John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	February 6, 2017 10:32 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_Li st
Subject:	FW: Morning News Clippings - Monday, February 6, 2017 - UPDATED - GLOBAL NEWS re Brantford Power under investigation by Ontario Energy Board

Global News. Brantford Power under investigation by Ontario Energy Board
Story by Brian Hill of Global News on Brantford Power and their customer Mr. Jim Dinsmore. Story concerns the disconnection notice sent to Mr. Dinsmore and the subsequent OEB review of how Brantford Power followed or did not follow the rules as set out by the OEB.

From: John Bozzo
Sent: February-06-17 8:32 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Ceiran Bishop; Christine Long; Corinne Carvalho; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: FW: Morning News Clippings - Monday, February 6, 2017

Good Morning.

Here is the OEB news summary for Friday Feb 6.

OVERVIEW

Todays coverage is dominated by various articles looking at the makeup of the hydro bill in Ontario and questioning the size of hydro charges for electricity use relative to the overall size of the bill. This includes an item from QP Briefing that brings into profile the ongoing debate between Premier Wynne and Conservative Leadership candidate, Kevin O'Leary concerning hydro rates in Ontario. There is also ongoing coverage of the executive compensation issue for OPG in the province.

Toronto Star. Rural Ontario hydro users hoping for deliverance from high bills
Article by Rob Ferguson on how a cottager used only $1.30 or electricity but paid more than $82.53 in other charges. The article then goes on to look at a wide variety of sources on similar questions about the balance of charges on Hydro bills and highlights that the delivery charge is higher in Northern Ontario because of the distance and density issues of a rural and remote environment.

QP Briefing. Happening: Kevin O'Leary resumes letter writing campaign with his Ontario pen pal
Article on the latest chapter in the Facebook debate between Kevin O'Leary and Kathleen Wynne and Mr. O'Leary's description of an Ontario farmer with a $71,000+ hydro bill. He notes that the bill highlights only $5,171 of electricity charges and that the remainder are delivery charges and taxes.

CBC.ca Ontario Energy Board introduce new rules regarding energy retailers
Article shares content from OEB news release on ECPA rule changes that came into effect on January 1, to protect consumer in relation to energy retailer practices.

Focus for discussion

- Toronto Star and other Hydro Bill articles

Tweets

JPaulBiss: Are #conservation & #renewableenergy to blame for hydro prices? New report breaks it down @envirodefence #ONclimate ow.ly/jNju308BHg5
https://twitter.com/AtmosphericFund/status/827502340211167232

An Ontario mayor is frustrated over Ontario's rising energy costs. ow.ly/97ZK308A63q
https://twitter.com/ApplewoodAirLTD/status/827518368374734848

JaclineNyman: Thank you @Kathleen_Wynne for progressive exploration of #Energy #Poverty issues and solutions. Strong #Ontario for all #WeArePossibility
https://twitter.com/JaclineNyman/status/827561099146969089

dannypTO: #Ontario over produces energy, still too expensive. Liberals fail at supply and demand.
https://twitter.com/dannypTO/status/827574765330300928

armchairqbpod: this week, we try to decipher Ontario energy prices with @vgasparro and @btaplatt: looniepolitics.com/podcast/ep-2-a… #onpoli #cdnpoli
https://twitter.com/armchairqbpod/status/827594205023334400

From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 7:31 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, February 6, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, February 6, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 28 Results

Ontario Energy Board introduce new rules regarding energy retailers - Kitchener-Waterloo - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is introducing new rules to better protect homeowners and small businesses when dealing with energy retailers.

Lawsuit adds new wrinkles to Kathleen Wynne's foolhardy Hydro One privatization scheme: Walkom

thestar.com - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Thomas Walkom(https://author.thestar.com/»)
Reach: 999000

Kathleen Wynne is trying to shut down a lawsuit challenging her plans to privatize **Hydro One**. The Ontario premier would be wiser to simply abandon her foolhardy scheme altogether. Of all the maladroit moves Wynne has made as ...

'It's crazy,' cottage owner says of shocking hydro delivery charge

Toronto Star - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $17,507
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A1

Toronto resident Nick Pemberton used $1.30 worth of **electricity** at his Muskoka cottage in the fall - and paid **Hydro One** $82.53 to deliver it. "It's not a particularly overwhelming bill. It's just silly," said ...

Rising hydro rates hurting local curling clubs | CTV Ottawa News

ottawa.ctvnews.ca - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Rising hydro rates in the province of Ontario are hurting local curling clubs already suffering from a drop in membership.

Dobbyn meets with premier on 'energy poverty' | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, February 5, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

Francesca Dobbyn says there isn't one cure-all solution to Ontario's energy poverty problem.

Power rates zap budgets; Increases are higher than savings through conservation, mayor says

Windsor Star - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Sacheli

Ad Value: $4,836
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A6

Skyrocketing **electricity** costs in Kingsville - and everywhere else in the province - are showing up on property tax bills in unprecedented ways. The town of 8,700 households is trying to pare down a proposed property tax increase of ...

Millbrook Arena's high Hydro bill was most read story of the past week at myKawartha.com

Peterborough This Week - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $10
Reach: 47038

Here is our weekly look at the five most read stories of the past week at myKawartha.com 1) **Electricity** Use at Millbrook Arena Accounts for Seven Per Cent of $11,000 **Hydro Bill** 2) Peterborough Mom Accused of Striking ...

Are you smarter than a Liberal?; Take our new quiz and find out!

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $1,678
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A16

Hey, kids, in honour of Ontario Liberal cabinet minister Liz Sandals' now apologized for remark that GO train riders are unexceptional compared to top Ontario public servants, let's play a new game today! I call it: Are you smarter than a Liberal ...

PC party should offer a solid hydro plan

Peterborough Examiner - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Marc Dodsworth

Ad Value: $161
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

Once again we hear from the Tories about the how bad **hydro** prices and the impact they are having on people's lives. We know that. What people want to know is what the Conservatives plan to about it upon taking office and whether their ...

Brown Would Level Lhins; Ontario PC leader critical of how Liberals have handled health care

The Sault Star - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Brian Kelly

Ad Value: $1,167
Reach: 17077 **Page:** A1 / Front

Local Health Integration Networks could be on the chopping block if Patrick Brown leads his Progressive Conservative party to victory in the provincial election in 2018. The Tory leader, in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday to officially open candidate ...

