuff that draws our attention for the wrong reasons, and a lot more things that convey peace and tranquility.

Serenity now, dammit!

You'd think reducing street clutter would be a priority for the city and its agencies, but that is not the case with **Toronto Hydro**'s ongoing program to replace aging wooden **utility** poles by putting up new ones next to them.

Dennis Newman sent us a note saying he's starting to wonder when the old poles on Beech and Pine Aves., near **Kingston** Rd. and Victoria Park Ave., will be taken down.

"They inserted new poles close to the old ones, and then waited about a year before hooking up **wires** to the new poles and removing them from the old ones," he said.

"Two or three years on, the old poles minus the **wires** stand next to the new ones. Calls to **Hydro** indicate they understand the issue, but will get around to removing the old poles 'in due course.' When pressed, they just evade."

We took a drive along Beech and Pine Aves. and noticed that almost every **pole** on both streets has an old **pole** that was sawed off about halfway up, standing next to its replacement.

Hydro has told us before that one of the reasons it takes so long to get rid of old poles is that other **utilities** have been tardy about taking down their **wires** from them.

We didn't see many old poles with anything on them on Beech or Pine Aves.

Status: **Toronto Hydro** spokesperson Tori **Gass** sent us the following explanation: "We've been working to expedite the transfer of third-party **attachments** from this project, including on the poles located on Pine and Beech Aves. This - combined with the impending warmer weather - should allow us to remove the poles in the coming months. Typically, delays in removing old poles are related to third party **attachments** that haven't been transferred to the new poles, and that's the scenario for these streets. Another common factor is the size of the project; crews may complete work on one street, but are continuing the same project on neighbouring streets throughout a community. In the past, the removal of old poles wouldn't begin until the entire project was complete, but we've now made changes to our workflows so that crews can begin removal even as the project is continuing."

What's broken in your neighbourhood? Wherever you are in **Greater** **Toronto**, we want to know. Send an email to jlakey@thestar.ca. Report problems and follow us on Twitter @TOStarFixer.

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(3) FAIR HYDRO ACT FAILS MAJOR PART OF BUSINESS SECTOR IN ONTARIO Flawed plan means there is a major problem on the horizon for electricity customers | LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com · Mon Feb 19 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario’s Fair Hydro Act has only been applied to certain market sectors – It has not been applied equitably within those sectors, and, it has left the entire mid-market exposed to rising costs with no protection.

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Town wants more legal advice on turbine donation; Town debates dollar support for anti-turbine court battle

Shoreline Beacon · Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Frances Learment

Ad Value: $550
Reach: 3769 **Page:** A3

Saugeen Shores councillors want to help the court challenge to help stop the Unifor **wind** **turbine** from operating in Port Elgin, but legal concerns halted debate on the level of that support at the Feb. 12. committee of the whole meeting. The issue was deferred pending additional legal advice.

Councillors appeared ready to approve a $25,000 donation to support the court case being mounted by S.T.O.P. (Saugeen Shores **Turbine** Operation Policy) for a judicial **review** of a Minister of Environment and **Climate** Change (MOECC) decision to make noise testing mandatory, not voluntary, to determine if the Unifor **turbine** at Gobles Grove is operating in compliance.

Staff recommended that the $5,000 to $7,000 remaining from an earlier donation to S.T.O.P. be approved, but Deputy Mayor Luke Charbonneau attempted to increase the amount to the $25,000 requested by S.T.O.P. to launch a legal challenge to try to stop the **turbine**, the source of approximately 500 noise and heath-related complaints from area residents.

S.T.O.P.'s believes a judicial **review** is required compliance of the MOECC classification of the property as semi-rural. S.T.O.P. argues the proper rural classification would have prevented construction of the **turbine** because its noise model tested above the 40 db limit.

