

**John Bozzo**

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**From:** John Bozzo  
**Sent:** February 14, 2017 8:51 AM  
**To:** ##Clippings\_Distribution\_List  
**Subject:** Fwd: Morning News Summary - Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Good Morning.

Here is the OEB news summary for Tuesday Feb 14.

#### OVERVIEW

Today's coverage focuses primarily on speculation to the approach to billing for hydro in Ontario and speculated change anticipated to come in the provincial spring budget.

#### [CBC.ca. Ontario Liberals eye 'global adjustment' to cut hydro bills](#)

Article provides an overview on the speculated changes coming to Ontario's hydro billing approach. Changes referenced include removing the delivery charge and shifting the funding of OESP to the general tax base. Reference is made to criticism that the OESP has not reached its intended full audience of applicants.

#### [QP Briefing. Ontario hydro prices making car company execs think – maybe too much: report \(full article below\)](#)

Article examines the report from the Automotive Policy Research Centre at McMaster University and discusses the real impact of differences between the perceived impact of higher Ontario electricity costs and other factors such as currency exchange that may mitigate/offset the hydro cost factor.

#### [CTV News Toronto. Liberal Cabinet](#)

Report reviews speculation on possible changes to Ontario's hydro billing process being contemplated by the Wynne government. Possible changes range from having an 8 to 12 percent reduction in the bill and include potentially relief on costs for all consumers, additional relief for rural consumers and additional support for Low Income consumers.

Flagged for discussion

- Ethnic media interest in ECPA
- QP Briefing

Tweets

OntEnergyBoard: Before you sign up for an energy contract, know who is at your door. For more consumer protection tips, visit [ontarioenergyboard.ca/knockknock](https://twitter.com/OntEnergyBoard/status/831239209293869056)  
<https://twitter.com/OntEnergyBoard/status/831239209293869056>

 <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/C4knp6QWcAAYADr.jpg>

JuneStoyer: Ontario Shouldn't Abandon its Shift to Renewable Energy [ift.tt/2l2Emhk](https://ift.tt/2l2Emhk)

#environment

<https://twitter.com/iQHSE/status/830683288859709441>

dino\_rosati: Ontario carbon cap and trade: guaranteed to have zero impact on carbon emissions – Canadian Energy Issues [canadianenergyissues.com/2017/01/16/ont...](http://canadianenergyissues.com/2017/01/16/ont...)  
[https://twitter.com/dino\\_rosati/status/831006587472986112](https://twitter.com/dino_rosati/status/831006587472986112)

dimatemnikov: #Ontario government signals offshore wind moratorium will continue for years  
[canadianmanufacturing.com/regulation/ont...](http://canadianmanufacturing.com/regulation/ont...)  
 #energy  
<https://twitter.com/dimatemnikov/status/831187455516766210>

jasonshaw1988: Too bad,so sad, Ontario Energy Min. @GlennThibeault says relief from winter disconnections won't come this year [globalnews.ca/news/3237490/o...](http://globalnews.ca/news/3237490/o...)  
<https://twitter.com/coopge/status/830755353990160385>

## QP Briefing Full Article

The complex and costly nature of Ontario's electricity system is forcing car company executives to think more about their power use — and that can be bad, a new report says.

According to the study, done by McMaster University's Automotive Policy Research Centre, the ups and downs of Ontario's electricity pricing have drawn "considerable attention among the province's manufacturing base, including its automotive assemblers."

But being forced to make decisions about hydro costs causes those car company execs "to analyze and assess electricity costs, and each time that process unfolds, a perception is reinforced that Ontario provides an uncompetitive environment in so far as its electricity pricing system is concerned," the study says.

The same report found that Ontario's electricity prices are higher than 10 other auto-producing states in the U.S. While the report warns that gap could grow, it also says the cost gap is a "marginal" one when it comes to manufacturing vehicles. Ontario produced approximately 15 per cent of North America's light vehicles over the past five years, the provincial government says.

### Power Costs Cars

Even so, the research centre found it cost US\$54 in electricity to build a car in Ontario in 2015. This is down from a nearly \$80 power price-tag in 2011, but is still \$6 more than in Michigan and nearly \$18 more than Kentucky, which was the place that had the cheapest power in the study.