Focus Ontario | Watch Focus Ontario News Program Online - Full Episodes

globalnews.ca - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, February 5, 2017
See video at 3:37 mark.

On this week's Focus Ontario, how soaring hydro prices have put community rinks on thin ice. Valentines day comes early thanks to a puppy named Cupid — why it's melting hearts across the province. And, an awkward meeting at

Queen's Park over ...

Wynne cracks down on salary hikes; Premier calls for modesty in all public-sector pay raises

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value:$14,071
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A8

Public agencies, such as **Ontario Power Generation** and community colleges pushing huge raises for their bosses are "gaming the system" as a five-year pay freeze comes to an end, Premier Kathleen Wynne says. Her ...

OPG pay raises not such a bright idea

Toronto Star - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$4,951
Reach: 315452 **Page:** A14

Province OKs $8M in hikes for **OPG** brass, Feb. 1 Ask how the folks living in the dark because they aren't even able to pay the **hydro** delivery charge, let alone the usage fee, feel. The lights are shining bright at the ...

Tone down pay hike, Wynne tells OPG

Toronto Sun - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value:$874
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A4

Premier Kathleen Wynne says **Ontario Power Generation** must come up with a more reasonable salary range than the $3.8-million cap it arrived at for the CEO. Her comments to The Canadian Press come after her government ...

When greed rules the day; Bureaucrats keep pushing for higher salaries

Toronto Sun - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Andre Marin

Ad Value:$3,216
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A13

Last week, in this space, I shone the light on greedy college presidents licking their chops as they proposed to give themselves massive salary increases by well over $100,000, or 50% more than what they are currently earning. College presidents' ...

Liz Sandals causes another Liberal train wreck

Toronto Sun - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value:$2,376
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A17

Senior Ontario Liberal cabinet minister Liz Sandals says most of the people who ride on the Go Train don't have exceptional talent. Below is exactly what she said, after she was asked by the media Thursday what people who ride the Go Train should ...

Toss 'Em

Ottawa Sun - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Klaus Tiefenbrunner

Ad Value:$143
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

This Liberal Wynne government is a cancer rotting this province from the inside out. High youth unemployment, outrageous proposed public service salary increases, **cap and trade** (read tax hike), reduced health ...

Cut Their Pay

Toronto Sun - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Wayne D. Crawford

Ad Value:$662
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

In a free and competitive marketplace, compensation is typically based upon performance, innovation, cost benefit analysis, etc. College presidents, **hydro** and Metrolinx CEOs are seeking astronomical increases. I believe merit pay should ...

MPP Leal is out of touch with real Ontario issues

Peterborough Examiner - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kevin Elson

Ad Value:$226
Reach: 13988 **Page:** A4

Once again Jeff Leal proves how out of touch with reality he really is. As Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs it is extremely disappointing that Leal does not stand up for rural Ontarians who are suffering under his government's ...

Feeling powerless

London Free Press - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Harry Dougherty

Ad Value:$738
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A11

Regarding Brian Platt's column More **hydro** reforms - what could go wrong? (Jan. 27). Since Exeter's PUC was sold to **Hydro One** in September 2001, our **hydro rates** have increased from 9.8 cents to ...

BlackburnNews.com - Union Gas Pleased With Natural Gas Grant Program

blackburnnews.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Friday, February 3, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

The province is going to spend $100-million to help Ontario’s rural communities get off electric heat. That’s good news for Union Gas.

Stick To The Facts

Orillia Packet & Times - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Fred Larsen

Ad Value: $154
Reach: 6139 **Page:** A4

Re: "Comment half-baked: company," Jan. 28 It looks like Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown, in his zeal to attack the Ontario Liberal government, has resorted to Ontario's version of the Trump administration's "alternative facts" (or ...

Trudeau part of problem

London Free Press - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Harvey Easton

Ad Value: $645
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A11

The recent announcement of layoffs at the CAMI Ingersoll plant should not surprise anyone. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was interviewed by The London Free Press on Jan. 21, 2015 and was asked what the most pressing issue for Southern Ontario was. ...

National Energy Board to Review Energy East | Pipeline Technology Journal

www.pipeline-journal.net - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Energy East, the proposed 4,500-kilometre $15.7 billion pipeline that would carry more than a million barrels a day of Canadian crude from Alberta to refineries and an export terminal in St. John, will be reviewed once again by the Canadian National ...

Canada's oilpatch needs new customers. Who's willing to buy? - Business - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, February 4, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

There's no question that the United States likes Canadian oil. Our exports south of the border hit a record in 2015 and are poised to do the same for 2016.

U.S. FERC approves ETP Rover natgas pipeline from Penn to Ontario | Reuters

www.reuters.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

U.S. energy regulators late on Thursday approved construction of Energy Transfer Partners LP's Rover natural gas pipeline from Pennsylvania to Ontario, according to a filing made available on Friday.

Back to square one | Kenora Daily Miner and News

www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The hearing process for the Energy East pipeline has restarted as the result of a legal motion filed by Transition Initiative Kenora (TIK) with the National Energy Board (NEB).

Proposed wind turbines will be significantly taller; Will be more efficient, say proponents

Sarnia Observer - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value:$494
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A3

The 12 **wind** turbines that are proposed for the Otter Creek **Wind** Farm, will be significantly taller than **wind** turbines already erected in Chatham-Kent. The **wind** farm, which is scheduled to be built north ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario Energy Board introduce new rules regarding energy retailers - Kitchener-Waterloo - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is introducing new rules to better protect homeowners and small businesses when dealing with energy retailers.

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Lawsuit adds new wrinkles to Kathleen Wynne's foolhardy Hydro One privatization scheme: Walkom

thestar.com - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Thomas Walkom(https://author.thestar.com/»)
Reach: 999000

Kathleen Wynne is trying to shut down a lawsuit challenging her plans to privatize **Hydro** One. The Ontario premier would be wiser to simply abandon her foolhardy scheme altogether.

Of all the maladroit moves Wynne has made as premier, privatizing **Hydro** One is the worst. It creates no economic benefit for the province. Nor does it help the government's finances.

In fact, as the Financial Accountability Officer and others have pointed out, the loss of lucrative **Hydro** One dividends will ultimately cost the provincial treasury more than it gains.