Charbonneau, who said he receives citizen complaints about the **turbine** affecting them "almost on a daily basis", called S.T.O.P.'s $25,000 request "reasonable" and pushed for "any actions" that would place requirements on local **turbine** operations. Coun. Dave Myette, supports the Town's involvement in the **turbine** battle, but not the timing. He suggested it might be more prudent to have the MOECC Manager attend a Saugeen Shores council meeting, as recently requested, and waiting for a response, before taking the MOECC to court. Staff said the MOECC official had accepted the invitation to speak with council about the Unifor **turbine**, possibly in April.

CAO David Smith said it is "appropriate" for council to partially assist in the funding, but cautioned if they wanted to support the full amount they should get more legal advice as there is a "significant difference" between approving the full $25,000 and contributing to, or leading a court action. He noted that at an earlier meeting, those lawyers called S.T.O.P.'s judicial **review** legal challenge "unique" compared with other anti-**turbine** actions.

Coun Mike Myatt said he also has a "stack of complaints'about the **turbine** operations, and said "once and for all we need to test this thing "but agreed to heed the CAO's caution. Coun. Neil Menage said he also wants to support the fight against the **turbine**, because it is the "right thing" do do, but said the CAO's "shot across the bow" was a warning they should heed, using "brain and heart"and not expose the Town to legal risk.

At this point, Charbonneau abandoned his motion to approve the requested $25,00o to S.T.O.P., and tabled a motion to defer the issue, pending legal advice, acknowledging that advice won't be cheap, but is required.

In related news. During the Open Forum session prior to the committee of the whole meeting, S.T.O. P. founder Greg Schmalz said the citizen group has already spent $75,000 in legal and acoustic testing, and face double jeopardy because they endure higher noise levels without proper setbacks from area homes. Currently provincial legislation would not allow construction of the Unifor **turbine** because of the setback issue.

"After 7 p.m., the critical period of property enjoyment and sleep, the neighbourhood takes on the characters of a rural setting, but [the MOECC] does not apply, but does not apply the reduced nightly levels enjoyed by other rural **Ontario** **wind** projects. Schmalz said repeated calls by the Town and S.T.O.P. to the MOECC for mandatory, not voluntary, noise testing, have been refused.

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Chantal Hébert: For NDP, slogans have changed but core narrative remains the same

thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Chantal Hébert
Reach: 999000

OTTAWA-Jagmeet Singh's keynote speech to the NDP weekend convention was his first major opportunity to start positioning the party for a general election that is barely 20 months away.

Notwithstanding the contention of many New Democrats that the party's last election platform missed the mark, the rookie leader's speech fell well short of being a major departure from the recent past.

The broad theme of the 40-minute speech was social inequality (www.thestar.com) - a thread that will sound familiar to anyone who has followed the NDP over the decades. The slogans have changed over the years but the core narrative has not.

Singh promised to close the tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy and jack up the corporate tax **rate**.

He talked of stitching a pan-**Canadian** pharmacare program into Canada's social safety net.

He restated the NDP's longstanding drive for a more proportional voting system.

He repeated the party's commitment to achieve a meaningful reconciliation with

Canada's Indigenous peoples.

There were striking blanks in his address to delegates.

At a time when the 2019 lines between the ruling Liberals and the Conservatives are being drawn on the **climate** change battlefield, Singh had remarkably little to say on the issue.

He ad-libbed a few sentences on the need to take credible steps to reach significant emissions reduction goals, but was silent on the NDP approach to doing that or on the ruling Liberals' move to put a national floor price on carbon and implement a federal carbon tax in the provinces that fail to comply.

The NDP under Thomas Mulcair favoured a **cap-and-trade** system over a carbon tax. That is also the preferred approach of **Ontario** NDP leader Andrea Horwath. She is the next leading New Democrat to head for the hustings. The three main contenders to replace former **Ontario** Tory leader Patrick Brown have all vowed to fight Justin Trudeau's carbon pricing (www.thestar.com) measures.

Based on his weekend address, Singh is in no hurry to enter the carbon tax fray - in no small part for fear of getting dragged into the increasingly heated Alberta-B.C. NDP fight over pipelines.

