John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	March 19, 2018 10:12 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject:	Morning Clippings Summary: Monday, March 19, 2018

Good Morning,

- There is another article from the CBC about pole attachment rates, this time in Windsor. The OEB was not contacted for input on this story.
- There are a number of pre-election articles (Hamilton Spectator, Toronto Star, Toronto Sun) those outlining the NDP's platform which promises to de-privatize Hydro One.
- MarketsInsider reports that Hydro One and Avista have reached a regulatory milestone in their Washington merger

CBC: Windsor internet provider says hydro pole cost could leave customers paying more, or not have service at all (Full article below since not completely captured by Infomart) Yahoo also picked up the CBC story

- President of MNSi, Clayton Zekelman a Windsor internet service provider, said there doesn't seem to be a rationale for the price hike.
- SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology, or SWIFT, a non-profit broadband initiative in southwestern Ontario looking at ways to bring affordable high-speed internet to more people in the province, said the fee hike will discourage telecom service providers from offering internet services in places that need it most. "Ontario's rural, remote, and First Nation communities that already encounter substantial barriers to building and expanding broadband infrastructure networks would be placed at a further disadvantage," she said. "This translates into unequal access to education, healthcare, government, employment and marketplaces."
- Zekelman is that the OEB has proposed deregulating the cap on these fees for third-parties, meaning it could get even more expensive.

MarketsInsider: Hydro One, Avista Reach Settlement In Principle In Washington Merger Case

- Notification of a settlement in principle with various parties was filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission or WUTC.
- The two parties intend to file a settlement agreement with the WUTC on or before March 27, 2018. The settlement in principle is subject to the review and approval of the WUTC.
- Hydro One and Avista continue to anticipate closing the transaction in the second half of 2018. The transaction received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or FERC on January 16, 2018 and from Avista shareholders on November 21, 2017.
- The settlement in principle includes provisions related to financial protections for the utility and its customers, low income customers, conservation and the environment.

Windsor internet provider says hydro pole cost could leave customers paying more, or not have service at all
Fees could rise for internet, cable providers who attach wires to hydro poles
CBC News Posted: Mar 16, 2018 8:58 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 16, 2018 8:58 PM ET

The president of a Windsor internet service provider, who attaches their wires to hydro poles, believes a new proposed fee hike could leave people without service or having to pay more.
The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) wants to increase the fees for companies— such as internet and cable providers — who attach their wires to hydro poles.

The rising cost of space on hydro poles may result in a hike in the cost of internet and cable
Clayton Zekelman is the president of MNSi Telecom, a company that has been providing internet services in Windsor-Essex for more than 20 years. He said there doesn't seem to be a rationale for the price hike.
"Prices for attachments to poles range anywhere from 16 dollars to the proposed 55 dollars that the OEB is looking at right now for Hydro One poles," he said. "We don't really understand why there is such a huge disparity."
Zekelman explained that in areas where there are fewer homes, it becomes too costly for internet services providers to justify building and maintaining infrastructure there. People in rural areas could have a hard time accessing high speed internet, or will have to pay more.
"It may be the deciding factor to tell the broadband company they're just not going to deploy there because they just don't see how they're going to get a return in a reasonable amount of time," he said.
SouthWestern Integrated Fibre Technology, or SWIFT, is a non-profit broadband initiative in southwestern Ontario looking at ways to bring affordable high-speed internet to more people in the province. In an emailed statement, SWIFT spokesperson Tammy McQueen said the fee hike will discourage telecom service providers from offering internet services in places that need it most.
"Ontario's rural, remote, and First Nation communities that already encounter substantial barriers to building and expanding broadband infrastructure networks would be placed at a further disadvantage," she said. "This translates into unequal access to education, healthcare, government, employment and marketplaces."
Some companies, like Bell Canada, have their own poles which they have reciprocal sharing agreements with the hydro companies on, said Zekelman.
"These pole rate increases will not affect these companies, but they will affect companies and independent fibre operators because we are required to pay the third party pole attachment rate," he said, adding it gives pole-owning companies an advantage.
The other issue that worries Zekelman is that the OEB has proposed deregulating the cap on these fees for third-parties, meaning it could get even more expensive.
"The prices just seem to keep going up, particularly with Hydro One poles," he said.

