John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	January 20, 2017 9:01 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_Li st
Subject:	FW: OEB Morning News Summary - Friday, January 20, 2017

Good morning,

Here is the OEB news summary for Friday, Jan. 20.

OVERVIEW

CTV News' Paul Bliss reported on the Premier's comments during an Economic Club appearance on potentially looking at the delivery charge on electricity bills to provide more relief to consumers. Bliss says the delivery charge will either "get a makeover" or will be subsidized by general revenue. In her speech, Wynne referenced a conversation with a resident whose delivery charge makes up half of his bill, to which she responded with "that's not fair and that shouldn't be happening" and what people should really be paying for is the electricity they use. Bliss does conclude by saying there are many valid reasons that we pay the prices we do, so the government will be working with industry to find a solution.

The Toronto Sun also reported on the Premier's comments and indicated the Liberals will unveil a plan to address hydro costs before the next provincial budget. The article reports that the Premier acknowledged she is consistently hearing complaints about the delivery charge and that shifting some of the costs of the electricity system from consumers to the government might be an option.

Northcumberland Today published a letter to the editor about recent Lakefront Utilities application hearings where the writer says intervenors saved customers money and additional hearings were necessary because Lakefront's situation is different from previous OEB decisions. Lakefront originally requested a rate increase which would result in customers being billed $4,414,540 annually for delivery charges. This was an increase of 8.26% from the previously approved amount. Due to the efforts of the intervenors, the writer says, the annual increase was reduced to 4.48%.

The Ottawa Citizen and Ottawa Sun published letters to the editor criticizing green energy efforts in Ontario for driving up costs.

FLAGGED FOR DISCUSSION

**The following items will be discussed by the communications team on the daily media and issues call.*

- Coverage of Premier's Economic Club Speech

SOCIAL MEDIA

There are no major items of concern to report on social media this morning.

From: Infomart Newsletters
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7:28 AM
To: Jeff Blay
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, January 20, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Friday, January 20, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (**Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca**)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 14 Results

CTV Toronto: Wynne takes aim at delivery charge | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Premier pledges relief on hydro bill; Ontario woman met with Wynne after blasting rates on Facebook

Toronto Star - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value:$11,175
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

Ontario residents stressed by **hydro** bills can expect more relief by spring, Premier Kathleen Wynne said after meeting with a Windsor-area woman whose Facebook rant on **electricity** prices went viral. "We're going to come out ...

Hydro plan coming: QP

Ottawa Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value:$1,224
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A13

The Liberals will unveil a plan to address Ontario's sky-rocketing **hydro** costs before the next provincial budget, Premier Kathleen Wynne says. But just when that will be is still unclear. Wynne told Toronto business leaders during a ...

Intervenors saved Lakefront customers money, letter writer says

Northumberland Today.com - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Ken Strauss

Ad Value:$224
Reach: 23714 **Page:** A4

Editor: Lakefront Utilities has posted a summary of the recent **Ontario EnergyBoard** (**OEB**) hearings on their website and you published an article based on the contents. Although what Lakefront has written ...

Which Is It, Bob?

Ottawa Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Albert O'Connell

Ad Value: $241
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

Is it arrogance, ignorance or has he been away from the province for the last 13 years? Bob Chiarelli goes on about all the good the Liberals have done for this province and tells us to vote for them come election time or else ...

Green energy, hydro taxes are killing us

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Jan 20 2017
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Byline: Ron Whitehorne

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Premier Kathleen Wynne had a recent personal meeting with an Ontario farmer who stated that her hydro was unaffordable at $600 a month. The premier told this distraught woman that they were working very hard to find ways to lower ...

Hydrobill advice

Sudbury Star - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $266
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

With frustration over hydro bills at an all-time high, Green Economy North is gathering the experts to help local businesses find ways to save money. Understanding your hydro bill and what to do about it will take ...

Recommendations being ignored

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Elizabeth F. Marshall

Ad Value: $551
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

Again, we are hearing about people having to live on the brink of bankruptcy because of electricity costs. Even the Prime Minister has been confronted about his stand to bring in carbon taxes on energy - (we pay and gain ...

Friday the 13th may have finished Trudeau

Toronto Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Grant Lafleche

Ad Value: $2,854
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A17

The human species is a superstitious lot. Consider all the imaginary things we are afraid of. Black cats. Broken mirrors. Spilled salt. Friday the 13th. Unless you happen to be a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. Then you might have cause ...