Not since the 1988 free-trade election have global trade deals been so high on Canada's radar. NAFTA is under renegotiation. At some point in the near future, Canada could have to decide whether to forego its current arrangements with the U.S. and Mexico or agree to major concessions.

Earlier this year, Trudeau announced Canada would join its Asia-Pacific partners minus the United States in a new free trade zone. At the tail end of the 2015 campaign, Mulcair had campaigned hard against the original Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

Despite a lot of ongoing trade developments, Singh's speech was as silent on the issue as he was on Canada-U.S. relations in the Trump era.

The notion that the weekend's deliberations have put the NDP on the path of a shift to the left mostly goes to prove that movement on the **Canadian** political spectrum is often in the eye of the beholder.

Click on Mulcair's 2015 platform and the first item that comes up is a pharmacare program followed by the promise of a national child-care program modeled on the Quebec system.

Child care did not get much play in Singh's speech. Yet many progressive activists would consider universal child care to be a better social policy cornerstone upon which to build support among millennial voters than the offer of free prescription drugs.

The commitment to shift the tax burden from the middle-class to the wealthiest individuals and to big corporations was part and parcel of the 2015 platform.

The points of departure between Mulcair's policy roadmap and Singh's are for the most part to be found in the margins.

The party's recent embrace of the notion Netflix and other digital giants should be under the same obligation to collect sales tax as their domestic competitors falls in that category. The New Democrats are also breaking new ground by calling for the decriminalization of all personal use drugs. They would want dental care to be included in an expanded Medicare program.

When they stole **centre** stage at the time of Mulcair's ousting at the party's last national convention two years ago, proponents of the **Leap** Manifesto (www.thestar.com) believed his departure would provide an opening for the

NDP to join them in pushing for a major transformation of the **Canadian** economy.

That would have started with the party embracing a fossil-fuel-free **energy** future for Canada - including an immediate ban on future pipelines - and a renewed push against Canada's participation in global trade deals.

Based on Singh's maiden convention speech and its blanks on those very topics, those activists have traded down.

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

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The Government of Canada outlines next steps in clean-energy transition

www.newswire.ca - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

Choosing cleaner electricity helps protect the health of Canadians, cut carbon pollution, and create opportunities for the middle class. The transition to clean energy is accelerating around the world, and Canada is part of a growing group of countries that are committed to phasing out traditional coal-fired electricity.

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Feds to phase out coal-fired plants

Toronto Sun - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $751
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A60

The federal Liberal government says its new regulations to phase out **power** plants fired by coal and **natural gas** will cost more than $2.2 billion, but potentially save the country billions more in reduced health care costs.

Government documents posted online today outline the new measures aimed at reducing Canada's dependence on the pollutionproducing plants, and improving their efficiency.

Three-quarters of the $2.2-billion price tag will fall on the shoulders of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which aren't expected to end their reliance on coal for **power** until at least 2040.

Federal officials estimate savings of $4.9 billion related to declines in air pollution over the next 12 years.

The Liberals are also launching a task force to come up with ways to help coal workers that will lose their jobs as a result of the closures.

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Enbridge asset sales are on track: CEO; Pipeline giant says it won't accelerate dispositions, but would welcome further offers

The Globe and Mail - Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: JEFF LEWIS

Ad Value: $16,222
Reach: 372649 **Page:** B2

Enbridge Inc. is on track to shed $3-billion in assets this year and would consider opportunities to sell more if presented with attractive offers, its chief executive officer says.

CEO Al Monaco reiterated plans on Friday to dispose of its onshore renewables business as well as **natural gas** processing infrastructure in Canada and the United States as the company seeks to cut debt and fund $22billion in major projects.

The Calgary-based pipeline giant won't accelerate dispositions even though it has identified at least $10-billion worth of noncore assets, Mr. Monaco told analysts on a conference call. Interest in the renewables and processing infrastructure has been strong, he said.