However, the report cites one automaker that says just 10 per cent of the cost of building a car is tied to local issues. For a \$30,000 car (in Canadian dollars), this would mean \$3,000 in costs are connected to where it's produced. Ontario's electricity costs would be just US\$54 of those local costs.

The study then throws out local items that are mostly similar to each other — like depreciation and supplies — and pegs labour and electricity as the two "major" expenses. Labour, the report says, is 20 times more costly than electricity, at about \$1,000 per car.

"Even though Ontario is the most expensive location, we reject the notion that marginal costs that range from US\$6.19 per vehicle (Michigan) to US\$17.82 (Kentucky) have the capacity to undermine the province's competitive calculus," the report says. "Agitation around the issue, therefore, must be explained by other factors."

In Michigan, the study says the cost of electricity is barely on anyone's radar. But the report notes that hydro rates in Ontario have risen by 107 per cent between 2006 and 2015.

Furthermore, auto industry execs have become steeped in the province's power system – making them more sensitive to swings in the price of electricity. The Canadian-based execs are also thinking in terms of Canadian dollars and dialogue, not the more expensive American dollar.

"This tells us that considerations and concerns with respect to electricity pricing in Canada are influenced less by concerns about competitiveness with the US and more by conversations about energy costs that occur in Canada," the study says. "This report reveals that manufacturing executives, including those in the automotive industry, have acquired much more day-to-day engagement managing electricity use than they have ever had previously."

Specifically, auto industry executives are considering the Ontario government's Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), which gives large consumers of electricity a way to cut their costs. The program is complicated, but it essentially offers car companies and other industrial power users a way to save on their hydro bills by reducing electricity use during periods of peak demand.

The Liberal government announced it would be expanding eligibility for the ICI in its September 2016 throne speech. This could mean more companies and execs will be thinking about it, the report says.

Under the ICI, companies have to cut back on production "as many as 15 times per year," the study explains. "The act of gathering executives with such frequency to consider operational decisions that defy production mandates — and doing so on the basis of one commodity — can only have the effect of intensifying anxiety around that commodity," it adds.

If the U.S. auto states don't switch off their coal-fired power plants — and under U.S. President Donald Trump this seems unlikely — the disparity in electricity prices will increase, the study says.

"As those patterns unfold, the Ontario — US cost gap will grow," the report says. "Eventually, a situation could manifest when the absolute cost of electricity is meaningful and the gap between Ontario and its US competitors is large. When that happens a true inter-jurisdictional competitive issue may emerge."

In a statement from the energy minister's office, the Liberal government contended the province's auto sector remains a darling.

"Canada's auto sector continues to be highly competitive, as evidenced by approximately \$2 billion in investment over the past five months, maintaining existing local jobs and creating new ones across the auto supply chain," the statement said. "While Ontario's hydro rates reflect the much needed investments we've made by modernizing our electricity system and getting off dirty coal generation, U.S. jurisdictions have yet to pay for that modernization. The Automotive Policy Research Centre report confirms that Ontario's auto sector is still competitive, and part of that competitiveness is a result of conservation and rate mitigation policies the government has put in place. As the Premier has stated, this remains a top priority, and we will be taking action to further mitigate hydro rates for industry, commercial and residential ratepayers before the spring budget."

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**From:** Infomart Newsletters [<mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com>]

**Sent:** February-14-17 7:44 AM

**To:** Lars Hansen

**Subject:** Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, February 14, 2017

[View in Browser](#)

# Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Edited by: Paul Crawford ( [Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca) )

[Contact Editor](#)

## Clippings Summary

### News - 16 Results



#### Ontario Liberals eye 'global adjustment' to cut hydro bills - Toronto - CBC News

[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet are considering two key changes that could see hydro bills drop in the range of eight per cent or more, multiple sources tell CBC News.



#### Liberal cabinet | CTV Toronto News

[toronto.ctvnews.ca](http://toronto.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Ontarians could soon see further reductions on their Hydro bills, CTV News Toronto has learned. The Ontario liberal caucus is being presented today with details of a plan to lower hydro bills. Options being considered could deliver monthly bill ...