Climate culprits

The Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Charles Ursenbach

Ad Value:$1,750
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A10

Jane Fonda's article illustrates how most **climate** activists are actually **climate**-**change** enablers. They attack governments and companies, while the **carbon** **footprint** is created by everyone who ...

Trudeau's challenges: Trump, taxes and energy; Policies must keep country competitive, retain jobs

The Hamilton Spectator - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Williamson

Ad Value:$3,482
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A11

When Justin Trudeau shuffled his federal cabinet last week, it signalled he's taking the next United States president seriously. Finding the right mix of people to work with White House officials is important. But government policies also matter. ...

Protesters disrupt Energy East Pipeline meeting - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Thu Jan 19 2017
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A consultation over converting a natural gas pipeline to carry crude oil through the region collapsed within 15 minutes on Thursday evening.

Power companies upgrade town supply to limit outages

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Wayne Lowrie

Ad Value:$734
Reach: 11983 **Page:** A1 / Front

Eastern Ontario **Power** and **Hydro** **One** will invest $806,000 in the next two years to improve the supply of **electricity** to this west Leeds County town. Jie Han, vice-president of operations for EOP, said the ...

Ombudsman called on to investigate C-K; Water Wells First wants to see if municipality negligent; in conflict of interest

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value:$639
Reach: 15320 **Page:** A1 / Front

Was Chatham-Kent council and mayor negligent in jumping the gun about commenting on an Environmental Review Tribunal held this last fall regarding the North Kent **Wind** 1 project? That's what the citizen group Water Wells First plans to ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

[CTV Toronto: Wynne takes aim at delivery charge | CTV News](www.ctvnews.ca)

www.ctvnews.ca - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral

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Premier pledges relief on hydro bill; Ontario woman met with Wynne after blasting rates on Facebook

Toronto Star - Fri Jan 20 2017
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Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

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Reach: 361323 **Page:** B1

Ontario residents stressed by **hydro** bills can expect more relief by spring, Premier Kathleen Wynne said after meeting with a Windsor-area woman whose Facebook rant on **electricity** prices went viral.

"We're going to come out with what we can do before the budget," Wynne pledged during an hour-long chat with Libby Keenan of Amherstburg, who is $230 in arrears on her bill and feared her **electricity** would be cut off.

Keenan left the meeting in Wynne's office pleased after a "very productive conversation," although no new promises were made.

Energy Minister Glen Thibeault said last month that new aid would not be held back until the budget and decreed no one's **electric** service would be cancelled during the cold winter months.

"This has not taken marching up and down, threatening tear **gas** or anything else in the streets," said Keenan, who owns a small horse farm. "This is the most polite revolution I've ever seen in my life … It was worth the drive."

Keenan said she made the point that many people can't afford to retrofit their homes to qualify for rebates on renovations and upgrades that could reduce their **electricity** bills, and was critical of the $4-million salary paid to new **Hydro** One chief executive Mayo Schmidt.

"I don't care if you're the pope, you don't deserve $4 million a year."

Wynne said she's taking Keenan's views "into account" during a small portion of the meeting reporters were allowed to observe.

Keenan's self-styled "rant" on Facebook earlier this month garnered about 22,000 shares, 12,000 comments and an offer of a meeting with Wynne, whose government is feeling the heat over skyrocketing **hydro rates** in the last few years.

"You are ruining this province," Keenan wrote of the premier.

"When you have drained every last one of us of any ability whatsoever to pay ever more fees, taxes, tolls, renewals, insurance where are you going to fill your lust for our hard earned money then!!!!!"

Wynne reiterated that it is not acceptable for some Ontarians to be struggling so much with **hydro** bills, on which all **ratepayers** are now getting an 8-per-cent break through the waiving of the 8-per-cent provincial portion of the 13-per-cent **HST**.

That kicked in Jan. 1 and Thibeault said utility customers seeing only small rebates of the tax on their hydro bills so far this month should not think they're being shortchanged.

"You'll see a small portion on the bill if you got it a couple of days ago or last week, let's say, because that bill was mostly for the month of December," he told reporters earlier in the day.

"We're telling everyone to wait until the end of this month because the 8 per cent will then apply to the January bill. There's nothing to panic about."