"There's certainly nothing that indicates to us that additional asset sales will be required, but obviously if there are ideas that come forward or offers that are put on the table that we can't turn down, then we'll probably have a look at those," he said.

Enbridge is keen to repay debt and streamline operations after its $37-billion acquisition last year of U.S. rival Spectra **Energy** Corp., one of several large, crossborder transactions by **Canadian** infrastructure firms.

The massive deal vastly expanded its network of pipelines in **North** America, but it has also added to Enbridge's complexity and stoked worries about the company's ability to fund rising dividend payments and growth projects.

To shore up finances, Enbridge issued $2.6-billion in preferred and common equity late last year and throttled back dividend growth plans to 10 per cent from a previous range of 10 per cent to 12 per cent. It also pledged to jettison at least $3-billion in assets this year.

Despite the financial moves, Moody's Investors **Service** Inc. in December cut its rating on Enbridge debt to one notch above junk status, saying the company's blueprint to improve key leverage metrics will be slow to deliver results.

Enbridge shares have slumped about 18 per cent so far this year, reflecting broader concerns over impacts of rising interest **rates** and changes to U.S. tax policy on infrastructure and **utility** companies.

The shares edged up slightly in Friday's session on the **Toronto** Stock Exchange after Enbridge reported net income for the three months ended Dec. 31 of $207-million, or 13 cents a share, compared with a year-ago profit of $365-million or 39 cents.

In the quarter, the company booked a $4.55-billion charge to write down the value of **gas** pipelines and processing infrastructure. Excluding such items, the adjusted earnings were $1.01-billion or 61 cents a share, versus $522-million or 56 cents a year ago.

Enbridge said it has started construction on the **Canadian** portion of its $9-billion Line 3 pipeline and insists crude will flow by late 2019, even though it is still awaiting final clearances from regulators in Minnesota.

Enbridge wants to replace the 1960s-era Line 3 conduit, which runs from Hardisty, Alta., to Superior, Wis., with a new pipeline, restoring capacity to 760,000 barrels a day from a little more than half that level today.

The expansion is one of three proposed pipelines supporters say are critical to expanding markets for Alberta's landlocked oil-sands producers, which are suffering from sharp price discounts as rising supplies butt up against export limits.

Enbridge's mainline network has been subject to hefty restrictions for three months straight as orders to ship crude exceed its 2.85-million-barrel-a-day capacity, indicating strong demand for the system.

Mr. Monaco reiterated on Friday the company has no immediate plans to reduce its web of subsidiaries, despite repeated questions over its complex corporate structure after the Spectra deal. It has already moved to streamline operations, he said.

"We certainly are not blind to the fact that people prefer simplicity in this market, which we agree with," he told analysts.

ENBRIDGE (ENB) CLOSE: $43.03, DOWN 19C/

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Trudeau's Orwellian logic: We reduce emissions by increasing them; George Orwell once suggested that politicians be required to publicly admit their untruths - at the moment they utter them. When it comes to Canada's climate-versus - pipeline battle, this would be a great idea for our Prime Minister

theglobeandmail.com - Tue Feb 20 2018, 5:00am ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: MARK JACCARD
Reach: 1188000

, professor at Simon Fraser University, has done **energy**-**climate** analysis for all of Canada's major political parties.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley accuse B.C. Premier John Horgan of sabotaging Canada's **climate plan**, making him responsible for our continued planet-threatening greenhouse-**gas** emissions. But what exactly is Mr. Horgan's **climate** crime? He is resisting the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, a GHG-increasing fossil-fuel project. George Orwell would have fun unpacking this black-is-white logic.

First, Orwell would note how three previous **Canadian** prime ministers made dishonest GHG promises. In 1988, Brian Mulroney made a promise for **2000**. In 1997, Jean Chretien made a promise for 2010. And in 2007, Stephen Harper made a promise for 2020. But all three failed to immediately implement the regulations and carbon prices necessary to achieve their promises. **Independent** experts, myself included, noted a decade before each deadline that the promise would not be kept. In 2002, I co-wrote The Cost of **Climate** Policy, detailing why Mr. Chretien would fail his Kyoto commitment. But he knew this from his own staff.