Politically, the sale of 60 per cent of Ontario's public **electricity** transmission monopoly to private interests can only remind voters of how badly the **hydro** file has been botched.

There is no upside.

Given all of this it is puzzling the government has been so dismissive of a civil lawsuit launched by the Canadian Union of Public Employees that accuses the government of wrongfully exercising its lawful authority and calls for the gradual privatization of Hydro One to be stopped.

Instead of countering the union's legal case with facts, the Wynne government has asked the courts to dismiss it out of hand.

The government's key argument is that the courts have no business second-guessing lawful ministerial actions. The government also insists that if ministers have acted contrary to the Members' Integrity Act, as the lawsuit alleges, then any remedy lies solely with their fellow legislators - not with judges.

Whether or not that claim is valid, it is odd to see a government so down in the polls trumpeting the sanctity of parliamentary privilege.

To read the plaintiffs' statement of claim is to relive the nuttiness that surrounded the Wynne government's about face on Hydro One.

First, the Liberals said they had no intention of privatizing the utility. A blue-ribbon advisory panel tasked with looking into government assets, agreed.

Then the Liberals changed their minds and said they would sell 60 per cent of Hydro One, effectively transforming it into a private monopoly. The blue ribbon panel obligingly agreed to that as well.

In December 2015, following the sale of the first chunk of Hydro One shares, the Liberal Party held an "appreciation" event to which they invited all those who had profited from the privatization. The 24 who showed up demonstrated their appreciation by donating $7,500 each to the Liberals.

Integrity Commissioner David Wake later ruled this was just fine, although he did hint that it might have looked bad.

Meanwhile, a host of reports pointed out that the Hydro One sell-off was a terrible deal for Ontario financially. Yes, it did free up $4 billion that the Liberals promised to spend on infrastructure.

But the loss of Hydro One dividends cost them more.

In addition to recounting old history, the plaintiffs make two interesting allegations. First they say the government cost taxpayers an extra $2.6 billion when it covered, on behalf of the future private owners of Hydro One, a key tax liability owed by the utility.

The details are complicated. But essentially, says the statement of claim, the government forgave a $2.6 billion tax bill owed it by Hydro One's new private owners.

Second, the plaintiffs say that in allocating the proceeds of the sale, the government cost business and industrial electricity users an additional $1.2 billion in so-called debt retirement charges that they should not have had to pay.

The government hasn't responded to any of these charges substantively. In effect it has said to both the courts and the plaintiffs: This is none of your business.

In legal circles such a strategy is probably clever. In politics it is not.

The Wynne government might want to remember that Hydro One is a huge, festering political sore - particularly in the countryside.

It also might want to remember that judges are hard to predict. In April 2002, another Ontario judge ruled that another attempt to privatize Hydro One - this time by a Conservative government - was illegal.

That ruling came as a surprise to most. Its legal effect was brief (the government just changed the law). But the political effect was enormous.

Already under attack for their handling of **electricity**, the Conservatives quickly backed away from plans to privatize **Hydro** One. They lost the next election anyway.

Oh yes. I almost forgot. CUPE, the union backstopping the current lawsuit was one of the plaintiffs in that 2002 case as well. Their lawyer, then as now, was public interest litigator Steven Shrybman.

Thomas Walkom appears Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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'It's crazy,' cottage owner says of shocking hydro delivery charge

Toronto Star - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $17,507
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A1

Toronto resident Nick Pemberton used $1.30 worth of **electricity** at his Muskoka cottage in the fall - and paid **Hydro** One $82.53 to deliver it.

"It's not a particularly overwhelming bill. It's just silly," said Pemberton, a computer programmer who stressed he is not looking for sympathy.

But like many Ontarians putting their **hydro** bills under the microscope - particularly rural homeowners clobbered by the punishing costs of **electric** heating in areas without **natural gas** service - he is looking for some answers.

"I posted it on Facebook as a joke. And then I heard from people who were paying $120 or $130 on delivery further away," said Pemberton, whose century-old family cottage is on Lake Joseph. "It's crazy."

As preposterous as a bill like that sounds, Premier Kathleen Wynne agrees it's no laughing matter.

"Every month, people in our communities are struggling to cover the total cost on their bills," she said.

Wynne acknowledges that distribution fees need a closer look as her government scrambles to defuse consumer anger and frustration.

"There are people in the province paying disproportionately high delivery charges," Wynne told reporters in Kitchener.

Typically, delivery fees are 30 to 40 per cent of a bill.

Based on the cost of building, maintaining and keeping transmission lines in good repair - **Hydro** One alone has 123,000 kilometres of wires carried on 88,000 towers over a service area twice the size of Texas - the fees can vary widely depending on where you live and how much **electricity** is used.

"One of the things I hear a lot about … is delivery charges. And so we're looking at what we can possibly do to lower delivery charges," the premier said. "We just have not landed on exactly what it is we're going to do."

Industry insiders say there is no "magic bullet," but possible solutions for easing bills include subsidizing the delivery fees through tax revenue, putting a share of expensive new sources of renewable **power** on the tax base instead of hitting **hydro ratepayers**, or equalizing delivery charges by raising them in cheaper -to-serve urban areas to offset costs for hard-hit customers in remote ones.

"We're one of the few systems that does this," Ferio Pugliese, hired from consumer -friendly WestJet last fall as **Hydro** One's executive vice-president of customer and corporate affairs, said of Ontario's patchwork of different regional delivery fees.

Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner favours equalizing delivery charges, meaning the overwhelming number of urban Ontarians who enjoy much cheaper **natural gas** heating would pay a little more to help ease the burden on rural residents with **electric** heat.

"City folks are not feeling the same pain."

The government offered hope to rural residents last week by approving a $100-million fund to help **natural gas** companies extend their pipelines to areas not now served.

That would allow people with **electric** or oil heat to convert, saving thousands in the long run because **natural gas** is one-quarter the cost of **electricity** and one-third the cost of fuel oil.

Some help on high bills arrived Jan. 1 when the province began waiving the 8-per-cent provincial portion of the **HST** on **electric** bills. Customers in remote rural areas are getting extra aid, lowering their costs by a combined total of about $45 monthly.

Delivery costs are higher in northern and rural Ontario because there are fewer customers served by the lines in a situation Pugliese describes as "more **hydro** poles than people." In Toronto, there are almost 1,200 customers per square kilometre to share the costs.