Several readers have contacted the Star recently with questions about the instant tax rebate, with one calling it a "colossal charade" and another "a joke."

New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns said it's good that Wynne got a first-hand briefing from an electricity consumer, even though there were no details of any new assistance.

"I didn't hear a lot new … I'm glad Ms. Keenan had her chance to talk with the premier. I'm sure she brought a lot of reality into that office."

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Hydro plan coming: QP

Ottawa Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $1,224
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A13

The Liberals will unveil a plan to address Ontario's sky-rocketing hydro costs before the next provincial budget, Premier Kathleen Wynne says.

But just when that will be is still unclear.

Wynne told Toronto business leaders during a speech Thursday to the Economic Club of Canada that her government has to create opportunities and make life more affordable in Ontario. Again echoing signals she has sent in recent months, she said part of that will be a new plan to address the cost of hydro.

"Electricity is a good example, something I've spent a lot of time on as premier because, frankly, we got that balance wrong," she said.

The hydro system, Wynne said, was a mess when the Liberals took government and they had to do something about it.

"There are no more blackouts," she said. "No more smog days, but the cost of the changes has burdened people in every corner of Ontario."

Though the premier said a plan to deal with the hydro is coming before the next provincial budget, no date has been set for the release of the 2017 spending package. Pressed by reporters for more details of her plan after the speech, Wynne was tightlipped.

Progressive Conservative economic development critic Monte McNaughton said Wynne's candour about her government's hydro file failings is "too little too late."

"I think this is all about posturing for the next election in 16 months," he said.

Wynne said that in recent weeks she has spent time each day on the phone with regular Ontarians who have written her to express their anger and frustration over electricity rates.

"I want to hear about what they're going through, and I want them to know that I am listening," she said.

She acknowledged that she is consistently hearing complaints about the **hydro** delivery charge and that shifting some of the costs of the **electricity** system from consumers to the government might be an option.

"There have been decisions made about what would be paid on the **rate** base, in other words, what would go on people's **electricity** bills, and what would be paid out of general revenue, government revenue," she said. "We have to look at whether we've got that balance right as well." sjeffords@postmedia.com

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Intervenors saved Lakefront customers money, letter writer says

Northumberland Today.com - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Ken Strauss

Ad Value: $224
Reach: 23714 **Page:** A4

Editor: Lakefront Utilities has posted a summary of the recent **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) hearings on their website and you published an article based on the contents.

Although what Lakefront has written is true as far as it goes, their omissions are misleading in our opinion.

The additional hearings were necessary because Lakefront's situation is different from previous **OEB** decisions. Lakefront admits to spending $15,000 on legal opinions to support their case so they must not have considered the decision a slam-dunk unworthy of wasting their time. If the situation were as clear as Lakefront claims there would have been no need for additional legal work to bolster their case.

Lakefront claims that the intervenors asked for reimbursement of $8,000 in costs for the additional hearing with the implication that the Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) asked for a third of this amount. The reality is that the CTA requested reimbursement of only $72 for a Freedom of Information Request.

As a result of the intervention by the Cobourg Taxpayers Association, **Energy** Probe and VECC, the approved increase is only $0.88 per month. This is a 23.5% decrease from Lakefront's original $1.15 request. These amounts look trivial when stated in dollars per month per customer. However, when considered across Lakefront's 9000+ customers the numbers are large.

Lakefront originally requested a **rate** increase which would result in customers being billed $4,414,540 annually for delivery charges. This was an increase of 8.26% from the previously approved amount. Due to the efforts of the intervenors the annual increase was reduced to 4.48%. Over the next four years Lakefront's customers will save $617,712 due to our efforts.

Ken Strauss

Cobourg

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Which Is It, Bob?

Ottawa Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Albert O'Connell

Ad Value: $241
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

Is it arrogance, ignorance or has he been away from the province for the last 13 years? **Bob Chiarelli** goes on about all the good the Liberals have done for this province and tells us to vote for them come election time or else lose it all.

Does he not realize the fiascos imposed on Ontarians by the fiscal incompetence of his government? Does he not realize that some Ontarians are now paying more for their **hydro** than on their mortgages? Does he not realize that his party's **Green Energy Act** is a disaster? The cancelling of coal-powered plants has done nothing for the environment.

I truly believe it is arrogance on his part.

ALBERT O'CONNELL CORNWALL

(Ah, the blinders of partisanship.)