Orwell would not need **energy** expertise to know that emission increases from major industries cannot occur if a prime minister is to keep his promise. Yet all three, and now Mr. Trudeau, have countenanced Alberta's oil sands expansion, the single biggest reason for missing targets. With oil output growing from one million barrels per day in 2005 to 2.5 million barrels in 2015, Alberta's contribution to Canada's emissions increased from 230 to 270 megatonnes of carbon dioxide. And Alberta's emissions will reach 290 megatonnes by 2030 if projects like Trans Mountain are completed. National studies by **independent** researchers (including my university-based group) consistently show that Mr. Trudeau's 2015 Paris promise of a 30-per-cent reduction by 2030 is unachievable with oil sands expansion. His staff know this, so he knows it, too.

Second, Orwell would note that constitutional experts agree that the **Canadian** government has the authority to achieve its GHG promises. If Mr. Trudeau fails, he cannot blame unco-operative provinces for his failure. He admitted as much when he told Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall that federal **climate** policies will apply to every province.

Thus, the Prime Minister does not need a deal with Alberta for more oil pipelines in order to meet his Paris commitment. He simply needs to quickly apply his federal authority to regulate or price emissions from **electricity** generation, oil sands, other industries, **transportation** and buildings. When he does, oil sands output will not grow, and pipeline expansion will not be needed.

Third, if Orwell consulted experts at any of the internationally renowned institutions assessing how humanity keeps the temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius, he would note their unanimous conclusion that oil sands expansion must not occur. Global oil demand must fall from today's 95 million barrels a day to about 65 million by 2050. As a high-cost, high-emission resource, oil sands will not expand as oil prices fall in a declining oil market.

Mr. Trudeau and his advisers know that it makes no sense, indeed is economically and socially irresponsible, to build a pipeline today for expanded production that should not occur if we are to prevent devastating **climate** change. Fostering increased oil sands jobs in Alberta is inconsistent with global **climate** goals.

Which leads to Ms. Notley's accusation that Mr. Horgan is attacking current Albertan jobs. Oil sands production facilities are long-lived investments that, once built, are viable for decades. The halt to oil sands expansion that is essential to achieve national and global **climate** goals does not eliminate current oil sands jobs in Alberta.

To say that Mr. Horgan's resistance to fossil-fuel expansion is an attack on Albertan jobs is the biggest whopper of them all. But Ms. Notley has only a year before an election she will probably lose. Her political survival depends on her finding an issue that draws Albertans to her. As Orwell witnessed in the 1930s in Europe, politicians benefit if they are seen to be protecting their citizens from external threats, even if these threats are fictional.

Orwell once suggested that politicians be required to publicly admit their untruths - at the moment they utter them. When it comes to Canada's **climate**-versus-pipeline battle, this would be a great idea.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Trudeau's Orwellian logic: We reduce emissions by increasing them (www.theglobeandmail.com)

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The perpetual perils of pipeline politics in Canada

thestar.com - Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Robin V. Sears
Reach: 999000

It is amusing to hear warriors in the endless battles over pipeline approval jump up and down and shout about "the law," "the environment," "regulatory approval" or even "the Constitution." Even veterans, who know better on both sides, often refuse to publicly concede the reality of how a project moves from pipe dream to production.

The hard truth is that pipelines are always and only about politics.

Every major pipeline we have built in Canada since the Second World War was typically the product of a long and difficult political battle. The first cross-Canada pipe, the project that gave birth to Trans-Canada Pipeline, helped bring down the Liberal government of Louis St. Laurent in 1957.

The infamous Pipeline Debate, ended nearly half a century of Liberal hegemony, and elected John Diefenbaker. It ushered in a period of political instability with six elections in just over a decade, ending only with Pierre Trudeau's 1968 majority.

