

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: March 8, 2018 7:52 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Thursday, March 8, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Thursday, March 8, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 9 Results



How we got carbon taxes wrong

National Post - Thu Mar 8 2018
Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Michael Binnion

Ad Value: \$7,621
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP11

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8 billion reasons not to vote Liberal

Ottawa Sun - Thu Mar 8 2018
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: James Wallace

Ad Value: \$1,461
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A9

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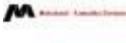
Hydro One privatization is the reason voters distrust Kathleen Wynne | rabble.ca

rabble.ca - Wed Mar 7 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

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Peterborough This Week - Wed Mar 7 2018

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Ad Value: \$30

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

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Full Articles



How we got carbon taxes wrong

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Let me preface by saying that I believe the greenhouse effect is real. Therefore, I am for sensible policies that reduce global emissions. Sadly, carbon taxes aren't sensible if our goal is to reduce global emissions. They cost too much and do too little. So how did we go so wrong on carbon taxes? Carbon taxation was originally based on a right-wing, free-market theory. The simple idea, to paraphrase **Milton** Friedman, is that if you tax something, you get less of it. It could elegantly allow the markets to find the most efficient ways to reduce carbon without the need for government regulations. Many respectable conservativeminded people bought into this theory. Let's look at the reality in practice.

Theoretically, carbon prices are supposed to reduce regulation. However, in every jurisdiction where carbon pricing has been implemented, it doesn't reduce regulation - it increases it. Carbon-pricing schemes in Europe, California and Canada are all very complicated. The **Canadian** government just recently introduced 500 new pages of legislation and regulation. Another example, the Alberta **Climate** Leadership **Plan**, has a carbon-taxcredit program, but acknowledges the cost of regulatory compliance is likely too high for all but the largest companies.

Another problem is carbon leakage, which occurs when production and investment simply move to jurisdictions without a carbon tax. In this case, emissions are simply displaced in whole or in part.

Carbon leakage is worse than you think, as it can actually increase global emissions. Take the case of **Canadian** aluminum, which produces only two tonnes of carbon per tonne, versus American aluminum at 11 tonnes of carbon

per tonne. In practice, no one should have to explain to an aluminum worker that they lost their job because "after all, we all need to do our part," only to have global emissions increase 550 per cent as a result. (To generalize this example, Canada's economy is 70 per cent reliant on trade, and 80 per cent of our trade is with the United States, which has not imposed a carbon tax.)

To try and mitigate carbon leakage, every carbon-pricing scheme uses output-based allocations (OBAs). Industries that are **energy** intensive and trade exposed (EITE) are given free permits to emit or a carbon-tax **rebate** to allow them to compete. For example, we would give the aluminum industry a tax exemption for carbon taxes based on its output.

However, as carbon-tax enthusiasts like to point out, people like to avoid taxes, so everyone will lobby for a tax **rebate** based on complicated formulas and models. Since government determines who will receive these massive subsidies, and how much they will receive, the process is inevitably politicized.

The other problem we find in practice: Demand for hydrocarbons is very inelastic. People will pay what it takes to heat their homes and get to work. The Conference Board of Canada found that even a \$200/tonne carbon tax would only reduce 12 megatonnes of **Canadian** emissions before carbon leakage. Global carbon would likely only be reduced by 70 per cent of this amount. Meanwhile, just one large LNG plant could achieve more than that by replacing coal in China with **natural gas**.

Canada has a global comparative advantage in carbon in many industries because of our high environmental standards. A global approach to capitalizing on Canada's environmental advantage would yield a double dividend of a stronger economy and a cleaner global environment. Carbon pricing, on the other hand, may create a green paradox - policies meant to reduce emissions that not only eliminate some people's jobs, but increase global emissions.

So why do our left-wing friends love carbon taxes, when they say reducing emissions is their concern? The answer is the epitome of Reagan's description of government, all wrapped up in one simple, marketable policy: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And, if it stops moving, subsidize it." Even many conservatives have let themselves be convinced that carbon pricing is an efficient, market-based policy. An acceptance of the theory without examining the practice is what got them there.