Figures from the **Ministry of Energy** show the average monthly charge for delivery of **electricity** is $32 for typical household consumption of 750 kilowatt hours. That includes meter reading, general utility operations and a variable charge based on the amount of **power** used.

Fees range from a low of $15.55 at tiny ELK **Energy** Inc. in Essex, near Windsor, to a high of $90.84 for seasonal customers in remote areas served by **Hydro** One.

Costs of service for municipally owned ELK for its approximately 11,000 customers from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie are kept low and "we're just very customer focused," says Mark Danelon, director of finance and regulatory affairs.

Toronto **Hydro**, one of the largest local utilities in the province, is above average at $37.57. London, Kitchener, Sudbury and Windsor are all in the $24 to $27 range.

While the skyrocketing cost of **electricity** has been widely publicized by critics - up 101 per cent since 2006, according to **Hydro** One - delivery charges, up less than 50 per cent in the same period, are getting more attention from **ratepayers** now for good reason, opposition parties say.

"It's coalescing because people, particularly in rural Ontario, see bills for delivery that are higher than the cost of the **electricity** they've consumed. It's crazy," says New Democrat MPP and **energy** critic Peter Tabuns.

"Their anger is the result of being ignored by this government for almost a decade and now all of a sudden the government says they're going to fix everything," adds Progressive Conservative MPP John Yakabuski.

"They don't have any credibility."

Energy Minister Glen Thibeault says prices for **electricity** and delivery have risen because of massive improvements to the **hydro** system.

"We recognize that the investments required to upgrade an antiquated system prone to brownouts and blackouts has come at a cost to **electricity** consumers and we're trying to fix that."

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Rising hydro rates hurting local curling clubs | CTV Ottawa News

ottawa.ctvnews.ca - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

Rising hydro rates in the province of Ontario are hurting local curling clubs already suffering from a drop in membership.

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Dobbyn meets with premier on 'energy poverty' | Owen Sound Sun Times

www.owensoundsuntimes.com - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

Francesca Dobbyn says there isn't one cure-all solution to Ontario's energy poverty problem.

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Power rates zap budgets; Increases are higher than savings through conservation, mayor says

Windsor Star - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sarah Sacheli

Ad Value: $4,836
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A6

Skyrocketing **electricity** costs in Kingsville - and everywhere else in the province - are showing up on property tax bills in unprecedented ways.

The town of 8,700 households is trying to pare down a proposed property tax increase of about 4.8 per cent this year. But it's hard to do when it takes **electricity** to treat sewage, **power** street lights and keep ice at the arena, said the town's mayor.

"I wouldn't be surprised if it equalled one per cent of that increase. It could be more," Mayor Nelson Santos said Friday.

The town can't do much more to conserve **energy**. It has already converted its street lights to LED lamps and this year will spend $20,000 on a more **energy**-efficient compressor for the ice rink.

"It's something we've been working on, but even with our conservation efforts, the costs are going up," Santos said.

From 2005 to 2011, it cost the town about $100,000 per year to **power** its street lights, said deputy treasurer Ryan McLeod. Then costs began to surge, nearly doubling to $192,000 by 2014.

So, in 2015, the town invested $848,000 to convert all its street lights to more **energy** efficient LED lamps. The town got a $134,000 grant from the **Ontario Power Authority** to offset the cost, but the balance of $744,000 had to come from taxes. This year's proposed budget includes $70,000 to repay the debt the town took on to finance the LED project.

The amount of **electricity** used to **power** the street lights dropped by more than half, said the town's deputy treasurer. "Unfortunately, rising **hydro rates** have only allowed us to realize a 35 to 40 per cent savings over our 2014 street light **hydro** expense," said Ryan McLeod. "That being said, if we had not completed the LED upgrade our residents would be paying much more."

The arena is a good example. It cost $110,000 to **power** the building in 2014. That cost increased to $130,000 in 2015 and to $146,000 in 2016.

The town is using its capital budget - investing in **energy** conservation - to save on operating costs.

"The cost of rising **hydro rates** not only impacts our operating budgets but also significantly impacts where our capital dollars are spent," McLeod said. "**Ratepayers** are funding the cost of some capital improvements, which may not have been required if **hydro rates** were lower."

Santos, who is also vice-chairman of the Union Water board, said higher **hydro rates** will affect water bills, too.

At the Union Water plant, which supplies drinking water to all of Kingsville and Leamington and parts of Essex and Lakeshore, there's new LED lighting and new windows.

"Even though we've reduced our consumption by a third, our **rates** have increased by 50 per cent," Santos said. That equates to a $75,000 increase to be shared among 56,000 residents."

Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara, past president of the Association of Municipalities Ontario, said battling **hydro rates** seems futile.

McNamara said municipalities are the largest **energy** consumers in the province, bigger than industry or any other sector.

"For most of us, conservation is the only solution," McNamara said. "But most of us have exhausted those opportunities.... You can only change so many light bulbs."

Hydro One was granted an eight per cent **rate** increase on Jan. 1. That will be passed on to consumers through higher utility bills and municipal taxes.

McNamara, who sits on AMO's **energy** task force, said local utilities companies across the province - like ELK, Essex **Power** and Enwin - control only 19 per cent of the costs they bill consumers. The rest are distribution costs fixed by **Hydro** One.

Essex County has already lost one greenhouse expansion to Michigan. McNamara said he fears more operators in this and other sectors will also be driven out because of the **hydro** costs.

If the American dollar keeps falling, we could lose the attraction of a high exchange **rate** that is somewhat compensates businesses for high **hydro** bills.

"It hurts in economic development. We can't attract industry. That means jobs," McNamara said.

"What's a municipality to do? We have to raise taxes." ssacheli@postmedia.com

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Millbrook Arena's high Hydro bill was most read story of the past week at myKawartha.com

Peterborough This Week - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: $10
Reach: 47038

Here is our weekly look at the five most read stories of the past week at myKawartha.com 1) **Electricity** Use at Millbrook Arena Accounts for Seven Per Cent of $11,000 **Hydro** Bill 2) Peterborough Mom Accused of Striking Her By in the Face 3) Morning Crash in Lindsay Sent Two to Hospital 4) Three Charged Following Crack Cocaine Bust in Lindsay 5) Man Found Drunk at McDonalds in Peterborough Fined $100,000

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Are you smarter than a Liberal?; Take our new quiz and find out!