Next came the four-year fracas over the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline starting in 1974, which despite several attempts to revive it - the last as recent as the Harper era - remains stillborn. The pipeline inquiry, led by Justice Tom Berger, became a multi-year political crusade in defence of First Nations rights, environmental concerns, and was eventually seen as an attack on the oil and **gas** sector itself.

The oilpatch found the inquiry's attacks on new oil development and transport especially galling as it came just as they were then attempting to build support for massive **public** subsidies to launch the first oilsands projects. The beautiful full-colour photo laden reports of the Berger Inquiry sold in the thousands. The inquiry's impact on debate about Indigenous rights, the environment and resource development is felt even now.

Along the way we then had a series of more short-lived battles over **Energy** East, **Northern** Gateway and Keystone XL. **Energy** East fell victim to politics, most damagingly its poisonous reception by the government of Quebec. **Northern** Gateway died at the hands of enraged and empowered First Nations, and a series of governments unprepared to take the political risk of defending the transport of heavy oils through the pristine waters surrounding Haida Gwai.

Keystone is the one win for big oil in this generation's big projects. It is only being built as a result of the most improbable, "Big Coal, Big Oil," **climate** change denier to ever sit in the White House.

Then there is the doubling of the Trans Mountain pipeline. The suffering it has inflicted on politicians in two provinces and prime ministers in two successive governments is without precedent, even in our long painful pipeline history.

Here the politics are especially cruel: if **Ottawa** does not more aggressively support the government of Alberta, Premier Rachel Notley - until now a useful friend and ally - is likely to be replaced by the hard-right Jason Kenney, a far more serious threat to Trudeau's re-election than Blandrew Scheer.

If Trudeau does overpower B.C.'s environmental objections, however, he risks losing a dozen or so B.C. Liberal MPs, a cohort essential to winning a new majority government. It is one of politics' binary choices between the excruciatingly painful and the simply unacceptable.All sides might have done a better job gaming out prospective responses years in advance, to find any forms of acceptable compromise. This was, given our history, a completely predictable 11-hour impasse.

Ironically, whether it is built before the next cycle of elections or not, Notley's vigorous defence of Alberta has taken **wind** out of Kenney's sails, who can now only promise to bellow louder as a response. The John Horgan government will need to find a face-saving way out, possibly in a spring election. But it is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who seems likely to be another, almost inevitable, pipeline victim today, like St. Laurent and his father before him.

In the ironies of political life, there is one solution that might have made this collision of interests avoidable. It is to have taken the oil across the Fraser **River** and through Washington State to an existing offtake port on the U.S. **West Coast**. This was the earlier planned route that almost killed the first pipeline to move oil from the Leduc oilfields to American markets.

B.C. Tory and Liberal MPs at the time were appalled at the suggestion of a non-B.C. route, demanding that the federal government force Standard Oil and

Bechtel to build the pipeline through their province. Such was their determination that the rerouting was made a condition of the enabling legislation that passed in March of 1951.

The name of the private legislation and its creation was: The Trans-Mountain Pipeline Act.

Robin V. Sears, a principal at Earnscliffe Strategy Group, was an NDP strategist for 20 years.

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Feds announce new rules to phase out coal, reduce natural gas | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca · Sat Feb 17 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The federal Liberal government says its new regulations to phase out power plants fired by coal and reduce natural gas will cost more than $2.2 billion, but potentially save the country billions more in reduced health care costs.

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Time for a pair of knuckledusters | Local News | Mountain View Gazette

www.mountainviewgazette.ca · Tue Feb 20 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

Guess what two words we'll no longer hear escape the premier's lips.

Here's a clue: the first one is social and the second is licence. Yep, that cute little catchphrase has run its predictable course and fallen victim to the mean-spirited selfishness of real politics.