Michael Binnion is the president of the Quebec Oil and **Gas** Association and the chairman of the Manning Foundation.

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8 billion reasons not to vote Liberal

Ottawa Sun - Thu Mar 8 2018

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There is a price, after all, to Kathleen Wynne's free-for-all re-election plans.

Another broken promise and another (\$8-billion) deficit.

Wynne won't be able to shake the stink of scandal, corruption and mismanagement hovering over the soon-to-be corpse of her Liberal government before the June 7 election.

A new poll by DART Insight suggests 81% of Ontarians think it's time to change governments - a stunningly dismal condemnation, particularly given the survey

was conducted with Conservatives at one another's throats during Patrick Brown's bid to recapture his leadership.

The Liberals are faring poorly outside **Toronto** and within, among men and women, rich, poor and middle class.

This latest deficit news won't help.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa had the grim task Wednesday of trotting out the bad news his government is again breaking a promise to balance the provincial budget.

It means **Ontario** Liberals will have run deficits in 12 of their past 15 budgets - 80% of the time - since taking office in 2003.

Sousa made predictable and laughable promise of "a clear **plan** to track back to balance" in future and spun the deficit failure as a necessary step to pay for needed "social and developmental services.

"For me, good **public** and social policy must also be good economic policy," Sousa said. "So we are making a choice."

Ontario voters will make a choice in June, as well.

The irony of Sousa's statement is that **Ontario's** Liberals have never adequately grasped the true meaning of good **public**, social and economic policy.

The Liberals are promising free prescription drugs for youth, lower **hydro rates** and will no doubt pitch \$8 billion new ways make **Ontario** more "**fair**" in the coming budget.

Meanwhile, the province's **electricity** system is a mess. We have nation-leading **hydro rates** and Liberal plans to cut **rates** by 25% will cost taxpayers \$39.4 billion.

Ontario's health-care system is a mess. Our hospital emergency rooms are chronically overcrowded and the province has chronic nursing, doctor and bed shortages.

We have abandoned the mentally ill to the streets and the hell that is their daily life.

Our social housing is old, run down and a nightmare for too many vulnerable people. So are our jails. Our courts are clogged and under-resourced.

Congestion is choking highways and the economy around the **Greater Toronto Area** and provincial transit leadership has been a joke and a failure.

Ontario's economy has seen job growth in **Toronto** and **Ottawa** but little elsewhere, and we've lost 75,000 manufacturing jobs and much of the sector to Mexico and the U.S.

Good **public** policy respects and serves all citizens. It embraces economic growth as a means to lift all people. It reinforces common goals and aspirations, not individual differences and grievances.

Fifteen years ago, the Liberals turned tax cuts and reducing red tape into dirty words and made deficits a virtue.

That's why they've been such bad managers.

It's why the province is in a mess.

And why nothing will change until they're gone. jawallace@postmedia.com

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Be wary of talking points in election race

Peterborough This Week - Wed Mar 7 2018

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So far, three Progressive Conservative Party leadership candidates have come to **Peterborough**: Doug Ford, Christine Elliot and Caroline Mulroney.

Mulroney's Tuesday (March 6) visit likely marked the last candidate to visit **Peterborough** before the Saturday (March 10) vote, but I wouldn't be surprised if Tanya Granic Allen popped in before then.

Peterborough is an important riding in this leadership race, since the area has often sided with the winning party in general elections.

After hearing a few of the points being made by candidates, it's easy to see some obvious crossover.

All the candidates are riding the high **hydro rate** debate brought on by the Liberal government and that makes sense. Keeping life affordable is going to be a popular promise with any voter.

Minimum wage is another point. I imagine one of the first things the potential new PC premier will do is scrap plans for the \$1 increase planned for 2019, but none have mentioned repealing the \$14 wage passed this year.

Again that makes sense. You get to rally businesses without alienating young voters that could swing from Liberal to Tory.

Those points are fine, but there are others I have serious doubts about, like scrapping the carbon tax. That one is usually followed by the promise of balancing books and finding money elsewhere to fund environmental initiatives.