#### CTV Toronto | News Video - Latest Toronto News Headlines, Breaking News and Live Reports

[toronto.ctvnews.ca](http://toronto.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)



#### City plugs \$30K into hiring Hydro consultant

London Free Press - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Patrick Maloney

Ad Value: \$4,302

Reach: 70995 Page: A3

City Politicians Have Kicked The Door Wide Open - It Was A Cautious Kick, Mind You - On The Future Of London **Hydro**. Options Range From Standing Pat To Selling It Outright And All Points In Between, And Council, Meeting As The Strategic ...



#### Hydro more shocking once the numbers known

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Elizabeth F. Marshall, .

Ad Value: \$463  
Reach: 11123 Page: A6

To the editor: When I received my **electricity** bill, there was a propaganda sheet with it explaining the **Hydro** "rebates" that I would be receiving because I live in a rural area. So I decided to look into this amazing effort by ...

## Hydro situation continues to perplex me



Tilbury Times - Tue Feb 14 2017  
Tone: **Negative**  
Byline: Gerry Harvieux

Ad Value: \$427  
Reach: 1169 Page: A7

Whether you're having dinner with family, at a party with friends, chatting online, or in the break room at work, seldom will there be a conversation taking place where everyone is on the same page over how they look at a situation. In contrast, ...



## High Ontario electricity rates concern car makers - The Globe and Mail

[www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**  
Permalink

The soaring price of electricity in Ontario is top of mind for the province's auto makers, but it should not yet be considered a competitive disadvantage when the province is bidding for new investment by car companies, a new study concludes.



## Taxpayers need to stage hydro protest

Sarnia Observer - Tue Feb 14 2017  
Tone: **Positive**  
Byline: Denise Cook

Ad Value: \$226  
Reach: 12173 Page: A4

I was listening to the radio the other day and heard comments about our **hydro** system, of course. How is that we protest about what went on in the U.S. and we have so many more problems here in Ontario? Our **hydro** bills are so ...



## How is there not enough money for hydro system?

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I live in an older-style two-storey house with about 87 per cent efficiency. My **hydro bill** is \$68 for two months, and six payments per year equals \$408. (I'm sure I have one of the lower bills compared to a lot of other homes.) ...

## Make hydro cheaper for all



Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 14 2017  
Tone: **Neutral**  
Byline: Gail Batten

Ad Value: \$283  
Reach: 13178 Page: A5

I read with much interest the article on the meeting with Kathleen Wynne. Ms. [Francesca] Dobbyn offered some insight to that meeting. She offered her thoughts to Ms. Wynne on how they could make things better for those who are

suffering ...

## Government's claims go unchecked in the 'Silly Season'

The Daily Observer

Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: John Yakabuski

Ad Value: \$747

Reach: 6045 Page: A4

The period between New Year's and when the legislature returns could in many ways be referred to as the 'Silly Season.' This is the time when the premier sends out all her ministers to travel the province telling everyone how wonderful the ...

## Carbon tax will be passed along

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Bill Irwin

Ad Value: \$278

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

Now that we're all being hit with our brand new carbon tax it will be harder than ever to make a living. We know that we have to pay this tax on all our **gas**, diesel, furnace oil, etc, but I wonder how many people actually stop to consider ...



## Should Ontario switch off the gas when it comes to home heating? - Sudbury - CBC News

[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

**Permalink**

When Devin Arthur and his wife were looking for a home in Greater Sudbury six years ago, there wasn't much debate about the kind of furnace they were looking for.



## National Energy Board to restart review of Energy East pipeline proposal

[hibusiness.ca](http://hibusiness.ca) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

**Permalink**



## Offshore wind projects to remain on the shelf; Province to keep moratorium despite being on the hook for \$28M and facing lawsuit

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Allison Jones The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$19,320

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Six years after Ontario abruptly imposed a moratorium on offshore **wind** projects, citing the need for more research, the government is signalling it will likely continue for several more years, even with all of its studies in hand. The ...



## Ban on offshore wind energy programs likely to continue for years | CTV Kitchener News

[kitchener.ctvnews.ca](http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

**Permalink**

Six years after Ontario abruptly imposed a moratorium on offshore wind projects, citing the need for more research, the government is signalling it will likely continue for several more years, even with all of its studies in hand.

## Clippings Summary

### Full Articles



#### [Ontario Liberals eye 'global adjustment' to cut hydro bills - Toronto - CBC News](#)

[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet are considering two key changes that could see hydro bills drop in the range of eight per cent or more, multiple sources tell CBC News.