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The B.C.-Alberta pipeline fight could undo our national climate plan - Macleans.ca

www.macleans.ca · Mon Feb 19 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

When you think about pipelines and climate change, you probably think about protesters trying to stop one in the name of the other. Since 2011, our news media has been full of images, from both north and south of the border, of exactly that.

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The perpetual perils of pipeline politics in Canada | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com · Sun Feb 18 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

It is amusing to hear warriors in the endless battles over pipeline approval jump up and down and shout about "the law," "the environment," "regulatory approval" or even "the Constitution."

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Brian Jean Guest Column: Canadians must start working for each other | Calgary Sun

calgarysun.com - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

The people of Fort McMurray are tough and resilient, but they've had enough of seeing politicians either work against them or kick them when they're down.

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Letter: Childish political nonsense - Penticton Western News

www.pentictonwesternnews.com - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

As much as I abhor political games, I find your editorial piece as nothing more than pandering to the local B.C. Wine producer community.

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Three Ontario solar companies challenge Trump's tariffs in court; The manufacturers argue that the White House has misinterpreted the findings of the International Trade Commission

theglobeandmail.com - Sun Feb 18 2018, 4:20pm ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn McCarthy
Reach: 1188000

Three **Canadian** **solar** manufacturers have gone to a U.S. federal court to challenge the Trump administration's recently imposed tariffs on imported panels, saying the trade penalties could force them out of business.

The **Ontario** companies - Silfab **Solar** Inc. of Mississauga; **Canadian** **Solar** Solutions Inc. of **Guelph**, and Heliene Inc. of Sault Ste. Marie - have asked the U.S. Court of International Trade for a ruling overturning the tariffs that President Donald Trump announced last month. A hearing date has been set for Feb 26.

Each of the companies manufactures crystalline silicon photovoltaic (CSPV) modules that are used in **solar** **energy** panels - both large **utility**-scale projects and rooftop installations - and each exports a significant portion of its product to the United States.

The companies' complaint says the tariffs will cause "immediate, severe and irreversible injury" to them.

"That tariff will make it prohibitively expensive for plaintiffs to import CSPV modules from Canada to the United States, and within weeks, it will compel plaintiffs to terminate employees, close manufacturing facilities, forego business opportunities, lose sales, and - in several cases - cease business entirely," an accompanying memo states.

Executives at Silfab and Heliene said they could not comment on the complaint because it is before the courts.

Canadian **Solar** - controlled by Chinese-based entrepreneur Shawn Qu - did not respond to a request for comment. The **Guelph**-based company, the only publicly traded company of the three, saw its share price drop from a January peak of US$17.30 prior to Mr. Trump's announcement to close Friday at US$15.73.

The President touted the **solar** tariffs as part of his administration's push to rebalance the American trade deficit and return manufacturing jobs to the United States. However, the U.S. **Solar Energy** Industries Association said the tariffs will put a serious dent in their members' business and projected it will cost 23,000 industry jobs, many in the **solar**-related manufacturing sector.

"This will hurt, not help, manufacturing," association spokesman Don Whitten said.

Several countries - including South Korea, China and Singapore - have filed complaints with the World Trade Organization, arguing the Trump administration's tariffs violated the international agreement. However, that process will take many months to conclude.

The **Canadian** companies sought relief from the Court of International Trade, which was established by Congress and is based in New York. The plaintiffs argue the Trump administration violated both the U.S. Trade Act and the U.S. NAFTA Implementation Act when it included the **Canadian** companies in the tariff measures.

The complaint, filed Feb. 7, argues the administration ignored the findings of the International Trade Commission (ITC), which found that global imports of **solar** photovoltaic cells were causing injury to U.S. manufacturers. However, the ITC concluded that **Canadian** companies had only a 2-per-cent share of the market, and did not significantly contribute to the domestic injury. As a result, it did not recommend tariffs against them.

However, in his Jan. 23 announcement , Mr. Trump included **Canadian** companies in his **plan** to impose a tariff of 30 per cent, declining over three years to 15 per cent, after which they would be eliminated.