But every government vows to balance the books and rarely does. It's the 2018 equivalent of the empty "I will lower your taxes" promise.

And while a lot has been discussed about reforming the sex-education curriculum, I can't see it actually happening. Patrick Brown made the same promise when he ran in 2014 and nothing came of it.

While the Brown controversy has weighed the party down I still see strong support for the party.

Just be careful about what promises your new PC leader actually intends on following up on. The list may be shorter than you think.

Taylor Clysdale is a city hall and politics reporter and self-proclaimed millennial

traitor, going against the grain of generation Y.

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Large Chatham crowd for Mulroney visit; PC leadership candidate would scrap Green Energy Act

Chatham This Week - Thu Mar 8 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A7

Before **Ontario** Progressive Conservative Party leadership candidate Caroline Mulroney arrived in Chatham on Saturday, it was apparent organizers had underestimated how many local supporters would turn out.

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton, who is cochairing Mulroney's leadership bid, admitted they expected about 75 people to attend her campaign stop at Glitters Restaurant. But that number surpassed 300 and those in attendance had to leave a second-floor meeting room and spread out among the main restaurant area.

McNaughton said Mulroney attracted 450 people to a recent gathering in **London** and another 125 at a breakfast meeting in Windsor on Saturday.

"This shows the momentum that Caroline has and she's really resonating with conservatives across the province," he said. "People are looking for something new, something different and that generational change, and Caroline delivering that for conservatives."

Mulroney hit on some points that pleased many in attendance, from promising to lower taxes and increasing childcare spaces, to lowering **hydro** prices and increasing the number of longterm care beds for seniors.

One of her first comments was about supporting Chatham-Kent **Essex** MPP Rick Nicholls' efforts to push the Liberal government to speed up the process to build a concrete barrier along Highway 401 between Tilbury and **London** to prepare for a new bridge linking Canada and the United States.

"This is an important cause and I look forward to working together at Queen's Park," Mulroney said.

Her comments were "a very pleasant surprise" to Alysson Storey, who founded the Build the Barrier movement to have the concrete barrier installed to help prevent cross-median collisions.

She said she knows Nicholls and McNaughton as well as Elgin-Middlesex-**London** MPP Jeff Yurek have advocated for the barrier, but acknowledged it's a busy time for the PC members.

"I'm very happy to know that it's on her radar and ideally, if she's elected, she'll be having that first on her list to get it done," said Storey, who attended the gathering.

While speaking with reporters, Mulroney was asked about her position on **wind** turbines and the **Green Energy Act**.

"Short of going in and ripping them out of the ground myself, I **plan** on scrapping the **Green Energy Act** and looking at all the contracts and see what we can do to get out of them," she said.

The **Ontario** government "can't continue to sign contracts for green **energy** we don't need," Mulroney said, citing **wind** turbines being built near Chatham and

Wallaceburg.

"We cannot continue like this," she added. "Ontarians deserve better than these disastrous policies."

When asked about political gaffes that have hurt the PC Party in past provincial elections, Mulroney said, "We've got to run a very disciplined campaign this time."

"I've been doing that everyday of my leadership (bid), working as hard as I can to meet people and be very straightforward with my messaging and talk about the things that matter with people," she added.

KEY MULRONEY PRIORITIES

Caroline Mulroney stated five key priorities to make **Ontario** stronger. They include: Committing to create 30,000 new childcare spaces in the province, as well as build a better adoption system.

Reforming and reinvigorating the management of the Progressive Conservative party, which includes putting in checks and balances to ensure the party is ready and seen to be ready to lead.

Lowering taxes for the middle class, as well as stopping the federal Liberals' carbon tax, repealing the **Green Energy Act**, which would include a moratorium on further **wind turbine** construction projects, and lowering **electricity** prices.

Doubling the PC party's promise to add 15,000 long-term care beds over the next five years to 30,000. Mulroney also plans to expand the caregiver tax credit, improve access to hospice and palliative care as well as invest in home care.

Ensure there is career counselling for young people that respects and promotes skilled trades, take practical steps to make apprenticeships easier, and expand co-op and experiential learning opportunities.