[Back to Top](#)



#### [Liberal cabinet | CTV Toronto News](#)

[toronto.ctvnews.ca](http://toronto.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ontarians could soon see further reductions on their Hydro bills, CTV News Toronto has learned. The Ontario liberal caucus is being presented today with details of a plan to lower hydro bills. Options being considered could deliver monthly bill reductions ranging from eight per cent up to 12 per cent on the top end, sources told Queen's Park Bureau Chief Paul Bliss.

[Back to Top](#)



#### [CTV Toronto | News Video - Latest Toronto News Headlines, Breaking News and Live Reports](#)

[toronto.ctvnews.ca](http://toronto.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Back to Top](#)



#### [City plugs \\$30K into hiring Hydro consultant](#)

London Free Press - Tue Feb 14 2017

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Ad Value: \$4,302

Reach: 70995 Page: A3

City Politicians Have Kicked The Door Wide Open - It Was A Cautious Kick, Mind You - On The Future Of London **Hydro**.

Options Range From Standing Pat To Selling It Outright And All Points In Between, And Council, Meeting As The Strategic Priorities And Policy Committee, Voted 10-3 Monday To Hire A \$30,000 Consultant To Review The Possibilities.

Bureaucrats repeatedly said this

is a preliminary step as they outlined the options to politicians. "We as a council, we need to understand what we have here," Coun. Anna Hopkins said. London **Hydro** is a corporation with one shareholder, city hall. It's operating in a fast-changing industry as the Ontario government seeks to shrink the number of local utilities to as few as eight. London

**Hydro** officials recently tried to merge with a nearby firm, believed to be St. Thomas **Energy**, but the bid fell flat as St. Thomas hooked up with Chatham-Kent's utility. Martin Hayward, city hall's top financial official, reminded politicians their London **Hydro** ownership produces a \$5-million annual dividend, money that's used to hold down taxes. Without it, this year's 2.8 per cent tax hike, for example, would have been about 3.8 per cent.

Looking into that return, and the effect each option could have on it, is a crucial part of the review, Hayward said.

"My point really is, if we do nothing, what happens to that \$5 million?" he ' ' said. "Could we grow it? Could . we reduce it?"

Are there some other things council could do to grow that money and keep a head office here?" Hayward added: "If you want to do anything more, get . . . some specialized expertise" in the form of a consultant. The committee voted 10-3 to hire the outside expert. Mo Salih, Josh Morgan and Tanya Park were opposed; Jared Zaifman and Phil Squire were absent. Salih was most outspoken in his opposition. "I'm not supporting it," he said. "I'm not going to waste \$30,000." In December, council tasked staff with reporting back on the implications of London **Hydro** options such as "possible mergers, acquisitions, amalgamations and dispositions." That led to Monday's debate.

Staff's report indicates the consultant's work would be wrapped up by October, at which point they would report back to politicians with "alternatives and recommendations."

[Back to Top](#)

## Hydro more shocking once the numbers known



The Brockville Recorder & Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Elizabeth F. Marshall, .

Ad Value: \$463

Reach: 11123 Page: A6

To the editor: When I received my **electricity** bill, there was a propaganda sheet with it explaining the **Hydro** "rebates" that I would be receiving because I live in a rural area. So I decided to look into this amazing effort by government and **Hydro**.

The insert states that everyone is to receive an eight-per-cent **HST** **rebate**. But below that was the line "Regulatory Charges ... increasing."

Wait a minute! A rural residential customer won't be saving the eight per cent because it has been added to the regulatory line. Tricky isn't it? They give you the eight-per-cent **HST** and then add eight per cent on the reg charges.

What are these Regulatory Charges? That's another trick. On the **Hydro** One website it says they "include the cost of services required to operate the **electricity** system and run the wholesale market." That's not what the propaganda says. It states that the regulatory charge is "to fund the rural ... **rate** protection program." But what has the "wholesale market" got to do with rural **rates**? This is for the Global Adjustment charges.

And what are the Global Adjustment Charges? They are to cover the "costs for providing generating capacity and conservation and demand management programs across the province. This includes non-utility generator contracts, regulated nuclear generation, **Renewable Energy** Standard Offer Programs, **Feed-In Tariff** programs (Samsung/Korea), Independent **Electricity** System Operators **contract** adjustments and other programs."