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, March 19, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 28 Results

[Entegrus Powerlines and St. Thomas Energy to Merge Operations April 1, 2018 | Entegrus]

entegrus.com - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Entegrus Powerlines Inc. (EPI) and St. Thomas Energy Inc. (STEI) will merge operations, effective April 1, 2018. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) recently issued a Decision and Order approving the application by the two utilities.

OEB Approves Entegrus & St. Thomas Energy Merger | Chatham-Kent Radio | CKXSFM Wallaceburg | 99.1 FM CKXS | Your Music Variety

ckxsfm.com - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario Energy Board has given the green light to a merger between Entegrus Powerlines and St Thomas Energy.

Hydro One, Avista Reach Settlement In Principle In Washington Merger Case | Markets Insider

markets.businessinsider.com - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Hydro One Limited (H.TO) and Avista Corp. (AVA) said that they have reached a significant milestone in the regulatory approval process of the proposed merger. According to the companies, notification of a settlement in principle with various parties ...

Windsor internet provider says hydro pole cost could leave customers paying more, or not have service at all - Windsor - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The president of a Windsor internet service provider, who attaches their wires to hydro poles, believes a new proposed fee hike could leave people without service or having to pay more. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) wants to increase the fees ...

Trying to make sense of the murky future of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

Peterborough This Week - Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $31
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

Were you among those cheering that negotiations over the sale of **Peterborough Distribution** Inc. have fallen through? Well, hold the applause. For many in **Peterborough**, the sale of PDI to **Hydro** ...

NDP would make Hydro public again, pay for drugs, dental

The Hamilton Spectator - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Salmaan Farooqui The Canadian Press

Ad Value: $3,946
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A7

Ontario's New Democrat leader unveiled parts of her platform at a campaign event on Saturday, saying the party would deprivatize Hydro One and offer universal pharma and dental care for all Ontarians if elected. Andrea Horwath ...

From centrism to austerity: Ford's fiscal realities; The People's Guarantee was a surprisingly centrist platform, and many Ontarians will pay a steep price if the new PC Leader turns hard to the right

The Globe and Mail - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JIM STANFORD

Ad Value: $19,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Harold Innis Industry Professor in Economics at McMaster University Ontarians watched with fascination as provincial Progressive Conservatives demonstrated their proficiency at counting leadership ballots. Now, voters are waiting to see if the PCs ...

Could Ford manage Ontario's economy?

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Olive Toronto Star

Ad Value: $30,226
Reach: 500678 **Page:** B3

What sort of economic manager of Ontario would a Premier Doug Ford be? Ford is a sometime fan of Six Sigma, a 1990s-era management fad by which complex organizations are reduced to a few straightforward goals. In that spirit, Ford said ...

Wynne's throne speech will be a fairy tale

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $4,248
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

Believing anything in Premier Kathleen Wynne's throne speech on Monday will be the equivalent of believing that this time Lucy is going to hold the football in place for Charlie Brown. To believe Wynne's election promises, we'll have to practice ...

Wynne says government must lay out priorities

The Sault Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $540
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A1 / Front

Ontario's premier is defending her decision to prorogue the legislature and deliver a throne speech next week, saying it's the only way her government can lay out its priorities in the leadup to the spring election. Kathleen Wynne denied the move ...

Cranking up campaign; Wynne paints Ford as heartless businessman

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $4,118
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A8

Ontario Liberals are attempting to define new PC Leader Doug Ford as a hardhearted businessman before he has even released his election platform. On Friday, Premier Kathleen Wynne told college kids that Ford would abolish rent control. ...