Ottawa Sun - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $1,678
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A16

Hey, kids, in honour of Ontario Liberal cabinet minister Liz Sandals' now apologized for remark that GO train riders are unexceptional compared to top Ontario public servants, let's play a new game today! I call it: Are you smarter than a Liberal cabinet minister? Ready? Here we go!

1. When giving $2.5 million to teacher unions to defray their costs of negotiating with you do you: (a) Question why the government is subsidizing teacher unions (b) Demand receipts (c) Not demand receipts because you know what pizza costs

2. When Toronto Mayor John Tory tells you he wants to put road tolls on the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway do you: (a) Tell him to go ahead (b) Tell him not to go ahead (c) Tell him to go ahead and when he does, tell him not to go ahead

3. When you've cancelled two **gas** plants do you tell the public the cost is: (a) Too much and apologize for playing politics with them (b) Up to $1.1 billion over 20 years (c) Less than a cup of Tim Hortons coffee a year, so what are you getting so upset about?

4. When Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk tells you your "**smart meter**" program cost almost $1 billion more than it should have do you: (a) Apologize (b) Pledge to do better (c) Suggest Lysyk, a former senior executive at Manitoba **Hydro**, a chartered accountant and a certified internal auditor, with a masters in business administration, doesn't understand the issue because **electricity** is complicated. And that, as a lawyer and long-time politician, you do

5. When your government is the most indebted sub-sovereign borrower in the world do you: (a) Reduce spending (b) Pay down debt (c) Attack Kevin O'Leary

6. When two successive Auditors General of Ontario tell you that you spent $9.2 billion more on **wind** and **solar power** than you had to, do you: (a) Acknowledge you made a mistake (b) Stop subsidizing **wind** and **solar power** (c) Attack Patrick Brown

7. When defending your **cap and trade** program which raises the price of almost everything do you: (a) Explain to the public the costs, benefits, upside and downside of carbon pricing in understandable English (b) Pledge to give 100% of the money raised from **cap and trade** back to the public in income tax cuts and direct grants, so it will be revenue neutral and lower greenhouse **gas** emissions (c) Tell reporters you're not exactly sure of the costs but you're doing it for your granddaughter

8. When you promised for an entire election campaign not to raise taxes, including signing a document promising not to raise taxes do you, after you win: (a) Not raise taxes (b) Raise taxes (c) Raise taxes, but call it a health premium

To save time in compiling your score, if you didn't answer "c" to any of the above questions then you're smarter than a Liberal cabinet minister. That's because on the eight questions posed above, believe it or not, these Liberal cabinet ministers did: (1) Former Education Minister Liz Sandals (2) Premier Kathleen Wynne (3) Former **Energy** Minister **Bob Chiarelli** (4) **Chiarelli** (5) Wynne (6) Wynne (7) Wynne (8) former Premier Dalton McGuinty So, are you smarter than a Liberal cabinet minister? lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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PC party should offer a solid hydro plan

Peterborough Examiner - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Marc Dodsworth

Ad Value: $161
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

Once again we hear from the Tories about the how bad **hydro** prices and the impact they are having on people's lives. We know that. What people want to know is what the Conservatives plan to about it upon taking office and whether their longstanding desire to sell off 100 per cent of **Hydro** One is dead and buried.

At present the Conservatives under Patrick Brown are coming across as expecting to the win the election simply because they aren't the Liberals rather the offering solution to the provinces issues.

Marc Dodsworth

Reid St.

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Brown Would Level Lhins; Ontario PC leader critical of how Liberals have handled health care

The Sault Star - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Brian Kelly

Ad Value: $1,167
Reach: 17077 **Page:** A1 / Front

Local Health Integration Networks could be on the chopping block if Patrick Brown leads his Progressive Conservative party to victory in the provincial election in 2018.

The Tory leader, in Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday to officially open candidate Ross Romano's election campaign office on Queen Street East, said he wants to "diminish the bloated health care administration" in Ontario.

"I have yet to find a physician, or a nurse, who supports the LHINs," Brown told reporters.

LHINs plan and fund health care. There are 14 in Ontario. The Northeast LHIN, with offices in North Bay, Sudbury, Timmins and the Sault, serves the city.

Brown is critical of how many acute level care beds are in hospitals and how much, he says 39 cents of every dollar, is spent on administering home care.

Romano hears repeated complaints about high **electricity** prices when he canvasses Sault neighbourhoods. Brown vows he'll look at long-term contracts for **wind** and **solar power** signed under the government's **Green Energy Act** for possible savings.

He charges the Liberal government is loath to do the same because the companies involved made donations to support the Grits.

"I don't owe anything to any of these companies," said Brown. "I'm free to open them up and do what's in the best interest of the people of Ontario."

He says 350,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in the province since the Liberals took office in 2003. Brown is counting on cutting government red tape, infrastructure investments and affordable **energy** prices by turfing the **Green Energy Act** to generate more employment.

"It just seems (with the Liberals) that there is no sense of the hardship that people are facing," he told about 60 people gathered at Romano's downtown office. "No sense of dollars and cents."

The Liberal government has faced a string of spending scandals over the last 13 years including eHealth, Ornge air ambulance and the cancellation of two **gas** plants. But the Tories, under former leaders John Tory and Tim Hudak, couldn't capitalize on those gaffes at the ballot box. Times have changed, says Brown.

"I think we've taken a different approach," he said.

"We have built a real infrastructure now in the PC party. We're building a more inclusive party that I think is in touch with the concerns of Ontarians."

Sault MPP David Orazietti stepped down in December after 13 years in office to spend more time with his family. The Liberal government has yet to announce a byelection date to replace the long-time Grit politician. A provincial election follows in 2018. "I think they're stalling," said Brown. "I think the Sault deserves better. I hope the premier calls the election." btkelly@postmedia.com

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Focus Ontario | Watch Focus Ontario News Program Online - Full Episodes

globalnews.ca - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

On this week's Focus Ontario, how soaring hydro prices have put community rinks on thin ice. Valentines day comes early thanks to a puppy named Cupid — why it's melting hearts across the province. And, an awkward meeting at Queen's Park over road tolls.