What they didn't tell you is we also have the "Ontario **Electricity** Financial Corporation."

The OEFC is one of five entities established by the **Electricity** Act as part of the **restructuring** of the former Ontario **Hydro**, which was **restructured** into **OPG**, **Hydro** One, the Independent **Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**), the **Electrical**

Safety Authority and OEFC. What happened to just **Hydro** One and **OPG**? So what we are paying for? More bureaucracies and government cronies. If you look at the board of directors most of them are deputy ministers. Question: Why would we need Denise Dwyer, assistant deputy minister of education on a board for **electricity**? And then there's the **gas**-plants we're still paying for. We will be paying, once the **gas** peaker plant goes into Napanee, \$13.7 million per month, or approx. \$165 million a year just for one plant to sit there and do nothing.

And don't forget about the carbon tax that's going to be on everything? This is your New Demo-Progressive Con-Liberal party working for you. If they continue we'll all be bankrupt. Shocking isn't it?

Elizabeth F. Marshall, director of research, Ontario Landowners Association.

[Back to Top](#)

## Hydro situation continues to perplex me



Tilbury Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

**Tone:** **Negative**

**Byline:** Gerry Harvieux

**Ad Value:** \$427

**Reach:** 1169 **Page:** A7

Whether you're having dinner with family, at a party with friends, chatting online, or in the break room at work, seldom will there be a conversation taking place where everyone is on the same page over how they look at a situation.

In contrast, politics and religion are obvious topics for drawing out a wide range of differing opinions. Parenting strategies is another one that can get people pretty riled up, and that topic has about as many differing viewpoints as religion.

The challenge is to find a topic where everyone not only agrees but tends to agree with the same amount of intensity. In my experience, that topic lately has been the cost of "**hydro**"... well, at least if you live in Ontario. But complaining about the high cost of **hydro** right now is the equivalent of smashing your face repeatedly into a brick wall in an effort to move it over a few inches. Regardless of your level of commitment to moving the wall, it's not going anywhere.

The same might be said for the current **hydro** debacle Ontarians find themselves drowning in.

Now, I don't claim to be an expert on the topic, but in reality I think that's what draws so many people together on this issue... you don't even need to be an expert to see things that plainly do not make sense, and a situation for which no argument can be made to show benefit to anyone but a select few industry and party insiders who are getting insanely wealthy on the backs of people who literally weep with frustration when their **hydro** bill arrives.

Right now Ontario continues to bring new **electricity** producers online, despite the fact we regularly sell off excess production to New York, Michigan and Quebec at huge losses, losses that total in the hundreds of millions each and every quarter of the fiscal year. The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers told the Liberals years ago now what was going to happen if it continued down this path... and they went anyway.

Like the fairytale "The Emperor's New Clothes", everyone in a position to do something about it knows what's going on, but they continue to be part of the lie anyway.

We have so much over-priced **energy** available we actually shut down less expensive forms of **power** generation because the province is contractually obligated to do so. We pay several times the actual cost of generating the **electricity**, again, because the province is contractually obligated to do so. And of course refurbishment of the grid, which was sold to consumers as necessary to improve reliability and efficiency of the system was really required to allow all these new **energy** producers to feed into the system.

For years now **electrical** consumers on this province have been being force fed a poop sandwich and told it's not only good for them, but it's the thing we absolutely must have to maintain a healthy diet. Oh certainly there will be some attempts at empathy and promises of change once we get a little closer to election time, but for now, the people in a position to do something about it have a vested interest in the status quo.

The whole scenario makes me think of watching a documentary about some historical social injustice with incredulity, asking: "How could people possibly have accepted that? How could they not force some change?" I think years down the road our future generations will be asking the same questions in regard to this fiasco. It is beyond frustrating, and in this moment, complaining seems futile, meaningful change nothing but a pipe dream.

It was with all of this in mind that I opened this month's Entegrus bill last week. Now, I will be the first to say, I do not have it bad in comparison to so many others. My combined water and **hydro** bill was \$202.57 and I have friends living a similar lifestyle paying double that just for **hydro**.