Horwath rallies troops, dangles election goodies; Promises full dental coverage and paid-off student loans

Toronto Star - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $12,880
Reach: 315452 **Page:** A1

An NDP government would provide Ontarians with dental benefits and convert post-secondary student loans to grants, said Leader Andrea Horwath in a speech Saturday that gave a glimpse into her party's election platform. "We know we can do better to ...

Horwath Promises Have Bite?; Dental and prescription drug coverage for all, NDP leader vows

Toronto Sun - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $4,029
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A5

An Ontario NDP government would ensure universal dental and prescription coverage, Leader Andrea Horwath has promised. "Everyone will be covered with the dental plan," Horwath said. "And they'll either be covered through work ...

Ontario NDP platform to include universal benefits for workers, deprivatizing Hydro One | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's New Democrat leader says her platform will include improved public services, deprivatizing Hydro One and universal benefits for workers.

Ontario NDP platform to include universal benefits for workers, deprivatizing Hydro One | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's New Democrat leader says her platform will include improved public services, deprivatizing Hydro One and universal benefits for workers.

Horwath rates high in polls

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Karen Gventer

Ad Value: $399
Reach: 11903 **Page:** A6

I find Jim Merriam's comments about Andrea Horwath in his recent column on the June provincial election surprising. Over and over, Andrea Horwath, the leader of the **Ontario** NDP, has **rated** higher in polls than Premier Kathleen ...

How Canada can win in a low-carbon economy

The Globe and Mail - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: TOBY HEAPS

Ad Value: $17,803
Reach: 372649 **Page:** B4

CEO of Corporate Knights While it is uncharitable to describe the Prime Minister's strategy of building pipelines to fight **climate change** as a "crock" or Orwellian logic - as David Suzuki and economist Mark Jaccard ...

Ontario Should Opt Out Of Cap And Trade

Windsor Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Dobson,

Ad Value: $1,468
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

Re: Former U.S. VP Gore praises **cap and trade**, by The **Canadian** Press, March 9. When Al Gore comes to see Kathleen Wynne it's no coincidence her government is in trouble and an election is around the ...

Environment minister Catherine McKenna on the contradiction at the heart of Canada's energy policy | CBC Radio

www.cbc.ca - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, March 18, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

Oil pipelines have been touted as nation-building projects in Canada, a term that evokes bold feats of nation-spanning infrastructure, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway or the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Canada's Pipeline Challenges Will Force More Tar Sands Oil to Move by Rail | DeSmogBlog

www.desmogblog.com - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Sunday, March 18, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

The Motley Fool has been advising investors on “How to Profit From the Re-Emergence of Canada’s Crude-by-Rail Strategy.” But what makes transporting Canadian crude oil by rail attractive to investors?

Panda: Firm action needed on pipelines | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, March 17, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

If there’s one thing I hope all Albertans can agree on, it’s the desperate need for more pipelines to get our abundant oil and gas resources to market. According to recent reports, Alberta is losing $7 billion per year because of lack of ...

Global Citizen’ Trudeau’s anti-Canadian energy policy is costing our nation billions of dollars ~ Lake Superior News

lakesuperiornews.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has found that the Trudeau government is exempting foreign oil from the emissions regulations they impose on oil made right here in Canada.

Rex Murphy: Trudeau is Captain Canada to our threatened steel workers. Our oil workers? Silence | National Post

nationalpost.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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

Steel and oil. Strength and energy. The world is built on both. They are both major Canadian industries.

Gormley: Pipelines, the carbon tax standoff, and stories on Boushie | Saskatoon StarPhoenix

thestarphoenix.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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

For the second time in less than a week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau jetted to Regina, this time to let Evraz steel workers know that he’s supporting their industry and resisting U.S. tariffs on steel which have so far exempted Canada.

The hypocrisy of fossil fuel protesters

Toronto Sun · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paigemacpherson

Ad Value: $2,916
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A17

The fossil fuel divestment movement is picking up steam. Earlier this year, New York City announced it would sell $5 billion worth of investments in fossil **fuels** within its pension fund. Quebec's Laval University became the first ...