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Wynne cracks down on salary hikes; Premier calls for modesty in all public-sector pay raises

Toronto Star - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson Toronto Star

Ad Value: $14,071
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A8

Public agencies, such as **Ontario Power Generation** and community colleges pushing huge raises for their bosses are "gaming the system" as a five-year pay freeze comes to an end, Premier Kathleen Wynne says.

Her Liberal government issued a detailed directive Friday to 345 public sector agencies, including the LCBO, schools, universities and hospitals, which ordered any raises to be "modest" with "low annual percentage increases."

The crackdown came after several colleges unveiled plans to hike presidential salaries up to 50 per cent and **OPG** boosted the pay ceiling for its chief executive

Jeffrey Lyash, who now earns $1.5 million, to $3.8 million.

"It's hard for anyone to understand how those salaries could be so out of whack," Wynne said firmly, a day after she signalled action was coming.

"People in Ontario are struggling with costs in their lives every single day," the premier added, acknowledging the pay review process that began last fall is off to a "false start."

"This isn't about gaming the system; this is about being responsible."

Wynne said the reason she didn't set numerical limits is to give agencies the freedom to find "reasonable" salary comparators at similar organizations and come up with their own solutions.

Agencies refusing to fall in line will see their compensation plans rejected and have to start over, said Treasury Board president Liz Sandals, who is in charge of internal government finances.

She warned the government will be "closely monitoring" the situation at public sector employers and apologized for "insensitive" remarks about Ontarians concerned over millions in proposed pay raises.

The controversial comment came Thursday when she was asked how citizens struggling to pay their **hydro** bills or stuck in a delayed GO train would feel about **OPG** raises or a proposed $118,000 boost in the pay ceiling for Metrolinx chief executive Bruce McCuaig, who now earns $361,000.

"Most of the people sitting on the GO train probably don't have high-level nuclear qualifications or the business qualifications to run a multi-billion-dollar corporation," Sandals told reporters.

In her mea culpa, Sandals added: "I work hard to make sure that every dollar of public money is well spent."

New Democrat MPP John Vanthof was flabbergasted by Sandals' initial remarks.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown called them "insulting."

"The president of the Treasury Board took the opportunity to defend outrageous public sector CEO pay raises and to insult the intelligence of commuters," Vanthof said.

"It's no wonder that Ontarians are increasingly fed up with this arrogant and out-of-touch Liberal government."

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OPG pay raises not such a bright idea

Toronto Star - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $4,951
Reach: 315452 **Page:** A14

Province OKs $8M in hikes for **OPG** brass, Feb. 1

Ask how the folks living in the dark because they aren't even able to pay the **hydro** delivery charge, let alone the usage fee, feel. The lights are shining bright at the **OPG**! Too bad there's nobody home!

Gerry Samson, Toronto

I'm sure the struggling worker holding down two jobs to make enough money to pay an ever-increasing **hydro** bill is heartened to know that he/she is contributing to the salary of the **OPG** CEO's $3.8-million salary. Obscene is too soft a word.

Gord Marshall, Etobicoke

The PC party is sarcastically suggesting that they get Homer Simpson to run **OPG**. I was under the impression Homer was already in charge.

Pat Sherbin, Grafton, Ont.

The **energy** minister justifies the pay increases by saying we are paying for talent. The track record of executives in the past suggests otherwise.

There needs to be more accountability in the public sector, and the higher echelons that demand private-sector-level compensation must be subjected to a more rigorous standard of accountability.

Salmon Lee, Mississauga

Ontario has become a fiscal basket case thanks to Liberal incompetence, bloated government payrolls, an excess addiction to spending recklessly, and no moral accountability to the taxpayers, who ultimately pay the high price of allowing these individuals to destroy Ontario, racking up billions that future generations will be on the hook for.

Doug Standish, Niagara Falls, Ont.

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Tone down pay hike, Wynne tells OPG

Toronto Sun - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $874
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A4

Premier Kathleen Wynne says **Ontario Power Generation** must come up with a more reasonable salary range than the $3.8-million cap it arrived at for the CEO.

Her comments to The Canadian Press come after her government faced days of criticism for raises totalling up to $8 million for about 80 executives at **OPG** and a potential raise of up to $118,000 for the head of transit agency Metrolinx.

As a wage freeze lifts, all broader public-sector agencies have until September to post their proposals for new executive compensation packages.

But after public outcry over the **OPG** salaries and proposed Metrolinx raises, the government sent a memo Friday to the more than 300 broader public-sector organizations saying it expects any increases to be "modest."

OPG has said that even though the CEO's salary cap is $3.8 million - up from the current salary of $1.5 million - he'd earn significantly less, but Wynne says she thinks **OPG** said that because they know it's too high.

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When greed rules the day; Bureaucrats keep pushing for higher salaries

Toronto Sun - Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Andre Marin

Ad Value: $3,216
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A13

Last week, in this space, I shone the light on greedy college presidents licking their chops as they proposed to give themselves massive salary increases by well over $100,000, or 50% more than what they are currently earning.

College presidents' pays were unfrozen after five years and they were fast to make up lost ground and then some. For example, Algonquin College president Cheryl Jensen in Ottawa was looking at a 40% raise, of up to $124,000 to $445,000, at a time when colleges are protesting the lack of provincial government resources.

Jensen backed down from her initial run at trying for $494,000. "Oh, the complexities of my job!" Right.

It was so obvious that her salary demands were so out of whack. Just down the street from Algonquin College is Canada Post headquarters, where CEO Deepak Chopra, running a national Crown corporation providing service to 15.8 million addresses, employing over 60,000 employees caused a stir when it was found out he was making about $500,000 a year.

Using Deepak as a comparator for Jensen, she should probably be making about $150,000 a year, tops.

The predictable response from the provincial government to the salary folly brewing in our broader public service was to have a "conversation." It was a weak response, to say the least. Considering that that yearly increase for the Algonquin president is $8,000 more than what an MPP makes per year, it was pretty naive in the end for them to think they could get away with it. What were they thinking? What a difference a week makes. Public backlash caused Premier Kathleen Wynne to wake up. She finally denounced the proposed increases to college presidents, **Ontario Power Generation** and Metrolinx transit executives as "just too high. (Public agencies) need to keep and attract great talent, with the right expertise, while ensuring that salaries are fair and appropriate," said Wynne.