But as I said earlier, complaining about the price seems pointless. What really grabbed my attention however is the difference between this month's bill, and last month's bill, which was \$202.61. That's right... four cents. Now let's keep in mind, I'm not on an equal billing plan.

So as a consumer... as a simple everyday guy, I find it really hard to believe that my water and **hydro** usage habits are so regimented, the exact difference between those two months worked out to be four cents? Usage is the only line that fluctuates month-to-month. Delivery and services charges stay fixed. Think about that for a minute. I mean, really think about it. How likely is that... four cents difference? The odds seem pretty staggering that it could be that close. Granted, it's not like I track such things, but wouldn't that pretty much require me to do the same amount of laundry, cook the same kind of meals, toast the same number of slices of bread, forget to turn off the same lights in the same rooms from month-to-month? What about that time last month I decided to go party animal wild and did a couple loads of laundry in the middle of the day? Just add that into the growing pile of things I just can't wrap my brain around when it comes to the cost of **hydro** in Ontario, and like the rest, I'm pretty sure I'm not going to like any explanation I might receive.

[Back to Top](#)



### [High Ontario electricity rates concern car makers - The Globe and Mail](#)

[www.theglobeandmail.com](http://www.theglobeandmail.com) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

The soaring price of electricity in Ontario is top of mind for the province's auto makers, but it should not yet be considered a competitive disadvantage when the province is bidding for new investment by car companies, a new study concludes.

[Back to Top](#)



### [Taxpayers need to stage hydro protest](#)

Sarnia Observer - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Denise Cook

Ad Value: \$226

Reach: 12173 Page: A4

I was listening to the radio the other day and heard comments about our **hydro** system, of course.

How is that we protest about what went on in the U.S. and we have so many more problems here in Ontario? Our **hydro** bills are so high that we need to pull off three or more jobs just to cover it. It is higher than our mortgage payments.

We all should be protesting all over the place and not stopping until we get the point across about our **hydro rates**. Stop sending free **hydro** across to the U.S. Let us have it free if they can afford to do that.

We should protest wherever Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne goes. Keep calling until the lines break down. Show her we mean business.

We need to stop being Mr. Nice Guy. Stand up for our rights. We, the taxpayers, are the ones paying the way. We can't keep paying these bills. We will all end up on the streets if this keeps going.

We need to put a stop to it now. All get together and protest to show that we mean business.

Denise Cook

Point Edward

[Back to Top](#)



### How is there not enough money for hydro system?

Sarnia Observer - Tue Feb 14 2017

**Tone:** Neutral

**Byline:** Ray Benson

**Ad Value:** \$195

**Reach:** 12173 **Page:** A4

I live in an older-style two-storey house with about 87 per cent efficiency. My **hydro** bill is \$68 for two months, and six payments per year equals \$408. (I'm sure I have one of the lower bills compared to a lot of other homes.)

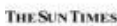
Ontario has a population of about 1,406,300 million with about three people living per household. That translates into 4.7 million homes with each household paying the \$408 a month. If you multiple that average monthly **hydro** bill with the 4.7 million homes, you get \$1,917,600,000 billion, and if each household pays an additional \$498.00 - the same as me for delivery and regulatory charges, plus **harmonized sales tax (HST)** - you'd get an additional \$2,340,600,000 billion for a total of \$4.3 billion per year.

Is this not enough to run our **hydro** system? I'm sure if this was private business and was not showing a profit, all the senior executives would be enroled in a secure establishment in Kingston or a similar establishment.

Ray Benson

Sarnia

[Back to Top](#)



### Make hydro cheaper for all

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

**Tone:** Neutral

**Byline:** Gail Batten

**Ad Value:** \$283

**Reach:** 13178 **Page:** A5

I read with much interest the article on the meeting with Kathleen Wynne. Ms. [Francesca] Dobbyn offered some insight to that meeting. She offered her thoughts to Ms. Wynne on how they could make things better for those who are suffering **hydro** poverty.

She says there is no silver bullet, but for many there is a silver bullet and that is to make **hydro** affordable for the lowest income citizens in this province and then everyone will have more to invest in our economy.

I was somewhat dismayed that she didn't offer any numbers to how many of

those who come to her agency and many others across the province that are turned away because they don't meet the income limits.