Panda: Firm action needed on pipelines | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

If there’s one thing I hope all Albertans can agree on, it’s the desperate need for more pipelines to get our abundant oil and gas resources to market. According to recent reports, Alberta is losing $7 billion per year because of lack of ...

Trump's goal of 'energy dominance' could change the global balance of power - Business - CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Fuelled by technological breakthroughs and cuts to taxes and regulation, the United States is on target to become the world's biggest producer of crude oil in the next five years.

Report: Russian Hackers Had The Ability To Shut Down U.S. Power Plants | Public Radio East

publicradioeast.org · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Trump administration accused Russia on Thursday of orchestrating a campaign of cyberattacks that targeted the U.S. power grid.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Entegrus Powerlines and St. Thomas Energy to Merge Operations April 1, 2018 | Entegrus

entegrus.com · Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

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Tone: Neutral

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markets.businessinsider.com · Sun Mar 18 2018
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www.cbc.ca · Sat Mar 17 2018
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Trying to make sense of the murky future of Peterborough Distribution Inc.

Peterborough This Week · Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $31
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

Were you among those cheering that negotiations over the sale of **Peterborough Distribution** Inc. have fallen through?

Well, hold the applause.

For many in **Peterborough**, the sale of PDI to **Hydro** One was a non-starter. They had read and seen the **Hydro** One horror stories of $800 **electricity** bills and terrible **service**, and they wanted nothing to do with that.

For others, the proposed sale was part of a larger, provincial government **plan** that would see **Hydro** One expand its reach across **Ontario** to make it more attractive when eventually sold to private interests.

In both cases, news that the sale has fallen through have been met with optimism.

Yet both concerns over the deal overlooked the positives that would come from it.

Locally, it meant a one-per-cent reduction in **distribution** fees that would then be frozen for five years. It meant $55 million in net proceeds and one year guarantee of employment for PDI employees.

Hydro One was also planning on locating a new operations **centre** and garage in the city, which could have created another 30 jobs.

Those are big benefits for **Peterborough** that we will no longer receive.

Yet the biggest hit we may now face is the challenge facing smaller **utilities**. As the **energy** sector evolves, that requires a significant investment from **utilities** into new equipment and **power** systems.

When tackling that problem at a provincial scale, the costs can be better absorbed. Those expenses can, potentially, increase significantly when dealing with the problem at a more local level. Unfortunately, the cost of such a burden for a **utility** the size of PDI will be passed along to us, the customers.

Managing that will be vital moving forward.

The one advantage is that we, and not **Hydro** One, have a say in how that takes place.

The disadvantage is that we may be too small to do so effectively.

Mike Lacey is digital news editor for myKawartha.com and its sister publications.

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NDP would make Hydro public again, pay for drugs, dental

The Hamilton Spectator · Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Salmaan Farooqui The Canadian Press

Ad Value: $3,946
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A7

Ontario's New Democrat leader unveiled parts of her platform at a campaign event on Saturday, saying the party would deprivatize **Hydro** One and offer universal pharma and dental care for all Ontarians if elected.

Andrea Horwath said the party would also focus on lowering wait times health-care services, raise taxes on corporations and the wealthiest Ontarians and convert **student** loans to grants.

The five policy points were part of a preview of the party's full campaign platform, which Horwath said would be delivered in the coming weeks.

"We are going to run the biggest campaign the NDP has ever run in **Ontario**," Horwath told supporters at the **Toronto** event. "It will show everyone why we are running, and why we are running to win."

The Hamilton **Centre** MPP said the party would also hold the federal government accountable for Indigenous rights issues, pointing to the lack of clean drinking water in some **Ontario** First Nations communities.

The NDP plan, which also promised increased support for transit and affordable housing, starkly contrasts plans outlined by newly elected PC leader Doug Ford, who promised $6 billion cuts to public spending.