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Planning continues for new pipeline crossing; Enbridge replacing Line 5 pipeline beneath the St. Clair River

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Mar 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: \$511

Reach: 8941 Page: A11

Enbridge is working to submit an **application** to the National **Energy** Board in July for approval to replace an oil and **natural gas** liquids pipeline beneath the St. Clair **River**.

The company pledged to replace the crossing of what's known as Line 5 using horizontal directional **drilling** technology as part of a deal with the State of Michigan.

Most of the seven-point agreement reached in November deals with Line 5's crossing at the Straits of Mackinac in **northern** Michigan and fears raised by residents and officials in the state over the possibility of a leak or break in the pipeline there.

"We're working with Gov. (Rick) Snyder to demonstrate to Michigan that Enbridge is a safe, competent operator of Line 5," said Enbridge spokesperson Ken Hall.

"The government had indicated there are things we could do to demonstrate our

transparency and our commitment."

Replacing Line 5's St. Clair **River** crossing was proposed by state officials as one of the actions they wanted the company to carry out.

Line 5 was built in the early 1950s and runs for more than 1,000 kilometres from Superior, Wisconsin through Michigan to Sarnia, carrying light oil and **natural gas** liquids.

Hall briefed city officials on the plans earlier this month and he said the company has also been talking with officials in St. Clair Township, Aamjiwaang First Nation and others expected to be impacted by the St. Clair **River** project.

"I would say, so far, our engagement has been very positive," Hall said.

"All of the folks I have spoken to have been very supportive because people here in the community recognize the significant contribution Line 5 makes in the local petrochemical industry."

Enbridge "brings a lot of the oil into Sarnia that is refined here," Hall said.

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said the location where Line 5 enters Canada near the corner of LaSalle Line and **River** Road adds to the "complexity" of the issue since the borders of the city, St. Clair Township and Aamjiwaang meet in the area.

Hall said Enbridge will arrange "kitchen-table" meetings with residents where the work will take place "so they'll understand what the construction is going to look like."

Enbridge said it will be work to "mitigate project impacts wherever possible" during the project.

Similar work is happening in the Michigan side of the **river**, Hall said.

"The pipeline is essential for jobs in the community," and fulfilling the deal with Michigan will allow the company to continue to supply the region, Bradley said.

Detailed engineering for the St. Clair **River** crossing is expected to be completed this year, with construction expected to begin in late 2019 or early 2020, Hall said.

The project requires state and federal approvals in the U.S., as well as from Canada's National **Energy** Board.

Construction is expected to take approximately four months and won't impact shipping on the **river**.

Enbridge will use the same technology used in 2012 when the company replaced another pipeline crossing beneath the **river**.

The pipe will be laid out on the **Canadian** side along LaSalle Line and sections welded together, pressure tested using water before the line is pulled through a tunnel **drilled** beneath the riverbed where it will be tested again before going into **service**.

The replacement crossing will be deeper beneath the riverbed than the existing pipeline, but within the existing easement.

"From a safety perspective, there's absolutely nothing wrong with the current pipeline," Hall said.

"The feeling of the state officials is that doing a horizontal directional **drill** at a deeper depth beneath the riverbed will just augment the safety of the line."

Hall said Enbridge is still assessing what the new St. Clair **River** crossing will cost.

Once the new crossing is completed, the existing pipe under the **river** will be purged, capped and left in place. The company said that is a common practice which reduces disruption to communities and the environment.

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Neighbour concerned about solar proposal

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Thu Mar 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Don Crosby

Ad Value: \$323

Reach: 13178 **Page:** A3

A Tara-area woman says a proposed 500-kilowatt **solar** project planned on a neighbouring property is too close to her heritage home.

Diana Spencer of 889 Bruce Road 17, lives next to a five-acre plot where Abundant **Solar Energy** plans to build a **solar energy** project.

Spencer appeared before Arran-Elderslie council recently with a list of concerns about the approval process, possible environmental impacts, and a claim that the project will affect the rural nature of the area and devalue her property.

"Our rural, agricultural landscape will become an unplanned patchwork of industrial facilities, taking up farmland for 25 years," Spencer said.