The problem with the comparator pay approach now in place for broader public service executives, is that there's always an incentive to argue that your salary should creep up the pay scale. Have you heard of any college presidents arguing they were overpaid? Neither have I.

The way the current system works is when the guy at the top of the pay pyramid realizes he's no longer the best paid, guess what? He argues for an even higher increase as the salary spread between him and others has been closed and he's no longer the richest one, yet AD{TS5126940}according to precedent he should be. It's a catch-22 and the madness keeps going.

This game plays itself out, not only with fat-cat Ontario bureaucrats. Cops do the same all the time. Toronto Police get a big increase and the OPP and the RCMP argue salary parity, to then have the Toronto Police pick up the baton and push salaries even higher.

Even though bureaucrats working in the **electricity** sector have eye-popping salaries - **OPG** chief executive Jeffrey Lyash's pay is now set at $3.8 million, by far the highest-paid Ontario bureaucrat - there's a good argument that their precious skill-sets are greatly in demand. Lyash was drafted to his position from a long career in the **energy** sector in the U.S.

Thanks to the Liberals, the **energy** sector is a complete mess. The last straw would be to have some amateur at the helm to make things worse because a qualified leader absconded back to the U.S. As **Energy** minister Glenn Thibeault acknowledged: "For me, it's about safety of our nuclear plants … I'd much rather have them working in our plants than leaving our plants."

But therein lies the rub. Maybe if our **energy** sector hadn't been so utterly wrecked by Wynne's Liberals, we wouldn't have to have it babysat by such high-priced help.

Marin is the former ombudsman of Ontario. He was also a Progressive Conservative candidate in the riding of Ottawa-Vanier

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Liz Sandals causes another Liberal train wreck

Toronto Sun · Sun Feb 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,376
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A17

Senior Ontario Liberal cabinet minister Liz Sandals says most of the people who ride on the Go Train don't have exceptional talent.

Below is exactly what she said, after she was asked by the media Thursday what people who ride the Go Train should think of the massive salary hikes being proposed for senior public sector executives after a five-year wage freeze.

Government agencies like **Ontario Power Generation** (responsible for **nuclear energy**), Metrolinx and 24 community colleges have been asking for huge salary increases for senior executives as the freeze lifts.

For example, up to 50% for some **community college** presidents.

Replied Sandals upon leaving a Liberal cabinet meeting: "When you really stop and think of it, most people sitting on the Go Train probably don't have high-level nuclear qualifications, or the business qualifications, to run a multibillion-dollar corporation. The talent is exceptional to be in those exceptional positions."

Oy vey! Who needs satire when Liberal cabinet ministers - Sandals holds the senior financial portfolio of treasury board president - say stuff like this? First, Sandals wasn't asked for her opinion on the qualifications of Go riders. Second, even Deputy Premier Deb Mathews and Premier Kathleen Wynne, said many of the sought after wage hikes were too high and the government won't pay them.

(This, no doubt, is why Sandals apologized for her "insensitive" remarks on Friday.)

Third, when it comes to "exceptional" intelligence, Sandals, as education minister, was the bright light who said in October 2015 that the Liberal government didn't need itemized receipts for the $2.5 million it was giving to teacher unions to cover the cost of their **contract** talks with the government.

Why? Because as she put it at the time: "We know what hotel rooms cost, we know what meeting rooms cost, we know what the food costs, we know what 100 pizzas cost. You don't need to see every bill when you're doing an estimate of costs. I don't ask." Oy vey, again. The other question this begs is why are Liberal government agencies asking for huge raises for their executives after the five-year freeze? When the Liberals told them to make their proposals, did they not explain that a "freeze" in salary doesn't mean that at the end of the freeze you ask for a wage catch-up of up to 10% annually, for each of the previous five years? That's what some community colleges were requesting for their presidents and we see a similar spendthrift attitude in many of the requests from the public service.

Does no one in the Liberal cabinet understand that when you lift a salary freeze, annual pay increases should be at the same pace, or, considering Ontario's dire financial straits, at a lower pace, than before the freeze was imposed? Heck, any Go rider could have told them that.

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Toss 'Em

Ottawa Sun · Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Klaus Tiefenbrunner

Ad Value: $143
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

This Liberal Wynne government is a cancer rotting this province from the inside out. High youth unemployment, outrageous proposed public service salary increases, **cap and trade** (read tax hike), reduced health services, insane **hydro** increases that force families to heat or eat … what does it take for people to wake up and smell the coffee? Throw the bums out. This insanity must stop.

KLAUS TIEFENBRUNNER

KEMPTVILLE

(Never fear - there's an election next year.)

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Cut Their Pay

Toronto Sun - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Wayne D. Crawford

Ad Value: $662
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

In a free and competitive marketplace, compensation is typically based upon performance, innovation, cost benefit analysis, etc. College presidents, **hydro** and Metrolinx CEOs are seeking astronomical increases. I believe merit pay should be based upon the innovations and enhancements created by the CEO's original thought rather than compensating them for taking credit for the work/results achieved by their sunshine list of employees who make these figureheads look good. Executive compensation should be commensurate with the CEO's achievement or failure. Based upon specific performance, the taxpayers of this province should be seeking a refund from these individuals, instead of rewarding them with an undeserved raise.

WAYNE D. CRAWFORD

TORONTO (When was the last time anyone got fired in government for screwing up and, if fired, not receiving a golden handshake?)

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MPP Leal is out of touch with real Ontario issues

Peterborough Examiner - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kevin Elson

Ad Value: $226
Reach: 13988 **Page:** A4

Once again Jeff Leal proves how out of touch with reality he really is.

As Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs it is extremely disappointing that Leal does not stand up for rural Ontarians who are suffering under his government's mismanagement of our **hydro** system.

Instead he touts the party line while ignoring his constituents.

Selling a highway 20 years ago has nothing to do with Ontarians overpaying for **hydro** by $37 billion dollars between 2006 and 2014 (auditor general's report 2015).

Not to mention we are expected to overpay by $133 billion by 2032.

Why don't you take responsibility for what your government has done and stand up for the people you are supposed to represent? It's too late now. The only fire worth mentioning is the Liberal dumpster fire. Thankfully it will be extinguished soon enough.

Kevin Elson

McDonnel St.