Rather than just increase the programs that offer one-time help for people who are having trouble paying their **hydro** bills, wouldn't it have been more prudent to have told Ms. Wynne that we need to find ways to make **hydro** affordable for every citizen in this province? Bill 27 has been much touted as being a cure-all for winter **hydro** ills. When you read the bill it does say that the **OEB** will have the **power** to stop winter disconnections [but] it is silent on the use of limiters. And anyone who has tried to live in the winter months with a limiter can attest how impossible that is.

It is also silent on forcing **hydro** suppliers on reconnecting anyone during the winter month who are already disconnected.

We need solutions to the **hydro** crisis and not Band-Aid solution that have many in this province suffering all year long. In a province that is so rich, giving business millions when they get into trouble, maybe it is time that we invest in the people who fuel this province with their tax dollar and stop punishing them for where they live.

Gail Batten

Napanee

[Back to Top](#)

## Government's claims go unchecked in the 'Silly Season'

The Daily Observer

Daily Observer (Pembroke) - Tue Feb 14 2017

**Tone:** **Neutral**

**Byline:** John Yakabuski

**Ad Value:** \$747

**Reach:** 6045 **Page:** A4

The period between New Year's and when the legislature returns could in many ways be referred to as the 'Silly Season.' This is the time when the premier sends out all her ministers to travel the province telling everyone how wonderful the government has been and that it is only going to get better. She is hoping to galvanize Liberal support in the next provincial election.

Of course they can say whatever they want because the legislature is not in session and they are not going to be held accountable- as they normally would- during Question Period. When the legislature reconvenes, in the fastpaced world we live in, there is usually some new priority that needs to be raised.

It is also a time when they feel that people won't be paying a lot of attention to some controversies that have arisen. One such matter is the question of tolls in the city of Toronto and how the premier flip-flopped on the issue and how this could affect us here in rural Ontario. It is generally held (and even the premier has not denied it) that she privately promised Mayor John Tory last summer that if he wanted to impose tolls on the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway, she would see that the regulatory changes would go through.

Moreover, in the fall she stated in the legislature that she had no intention of standing in the way of tolls on these two roadways. Patrick Brown and the PC caucus immediately said, "no way." It was clear that the people agreed with Patrick Brown. This became apparent to the premier as time went on. On Jan. 26, without warning, she called a news conference to say that Toronto would not be allowed to proceed with tolls. This was done for purely political reasons.

In order to soften the blow, she announced at the same time that the share of the **gas** tax that municipalities with a public transportation system receive would double over the next five years. As is typical of the Liberals, not a single penny will go out before the next provincial election.

Regardless of when the money would flow, if they are doubling the amount of **gas** tax going to municipalities with a public transportation system, where does that leave us in rural Ontario? You know that as things currently stand, no **gas**

tax is shared with municipalities that do not have a public transportation system; this means most municipalities in rural Ontario. With still more funding going to public transportation, and the envelope itself not increasing, this will make it even harder for rural municipalities to get their fair share of provincial funding.

As many mayors say to me, "We do have a public transportation system - it's our roads and bridges. And it's about time we got treated fairly."

I have long advocated, through my Private Member's Bill, that the provincial government allocate a share of its **gas** tax revenue to all municipalities, just as the federal government does. This has also been part of the election platform of the PC Party in each of the two last provincial elections. I can assure you that I will be bringing this issue up in a most-aggressive fashion when the legislature returns.

On the issue of **electricity** prices, we are finally getting to hear some media coverage on the effects those increases are having on public institutions and organizations. We recently heard how curling clubs across Ontario are faced with the prospect of closing because of **energy** prices. While many public institutions don't want to raise the issue for fear of reprisals from the government, it is time there was an open accounting of what the cost of **energy** has meant to the operation of hospitals, schools, longterm care homes, and other institutions across Ontario.

They pay **electricity** bills just like the rest of us, and are forced to absorb massive increases while their budgets are not keeping pace. Despite the best efforts of staff, the cost of **energy** cannot help but effect the level of service that they can provide. The Liberal government has seen this coming for years, but has done nothing to correct it. I don't think sorry is good enough. John Yakabuski of the Ontario PC Party is the member of provincial parliament for the riding of Renfrew-Nipissing -Pembroke.