Spencer worries that the landscape will be marred by this and similar projects, specifically along Bruce Road 17, a main road for farmers, residents and tourists from Port Elgin to Tara.

"This project should not be directly along the road, or beside a residential property. The setbacks are not sufficient and even with visual screening, the facility will not be hidden from view -either from the road or our property," she said.

She worries the value of her home a heritage property will be diminished.

Spencer is concerned construction might affect her well and wants the Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change to investigate the possibility of contamination, including for when the panels are washed twice a year.

She also wants municipal workers to be adequately trained and equipped to respond if there is a fire or accident at the facility.

Spencer is calling for consultation by the proponent with the municipality and adjacent residents before the project gets provincial approval.

Arran-Elderslie Deputy-mayor Mark Davis said he has no faith in the provincial **Green Energy Act**, which covers such projects.

"We're not going to stop this thing," said Mayor Paul Eagleson, but he agreed with councillors who want the **energy** developer to come before council to answer questions. Council will invite the proponent to a meeting.

The mayor agreed that the proposal is quite close to the Spencer home but council hasn't seen any plans for buffering.

"I think the only that council can be requesting is proper buffering and setbacks,"

Eagleson said.

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Ministry expects new well complaints to be addressed

Chatham This Week - Thu Mar 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Page: A19

The Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change is ready to act on new complaints about water well quality in the **North** Kent **Wind** farm area after some turbines began operating in late February.

"The ministry is actively holding the company accountable for addressing complaints related to change in well water quality and/or quantity," stated an e-mail from the the ministry in response to four landowners who say their wells have gone bad shortly after nearby turbines from the **North** Kent **Wind** farm began operating last week.

"We are ensuring they comply with their approval, which requires them to retain a consultant to attend the site; collect samples, and submit a report to the ministry on whether the results demonstrate that vibration from **wind turbine** operation resulted in impacts on well water," the ministry added.

However, the MOECC recently sent letters and detailed reports to several landowners whose wells went down, stating the vibration from pile driving during the construction of the **wind** turbines did not cause the problems with their wells.

"The ministry used a science-based approach to evaluate concerns raised about well water issues related to the **North** Kent **Wind** 1 project," the ministry said.

Noting there are approximately 200 private wells located in the project area, the ministry said the project developer collected water samples from 179 well locations before construction.

Of all these wells, the ministry said it received complaints from 16 well locations or approximately eight per cent.

Only two locations showed ongoing issues with water quality, the ministry added.

"The water quality at those two wells continued for several weeks following the completion of nearby construction work. This suggests other issues such as poor well maintenance; well construction or over-pumping may be responsible for the observed water quality issues," the ministry said.

None of the latest landowners to complain had any issues with well water quality when pile driving took place to erect the turbines.

Retired hydrogeologist Bill Clarke told reporters in a previous interview that a huge concern would be the ongoing vibration when the big blades start rotating atop the **wind** towers.

"Then that, in my opinion, is going to cause more widespread problems with other wells," he said.

"The trick is, whose well?" Clarke said some wells won't be affected and others might take months or years before the impacts are seen.

He added the wells affected by pile driving are candidates "for big time

problems once the towers are operating."

Clarke said vibration is a wave theory that seismologists use all of the time to identify ore deposits, water supplies and geological formations.

"But, it's not simple," he said. He added it would cost millions of dollars to do the Chatham-Kent area and take three to five years to complete.

"The mechanism is clear to me the details of why one well is affected, but somebody closer to the pile driving or closer to the operating tower is not affected," Clarke said. "It's all related to the variations in stratigraphy, the geology underneath that particular land. It's the variations within the geological formations."

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Local families take legal action after turbine construction incident

Grimsby Lincoln News - Wed Mar 7 2018
Tone: **Negative** Page: 1

Two families are taking legal action related to a plume of construction dust from a **Niagara** Region **Wind** Farm construction site in 2015 that they say has left them with physical and mental health issues, as well as property damage and monetary losses.