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Green energy , hydro taxes are killing us

Ottawa Citizen - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ron Whitehorne

Ad Value: $1,136
Reach: 114846 **Page:** A9

Premier Kathleen Wynne had a recent personal meeting with an Ontario farmer who stated that her **hydro** was unaffordable at $600 a month.

The premier told this distraught woman that they were working very hard to find ways to lower **hydro rates**.

I think the main reason for the exorbitant cost of **hydro** is the green **energy** policy that involves unaffordable, unreliable **wind** and **solar** farms, artificially subsidized by the global adjustment fee.

I'm a resident of the small town of Almonte, where all our **power** is supplied by two **hydro** generators with a third presently under construction.

Even with this, my **hydro** is too costly.

My recent invoice for **hydro** was $223: $47 was the **hydro** used, the global adjustment fee was $102, and the rest were additional taxes. I live in a 900-sq.-ft. apartment and shudder to think what it might be if I were living in a house.

Ron Whitehorne

Almonte

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Hydro bill advice

Sudbury Star - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $266
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

With frustration over **hydro** bills at an all-time high, Green Economy North is gathering the experts to help local businesses find ways to save money. Understanding your **hydro** bill and what to do about it will take place on Monay from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the TownePlace Sites, 1710 The Kingsway. Lunch is included and seats are limited. For more information or to prchase tickets, visit greeneconomynorth.ca. Hoste by Green Economy North, Sudbury's sustainability program for bsiness, participants will learn more about the charges on their bills, an where they can make changes that will save them money. This event is the latest in the program's Sustainable Business workshop series,esigne to support Sudbury businesses transition to the low-carbon economy. Green Economy North is hosting presenters from Greater Sudbury Hy?ro, Hy?ro One an the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce to share their expertise. Business operators will learn what aspects of a hyro bill are in their control, an will hear about incentives and projects that can rece ay-to-ay operating costs. Sbry-base **energy** management and **renewable energy** providers will also be on-han to present the latest **energy**-saving technology.

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Recommendations being ignored

The Intelligencer

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Elizabeth F. Marshall

Ad Value: $551
Reach: 9723 **Page:** A6

Again, we are hearing about people having to live on the brink of bankruptcy because of **electricity** costs. Even the Prime Minister has been confronted about his stand to bring in carbon taxes on **energy** - (we pay and gain nothing). But this isn't about Trudeau and his cronies, this is about the failure of our provincial government over the past few decades.

The carbon tax the New Demo Progressive Con-Liberal Party wants was recommended in the report "Investing in People: Creating a Human Capital Society." The recommendation was "the province rely on market-based instruments for regulating environmental issues. The instruments include environmental taxes on emissions and user fees (such as on water and sewer use), both of which force individuals to confront the costs of environmental harm and consumption. Further, the province should continue to work towards use of marketable pollution permits..." So now we have a Global Adjustment Charge, carbon tax, environmental surcharge, and those taxes work their way through to the basic essentials of life - heat, food and water.

Following the **restructuring** of Ontario **Hydro** into **Ontario Power Generation** (**OPG**) and **Hydro** One, and with the **OPG** cost over-runs, and delays, of the Nuke-plants and **Hydro** One spending approximately $500 million acquiring local **electricity** distribution companies when that money should have been used to improve the infrastructure (grid/distribution) or pay down debt, what do we expect? Oh and don't forget the **gas**-plants or those pay-cheques and bonus'.

Now we have the failed contracts for **renewable energy**, the pricing not to pay these bills but to force us to conserve (see report), especially in the rural areas. And with the reports recommending the rural population be "encouraged" to move to the urban areas, do we really think this is about saving the environment? Just like the report says: "The province should consider providing appropriate transitional arrangements, such as those aimed at retraining for those willing to pursue opportunities beyond their home community."

Our cities are unsustainable, so what exactly is government doing? Don't ask - they don't know. It hasn't been recommended yet - or has it?

Elizabeth F. Marshall

Director of research Ontario Landowners' Association

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Friday the 13th may have finished Trudeau

Toronto Sun - Fri Jan 20 2017
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The human species is a superstitious lot.

Consider all the imaginary things we are afraid of.

Black cats. Broken mirrors. Spilled salt. Friday the 13th.

Unless you happen to be a member of the Liberal Party of Canada. Then you might have cause for dread.