[Back to Top](#)

### Carbon tax will be passed along

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Bill Irwin

Ad Value: \$278

Reach: 13178 Page: A5

Now that we're all being hit with our brand new carbon tax it will be harder than ever to make a living. We know that we have to pay this tax on all our **gas**, diesel, furnace oil, etc, but I wonder how many people actually stop to consider the ramifications of this tax? When you stop to think about it businesses have to pay the tax and in turn these extra costs are all passed right down the line to their customers to we could feasibly be paying carbon tax in a hundred different ways and everyone's cost of living skyrockets again.

Not to fret though, Kathleen Wynne may make another magnanimous gesture and apologize for making everyone's life that much tougher so that should really help the cause. She says she's sorry but there are a great many others who are a lot sorrier than she is -sorry that they didn't have enough income to pay their increased expenses, incomes that don't go near as far as they did when her government came into **power**.

Everyone is now faced with choices. For instance, do you put food on the table, or do you heat your home? Do you pay your astronomical **hydro** bills, or your increased property taxes? I submit that this Ontario government would be a joke if there weren't so many people left devastated in their wake.

This government seems to be doing its level best to **restructure** our class system. Rather than having the three classes of the rich, the middle class and the poor, they are making great strides towards their new two-class system which consists of the skinnners on the one hand and the skinned on the other. I think many of us are starting to feel like plucked chickens, pin feathers and all.

Bill Irwin Southampton

[Back to Top](#)



### [Should Ontario switch off the gas when it comes to home heating? - Sudbury - CBC News](#)

[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

When Devin Arthur and his wife were looking for a home in Greater Sudbury six years ago, there wasn't much debate about the kind of furnace they were looking for.

[Back to Top](#)



### [National Energy Board to restart review of Energy East pipeline proposal](#)

[hibusiness.ca](http://hibusiness.ca) - Mon Feb 13 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

[Back to Top](#)



### [Offshore wind projects to remain on the shelf; Province to keep moratorium despite being on the hook for \\$28M and facing lawsuit](#)

Toronto Star - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Allison Jones The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$19,320

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Six years after Ontario abruptly imposed a moratorium on offshore **wind** projects, citing the need for more research, the government is signalling it will likely continue for several more years, even with all of its studies in hand.

The moratorium has so far put the Liberal government on the hook for at least \$28 million and it still faces a trial next year on another \$500-million lawsuit over the February 2011 decision.

Both Windstream **Energy** and Trillium **Power Wind** had **wind turbine** projects planned for Lake Ontario in the eastern part of the province when the government brought down the moratorium - in Trillium's case, just minutes before its financing was set to close.

Windstream took its complaint to a NAFTA tribunal, which partially ruled in the company's favour, awarding it \$25 million in damages for unfair and inequitable treatment, as well as \$3 million in legal fees.

Ontario's decision was "at least in part" driven by a genuine concern about a lack of scientific research, but was also influenced by public opposition to offshore **wind** and how it could affect the Liberals in the upcoming 2011 election, the tribunal found.

"The government on the whole did relatively little to address the scientific uncertainty surrounding offshore **wind** that it had relied upon as the main publicly cited reason for the moratorium," the tribunal ruled. "Indeed, many of the research plans did not go forward at all, including some for lack of funding."

Five government-commissioned studies have been completed since 2011 on impacts on fish, other environmental impacts, sound and decommissioning requirements. They largely found that while there were still many unknowns about offshore **wind** in freshwater environments, impacts were likely to be minimal.

The Windstream **contract** in Ontario, which the company still hopes will be honoured, was signed at a time when the government was shutting down **coal-**

**fired electricity** generation and looking for green sources of **power**. Now, the Liberal government is under fire for its green **energy** program, which is blamed in part for high **electricity rates**.

Trillium's \$500-million lawsuit for misfeasance in public office is set to go to trial one week after the June 7, 2018 election. Trillium also alleges that government officials destroyed documents after the company sued over the cancellation of its Lake Ontario **wind** project.

None of the allegations has been proven in court.

[Back to Top](#)



### **Ban on offshore wind energy programs likely to continue for years | CTV Kitchener News**

[kitchener.ctvnews.ca](http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca) - Tue Feb 14 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Six years after Ontario abruptly imposed a moratorium on offshore wind projects, citing the need for more research, the government is signalling it will likely continue for several more years, even with all of its studies in hand.

[Back to Top](#)