Raymond Sherman and Alexandra Karatopis Sherman, along with their three children, and Stefanos Karatopis - the brother of Alexandra - are named as plaintiffs in court documents that were originally filed last summer, about two years after the July 23, 2015 incident. A list of 25 defendants, including 10 individuals whose identities are unknown, are named in the notice, ranging from stakeholders in the **Niagara** Region **Wind** Farm, to construction companies and employees to the Township of **West** Lincoln and Region of **Niagara**.

In court documents, the plaintiffs allege workers at the **wind** farm on **Regional** Road 20 in **West** Lincoln were discharging a construction dust which made its way into the house. While the parents were not home, the Sherman children were and the documents allege they had difficulty breathing and their eyes were burning.

Karatopis attended the property after receiving a phone call from the children and arrived at the same time as Alexandra, and the plaintiffs claim the dumping of cement dust was "generating large clouds of dust that were being blown by the **wind** directly into the Sherman resident".

Court documents say the pair "discovered that the interior was filled with dust and the children were coughing non-stop and complaining that their eyes were burning. Almost immediately, Ms. Sherman and Mr. Karatopis started coughing and experiencing eye burn themselves."

The family closed the windows of their home, and they retreated outdoors, with Alexandra confronting the construction crew, alleging that several workers "refused to stop discharging cement dust," citing having permits to conduct the work.

The court document says Alexandra, Karatopis and the three children attended **West** Lincoln Memorial Hospital where they spent seven hours and were examined by Dr. Tino DePetrillo. "Dr. DePetrillo remarked that he was able to smell and taste chemicals immediately upon entering the emergency room and wondered if it was really cement dust that the construction crew was discharging," the court documents say. The physician, according to the statement of claim, called poison control and advised the Sherman family to not

return home until the residence was "properly decontaminated, as cement dust contained crystalline silica and hexavalent chromium, which are classified as human lung carcinogens, as well as other harmful substances."

The documents go on to allege the plaintiffs have "suffered and continue to suffer serious, lasting and ongoing physical injuries, pain, suffering and reduction in life expectancy," as a result of the incident and they are also suffering "severe mental anguish, shock, emotional distress, psychological injuries and loss of enjoyment of life."

The Shermans say they also cannot afford the cost of performing environmental decontamination of their home - estimated to be about \$50,000, and have been forced to pay for a home rental along with other associated costs including **utility** payments, laundry and dry cleaning, additional fuel costs due to being relocated further away from the children's school, and more. They also allege about \$100,000 in damages caused to the interior of the home, including furniture, electronics, personal possessions and more. The couple also say they have "suffered a loss of future income and/or capacity to earn income due to their diminished life expectancy and/or impaired physical and mental health as a result of the construction incident."

The plaintiffs' claims, in the notice of action filed last summer, include general and special damages in the amount of \$10 million, \$50,000 for "aggravated damages," \$100,000 "as punitive and/or exemplary damages," as well as various costs for the investigation and legal process.

None of the allegations made by the plaintiffs have been proven in court.

Niagara this Week tried to contact some of the defendants named in the suit, and many did not respond to request for comment, while others said they are unable to comment on the issue.

"We are not able to comment," Rick Laidlaw of TFI International, parent company of defendant Laidlaw Carriers Tank LP - a company involved in the **transportation** of materials and supplies of the **wind** farm. "We are gathering the facts ... it's a complicated case."

Boralex, which acquired all of the economic interest in the **Niagara** Region **Wind** Farm in December of 2016 from Enercon, also declined comment.

"We are well aware of this case and we take it seriously. However, it would not be appropriate for us to comment on the details of the case at this time since the matter is before the court," Julie Lajoie, advisor of **public** affairs and communications for Boralex, said in an email.

Toronto-based lawyer Arkadi Bouchelev, representing the plaintiffs, said the case is in the early stages. Given the number of defendants, he said, it has been a lengthy process to receive defence replies from those named in the action.

"It is a complicated corporate structure. Almost all of the defences have been filed, but not all yet," said Bouchelev.

The timeline moving forward is unknown. Bouchelev said the next step would be to exchange affidavits of documents and undergo examinations of discovery.

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