Because Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, might be the day the Liberals lost the next federal election.

True, the election isn't until 2019.

True, the leaderless Conservatives don't have the necessary focus to form a government.

For the moment, these factors favour Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

But his handling of a question from a grandmother worried about rising **energy** costs on Friday the 13th reveals an attitude that may undo the Liberals.

During a town-hall event in Peterborough, Kathy Katula pleaded with Trudeau to do something about the rising costs of **energy**.

She works 15 hours a day to earn $50,000 a year and is being crushed by her **hydro** bill.

Once her **energy** bill and mortgage are paid each month, she has a scant $65 left to feed her family.

How can she be expected to carry the costs of a carbontax, she asked.

Walk into any food bank in Ontario and you'll hear the same story.

Rising **energy** costs are forcing many to choose between paying for **hydro** or buying groceries - a scandalous situation in a nation of such wealth.

Trudeau sympathized with Katula's plight, saying she should be focused on spoiling her grandchildren, not struggling to make ends meet.

Here was his moment to show not just empathy but to demonstrate Ottawa will stand with Canada's most vulnerable citizens. He blew it.

Trudeau explained Canada must show leadership on the issue of **climate** change and a carbon tax is the way to go.

And, since **energy** costs are a provincial responsibility, he passed the buck to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne.

He offered nothing to a struggling grandmother living in **energy** poverty.

No solutions. No ideas. No hope.

He could have said he would examine policies to protect people like Katula, or taken the issue directly to Queen's Park.

Instead, Trudeau gave her a hug. But hugs don't keep the lights on.

With that response, Trudeau has bared his throat to the Tories.

The Conservative leadership campaign is currently dominated by a candidate flirting with Trump-style politics of division and a reality-TV star banking on his celebrity status to win votes.

Yet both Kellie Leitch and Kevin O'Leary could defeat Trudeau in a general election.

To understand why, just look at what happened in America.

There are many reasons why Donald Trump won the presidency.

Chief among them was the failure of Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton to engage and understand those Americans for whom the Great Recession never ended.

Trump, for all his racially divisive, sexist and stupid statements, spoke directly to those voters.

His message was, "I hear you. I stand with you."

In his response to Katula, Trudeau is making the same mistake Clinton did.

Trudeau's response, to say nothing of his lavish New Years with the Aga Khan, bespeaks a profound misreading of the political waters in which he swims.

Canadians pitched former PM Stephen Harper to the curb in large measure because they felt he was out of step with their view of the country.

Trudeau may suffer the same fate, for the same reason, if he cannot learn to walk with those Canadians who need help the most.
grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca @grantrants

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Climate culprits

The Globe and Mail - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Charles Ursenbach

Ad Value: $1,750
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A10

Jane Fonda's article illustrates how most **climate** activists are actually **climate**-change enablers.

They attack governments and companies, while the **carbon footprint** is created by everyone who drives a car, lives in a warm house, consumes beef and dairy, or flies in an airplane. By ignoring basic concepts of supply and demand, activists comfortingly turn the finger of blame away from the real **climate** culprit: you.

- Charles Ursenbach, Calgary

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Trudeau's challenges: Trump, taxes and energy ; Policies must keep country competitive, retain jobs

The Hamilton Spectator - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Williamson

Ad Value: $3,482
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A11

When Justin Trudeau shuffled his federal cabinet last week, it signalled he's taking the next United States president seriously. Finding the right mix of people to work with White House officials is important. But government policies also matter.

Our prime minister will need to do more to keep Canada competitive and protect Canadian jobs.

Donald Trump is ready to upend U.S. policy on everything from trade to defence treaties to immigration. But the president-elect's domestic proposals on taxes and **energy** are Canada's greater challenges.

The Trump administration intends to move quickly to cut the business tax **rate** from 35 to 15 per cent. Add the four per cent average corporate tax applied by state and local governments and the new U.S. tax **rate** could soon effectively be a cool 19 per cent, about eight points lower than Canada's 27 per cent average when federal and provincial **rates** are combined.

Our country's tax advantage is coming to a sudden end. As a result, we should expect businesses will invest more in the United States and less in Canada, where higher costs exist.

This brings us to **energy**. Trudeau wants all provinces to put a price on carbon, directly with a carbon tax or indirectly with **cap-and-trade** regulations. If the provinces don't, Trudeau will impose a carbon tax. The impact of either strategy is the same: more expensive for Canadians to get around, heat their homes and keep the lights on. Pricing carbon will increase the cost of almost everything, including food.