The three **solar** companies originally focused on the **Ontario** market after the Liberal provincial government in 2009 passed the **Green Energy Act**, which includes domestic content requirements. However, that market slowed and they began relying on exports to the United States. They typically import the **solar** cells from Asia and build them into modules for **utility**-sized and rooftop installations.

Silfab is one of the largest manufacturers of **solar** PV modules in **North** America, with 170 employees at its Mississauga plant. Heliene employed more than 100 workers last year at its factory in Sault Ste. Marie, but that figure dropped to 78 employees in January after President Trump announced the tariffs.

The Canadians "have a sound basis for bringing a case," Los Angeles-based **energy** lawyer Allan Marks said in an interview. "There was a bit of a mismatch between what the ITC concluded in its injury finding and what the President did."

When he announced his decision, Mr. Trump made reference to the NAFTA negotiations currently under way between the United States, Canada and Mexico, which was also hit by tariffs on its refrigerator manufacturers.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Three **Ontario solar** companies challenge Trump's tariffs in court (www.theglobeandmail.com) The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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Farmers should make the decisions that affect farmers

The Sachem - Fri Feb 16 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $63
Reach: 6967 **Page:** 1

The 2.2 million people working in agri-food boosts **Ontario**'s rural and small town economy, and that of the entire province for that matter. As the Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, I co-chaired a provincial policy committee of farmers and others last winter. It wasn't hard to identify gaps left by the current government. While travelling Haldimand-Norfolk, farmers and small businesspeople tell me they need help, especially with the new minimum wage. We voted against Bill 148 and proposed 25 cents a year so we'd hit $15 by 2022. We advocate cutting business taxes by 28 per cent and income taxes by 22.5 per cent. Tax cuts create jobs. Outside urban areas, broadband access is only at 85 per cent - a gap we feel is long overdue for one-time funding of $100 million. **Natural gas** is one quarter the cost of **electricity**. We must enable privately-funded **natural gas** expansion to more communities. Rural and small town **Ontario** faces challenges when it comes to paying for and maintaining infrastructure. As well, like farming and business, municipalities are fed up with bureaucratic regulation and red tape. **Ontario** has 380,000 regulations; almost double that of some other provinces. As Opposition, we support supply-management, orderly marketing and risk management. We argue the risk management program cap be increased by $50 million, and unused portions roll over to the next year. As in Alberta and British Columbia, we are committed to rebating 80 per cent of the carbon price paid by greenhouses. By rebating the **Hydro** One dividend, putting a moratorium on new **renewable energy** contracts and renegotiating or cancelling existing contracts, we will save **Ontario** families 12 per cent on their **hydro** bill. This is over and above the existing 25 per cent **rebate**. Government must force **wind** project operators to track bat and bird deaths, and restore local planning authority over **renewable energy** projects. We will scrap the **Green Energy Act**. Government cancelled the slots at racetrack program, which gave tracks access to the revenue generated by on-track slot facilities. This saw 23,000 jobs lost and nearly 30,000 horses put down. We want to get horse racing back on track by creating a horse racing scratch ticket and by reviewing and fixing the sharing agreements between Woodbine and community tracks for off-track wagering revenue. Government ministries must be required to demonstrate a strong **public** need to encroach on private property rights. We commit to initiatives to cleaning up our Great Lakes, as well as taking action against sewage dumping into lakes and rivers. Urban and rural schools have closed all across **Ontario** without proper oversight or proper guidelines that take into account the local economic impact. We need a moratorium on all school closures until the funding formula is properly examined. Farmers and industry experts should play a key role in making the decisions that impact them the most. We need consultation on everything from the location and need for a new **Ontario** Food Terminal, to reducing red tape, and increasing farming in **northern Ontario**. **Ontario** needs a special agricultural task force with direct access to the Minister of Agriculture and the premier's office. Farmers should be making the decisions on issues that impact them. They are the experts in the agricultural field.

Toby Barrett is MPP for Haldimand-Norfolk

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