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Feeling powerless

London Free Press - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Harry Dougherty

Ad Value: $738
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A11

Regarding Brian Platt's column More **hydro** reforms - what could go wrong? (Jan. 27).

Since Exeter's PUC was sold to **Hydro** One in September 2001, our **hydro** **rates** have increased from 9.8 cents to 25 cents a kilowatt-hour.

Our November and December bills show **electricity** charges of $74.47 and $90.44 with delivery charges of $64.59 and $72.09 - 87 per cent and 80 per cent of the bill respectively.

As compensation we now have hundreds of 200-foot McWynnety green **energy** turbines obliterating our beautiful countryside along Lake Huron.

These apparently provide about five per cent of **electric** **power**. It is noted with the closure of the coal-fired generating plants we now have a much clearer view of the turbines. Oh well! It is rumoured the new cap-and-grab tax program will provide some relief.

Harry Dougherty

Exeter

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BlackburnNews.com - Union Gas Pleased With Natural Gas Grant Program

blackburnnews.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral

The province is going to spend $100-million to help Ontario's rural communities get off electric heat.

That's good news for Union Gas.

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Stick To The Facts

Orillia Packet & Times - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Fred Larsen

Ad Value: $154
Reach: 6139 **Page:** A4

Re: "Comment half-baked: company," Jan. 28 It looks like Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown, in his zeal to attack the Ontario Liberal government, has resorted to Ontario's version of the Trump administration's "alternative facts" (or "falsehoods," as one CNN commentator clarified when hearing the phrase).

According to Brown, the recent closing of Midland's Pillsbury plant was due to rising **hydro** costs. Not so, says a company spokesperson.

Kelsey Roemhildt, a General Mills spokesperson, when asked directly about Brown's charge, indicated that "**electricity** costs didn't factor into the decision to move."

Though not entirely surprised by Brown's strategy, I would hope that his constituents (and all Ontarians) would demand better. We in Canada expect our political leaders to deal in real facts, don't we?

Fred Larsen

President, Simcoe North Provincial Liberal Association

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Trudeau part of problem

London Free Press - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Harvey Easton

Ad Value: $645
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A11

The recent announcement of layoffs at the CAMI Ingersoll plant should not surprise anyone.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was interviewed by The London Free Press on Jan. 21, 2015 and was asked what the most pressing issue for Southern Ontario was. He responded by saying "transitioning away from manufacturing-based employment as a driver in the economy." With a newly elected protectionist government south of our border and a prime minister vowing to eliminate manufacturing in Ontario, combined with high **electricity** **rates** and carbon taxes in Ontario, sadly we will see the departure of many well paying middle -class jobs sooner than most realize.

Harvey Easton

Port Stanley

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National Energy Board to Review Energy East | Pipeline Technology Journal

www.pipeline-journal.net - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral

Energy East, the proposed 4,500-kilometre $15.7 billion pipeline that would carry more than a million barrels a day of Canadian crude from Alberta to refineries and an export terminal in St. John, will be reviewed once again by the Canadian National Energy Board.

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Canada's oilpatch needs new customers. Who's willing to buy? - Business - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Feb 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

There's no question that the United States likes Canadian oil. Our exports south of the border hit a record in 2015 and are poised to do the same for 2016.

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U.S. FERC approves ETP Rover natgas pipeline from Penn to Ontario | Reuters

www.reuters.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral

U.S. energy regulators late on Thursday approved construction of Energy Transfer Partners LP's Rover natural gas pipeline from Pennsylvania to Ontario, according to a filing made available on Friday.

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Back to square one | Kenora Daily Miner and News

www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com - Fri Feb 3 2017
Tone: Neutral

The hearing process for the Energy East pipeline has restarted as the result of a legal motion filed by Transition Initiative Kenora (TIK) with the National Energy Board (NEB).

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Proposed wind turbines will be significantly taller; Will be more efficient, say proponents

Sarnia Observer - Mon Feb 6 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Gough

Ad Value: $494
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A3

The 12 **wind** turbines that are proposed for the Otter Creek **Wind** Farm, will be significantly taller than **wind** turbines already erected in Chatham-Kent.

The **wind** farm, which is scheduled to be built north of Wallaceburg, will have Enercon E-141 turbines.

From the ground to the top of the **wind** blades, the proposed **wind** turbines at the Otter Creek **Wind** Farm will measure 195 metres (642 feet).

By comparison, the world's tallest **wind turbine** in Germany is just under 230 metres (754 feet).

Initially 17-20 **wind** turbines were proposed for the **wind** farm project. It was scaled back to 12, which Otter Creek officials said was due to public concerns.

Most **wind** turbines in Chatham-Kent are approximately 155 metres (510 feet) from ground to the top of a blade's tip.

"The reason why these turbines are a little bit higher and a little bit wider in diameter, is to effectively reduce the use of the number of turbines," said Adam Rosso, who is Otter Creek **Wind** Farm's director of development.

Rosso said by using fewer turbines it will reduce the visual impact, as well as other impacts.

A benefit of the tall turbines is they will produce a higher yield of **electricity**.

"The concept is that the higher you go, the more smooth-flowing **wind** they get, the more efficient you're actually able to produce **electricity** at that height."

Even though the proposed Otter Creek turbines are taller and have a larger diameter, Rosso said they won't be louder, due to less rotational speed.

The proposed North Kent 1 **wind** farm, which will be located southeast of Wallaceburg, plans to use 113-metre rotor diameter turbines. Otter Creek plans on using **wind** turbines that will have 141-metre diameters. North Kent will use 3.2 megawatt turbines, versus the Otter Creek turbines which will produce more **power** of up to 4.2 megawatts.

Unlike other **wind** turbines in Chatham-Kent, the turbines in the Otter Creek project will use precast concrete in its bottom half instead of steel.

Residents who are interested in speaking with Otter Creek **Wind** Farm can visit their engagement centre at 216 Nelson St. on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment.

The **wind** farm is a partnership of **Renewable Energy** Systems Canada (RES) and its partner, Boralex as well as Walpole Island First Nation. The total ownership of the project is as follows: RES 51%, Boralex 38.5% and Walpole Island with 10.5% ownership.

Boralex will submit the REA application to the province in the next month or so with a targeted approval for fall of 2017. If the REA is approved, construction would begin in 2018 and commissioning in 2019.

For more information about the project, visit: ottercreekwindfarm. ca

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