A typical Canadian family will likely pay more than $1,200 a year in new **energy** taxes by 2022 - and twice that if Ottawa decides to apply its new tax aggressively.

Meanwhile, U.S. **ratepayers** face no carbon tax. And American **energy** costs will likely fall as Trump repeals President Barack Obama's executive orders restricting the extraction and use of fossil fuels.

What's Ottawa's response to all this?

Trudeau says Canada could win if the incoming president rejects plans to make U.S. **energy** more expensive. He told a Calgary business audience last month, "We know that this is the way the world is going and if the United States wants to take a step back from it, quite frankly, I think we should look at that as an extraordinary opportunity for Canada and for Canadians."

It's a brave face - but does it make sense?

Trump's **energy** policies twinned with deep tax cuts will reduce Canada's competitiveness.

Canadian policy-makers, and the prime minister, don't have to like this change and may privately curse it. But our federal and provincial governments can't pretend Trump's policy agenda won't have any impact on the economy when Canadian jobs are at risk.

Canada's **energy** sector is already concerned that government policy will soon put our country at a competitive disadvantage, and that investment and jobs will move to the U.S.

In Ontario, some businesses are already eyeing nearby U.S. states with more affordable **energy** prices.

Canada's long-term growth depends on its businesses remaining competitive. Affordable **energy** is part of the mix, along with reasonable tax **rates**. Likewise, the prosperity of Canadian families is impacted by the price of home heating fuels, **power** and **gas**. Dramatic price increases leave households poorer, while inexpensive **energy** would mean households have more income for other things.

With Canadian energy prices set to increase relative to U.S. prices, there will soon be an additional cost to Canada's carbon policy. That price is less investment and lost jobs. Lower U.S. taxes will only compound the problem.

Canadian workers and businesses can't afford such a shift.

The Trudeau government's next move should be to overhaul its carbon pricing plan to account for the policy shift south of the border. Canada needs a strategy that doesn't penalize businesses and ordinary Canadians.

John Williamson is president of Canadians for Affordable Energy. Distributed by Troy Media

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Protesters disrupt Energy East Pipeline meeting - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Thu Jan 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

A consultation over converting a natural gas pipeline to carry crude oil through the region collapsed within 15 minutes on Thursday evening.

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Power companies upgrade town supply to limit outages

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Wayne Lowrie

Ad Value: $734
Reach: 11983 **Page:** A1 / Front

Eastern Ontario Power and Hydro One will invest $806,000 in the next two years to improve the supply of electricity to this west Leeds County town.

Jie Han, vice-president of operations for EOP, said the work would begin this year and be done by the end of 2018 after town council gave its blessing to the plans this week.

Once finished, the upgrades would not end the possibility of the town-wide blackouts that have plagued Gananoque, but they would reduce their duration, according to a power company analysis presented to council. During the 16-month period from February 2015 to August 2016, the town was blacked out for a total of 38 hours in seven outages. The changes proposed by the power companies would have cut the duration of the blackouts in half, to about 18 hours, the companies estimate.

The unreliable electrical service has outraged Gananoque residents and business owners, who said the blackouts cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost revenue.

In response, Mayor Erika Demchuk and Shellee Fournier, chief administrative officer, set up a town hall meeting with power officials in September to get answers from them and to allow residents to vent. Following the meeting, Hydro One and EOP officials agreed to form a committee with local politicians, including MPP Steve Clark and MP Gord Brown, to explore options. The recommendations presented to council were the product of the committee's deliberations.

Fournier described the proposed upgrades as a comprise to the more expensive options of building a feeder line to provide a backup to the town.

The power companies' upgrades would see new "tie" switches installed on Joyceville Road at a cost of $106,000, which would be paid by EOP. The work could be done this year, Han said.

A second initiative would see the **power** companies spending $700,000 to upgrade 7.5 kilometres of **power** lines and poles along John F. Scott Road in Kingston. The old **power** line was reaching the end of its useful life and was due to be replaced anyway, Han said. A new line could be installed by the end of 2018, he said.

Together, the measures could cut the duration of outages to Gananoque in half, the EOP estimated.

Fournier praised EOP for listening to the towns' concerns and responding with "real dollars, real investment and real solutions." She said beauty of the proposed upgrades is that they can be covered within the **power** companies' existing budgets, meaning they won't have to go through the lengthy process of getting **Ontario Energy Board** approval.

EOP distributes **Hydro** One **power** to Gananoque via a single transmission line that runs from Kingston along Highway 2. If one of those poles catches fire or is hit by a car, **power** to the town can be knocked out for hours - as happened several times during the 16-months of sporadic outages. For example, a pole fire on John F. Scott Road last August blacked out Gananoque for 9½ hours.

Residents at the town hall meeting last September argued that the only sure way to assure the supply of **power** to Gananoque would be construction of a backup feeder line from either Brockville or Kingston.

The committee examined those options, but found them too costly. The best option from a securityof-supply standpoint would be a 16.3-km feeder line to connect Gananoque into Brockville's **power** system. While the best option, it is also the most expensive: $11.4 million.

The option of a backup feeder line from Kingston would be cheaper - about $6.4 million - but it wouldn't protect the town if the **power** was disrupted at source, say, by a fire a Kingston transmission station. And since it would use some existing poles, it would be vulnerable to a fire or car accident.

Han said that because town council seems okay with the proposed upgrades, EOP will proceed to negotiate with **Hydro** One for the work.

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Chatham Daily News

Ombudsman called on to investigate C-K; Water Wells First wants to see if municipality negligent; in conflict of interest

The Chatham Daily News - Fri Jan 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ellwood Shreve

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Was Chatham-Kent council and mayor negligent in jumping the gun about commenting on an Environmental Review Tribunal held this last fall regarding the North Kent **Wind** 1 project? That's what the citizen group Water Wells First plans to find out in requesting Ontario's Ombudsman investigate the municipality for negligence in performing their duties of office.

Water Wells First spokesperson Kevin Jakubec, who was the appellant in the ERT, said before the formal conclusion of the tribunal's mediation process, Mayor Randy Hope and chief legal officer John Norton made statements to the press that compared his documents to those in the Golder Report, prepared by Golder Associates, the consultant for the North Kent **Wind** 1 developer.

Jakubec sought the ERT because Water Wells First believe vibrations from the construction of **wind** turbines in Dover Township have damaged water wells in the area by causing particles of heavy metals from the Kettle Point black shale formation to show up ground water. The group fears since the North Kent **Wind** project is being built on the same aquifer over the Kettle Point black shale formation, similar damage will be caused to water wells in the Chatham Township area.

Jakubec said the complaint to the ombudsman's office is based on the fact Hope and Norton stated the municipality agrees with the finding of the Golder Report that concludes there is very little risk to the aquifer from the piledriven construction of the **turbine** foundations.

Not only were the statements made before the formal conclusion of the mediation process, Jakubec said at no time has council or the mayor brought forward an independent geologist review of the Golder Report.

"Had they done so, they would have found the Golder Report is critically flawed," Jakubec said, noting the bedrock described in the Golder Report is not the Kettle Point black shale formation, which is known to contain heavy metals such as arsenic, mercury, lead and uranium.

He said Water Wells First also wants the ombudsman to determine if there is a conflict of interest since the municipality is receiving millions of dollars in host community fees and has a stakeholder position in this **wind** farm.

When asked about this action, Mayor Randy Hope said, "I have no opinion," adding the group has a right to contact the ombudsman.

When asked about the possibility of Chatham-Kent being in a conflict of interest, the mayor declined comment.

As part of this announcement, the media were called to the Dover Township-area home of Water Wells First member Peter Hensel who shared the results of a recent water analysis done on his water well.

He noted he was advised to get an analysis done on his water back in 2012, prior to **wind** turbines being constructed near his home.

"Almost all the elements that were tested are higher in my 2016 analysis then they were in the 2012 analysis," he said.

Hensel said arsenic is up about 10 times from the 2012 result, lead up 13 times, selenium about 25 times and uranium levels are up 500 times higher.

He said the municipality, Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change, and **wind** companies question the quality of the analysis that was done on his water in 2012. He noted it was done by Ken Wade, a local water well **driller** and sent to Well Wise, a laboratory recognized by the Ontario Ground Water Association.

"How dare they question those results when none of them had the foresight to get a base level to determine if any damage was taking place by having 1,540 spiels driven through the aquifer in our general area," Hensel said.
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