"(Ford) says he'll 'leave no stone unturned' in his hunt to privatize what belongs to the people of Ontario," said Horwath. "Cutting jobs and services, selling off our public assets, that's not change."

When asked by reporters after her speech, Horwath wouldn't say whether her plan would run a deeper deficit than the Liberal party's current budget.

Instead, Horwath criticized Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal party, saying voters are sick of broken promises and are ready for change after 15 years of their government.

Wynne released a statement after Horwath's speech, saying the she welcomed "many of the ideas brought forward by the NDP."

"On Monday, in the Speech from the Throne, our government will outline our plan to invest in mental health, health care, home care and child care. It will also detail investments in areas that make life more affordable," Wynne said.

"Our approach is a sharp contrast with what Doug Ford and the Conservatives are proposing with billions in cuts to health care and education to fund their platform."

"A PC government will lower hydro rates, scrap Kathleen Wynne and Justin Trudeau's expensive carbon tax, end hallway health care, ensure students are ready for the workforce, and bring good-paying jobs back to our province and accountability back to Queen's Park," said Ford in an emailed statement.

"It's time for a change in Ontario. It's time to respect the taxpayer again."

A recent poll conducted suggests that Horwath is narrowly more popular than Wynne, with 15 per cent believing Horwath is the best candidate to lead Ontario. Thirteen per cent preferred Kathleen Wynne, but Doug Ford was most popular.

Ontario's election is set for June 7.

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From centrism to austerity: Ford's fiscal realities; The People's Guarantee was a surprisingly centrist platform, and many Ontarians will pay a steep price if the new PC Leader turns hard to the right

The Globe and Mail · Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: JIM STANFORD

Ad Value: $19,187
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A11

Harold Innis Industry Professor in Economics at McMaster University

Ontarians watched with fascination as provincial Progressive Conservatives demonstrated their proficiency at counting leadership ballots. Now, voters are waiting to see if the PCs are any better at counting billions of dollars in their fiscal platform.

Indeed, Doug Ford's most pressing policy task is to present a convincing fiscal plan for the imminent election.

He needs a budget true to his awshucks conservative populism - but also one that adds up at the bottom.

This will not be easy.

Mr. Ford says he'll ditch Patrick Brown's People's Guarantee, which carefully costed out the first three years of Conservative budgets. Mr. Brown's platform was surprisingly centrist: hoping to convince voters that a PC government would be moderate and caring. But as soon as Mr. Ford threw his hat in the ring, he started jettisoning key planks - starting with the proposed carbon tax (meant to raise $10billion over those three years).

Mr. Ford's platform will have neither **cap and trade** nor a carbon tax. That throws **climate** policy into confused limbo, and leaves **Ontario** out of step with other jurisdictions (including neighbouring Manitoba, where a conservative government is using carbon revenue to cut income taxes). More troublesome for Mr. Ford is the $10-billion hole it leaves in the PC fiscal **plan**.

Other planks of the People's Guarantee will likely survive under Mr. Ford.

For example, he spoke positively of the promise to save $6-billion over three years through unidentified efficiency gains. This fiscal trick has been tried by many campaigning politicians, but never works; implementing austerity on that scale is actually much harder than just finding "a few cents on the dollar." Mr. Ford will move ahead with the private-sector **energy** cuts ($1.9billion a year) implied by cancelling **cap and trade**. He will also maintain $10-billion in income and GST cuts promised in the People's Guarantee - and possibly go further (such as by axing the foreign-buyer's **real estate** tax).

The People's Guarantee pledged to balance the provincial budget by 2020, and then run a small surplus. With no carbon tax and no concrete **plan** for "efficiency" savings, how will Mr. Ford square that same circle?

Arithmetically, he has three options: increase taxes; tolerate a deficit; or cut spending. At door one, Mr. Ford could seek other sources of tax revenue.

That's a non-starter, given his rhetoric about long-suffering taxpayers. Door two is to tolerate deficits, converting lost carbon-tax revenue and the likely failure of the efficiency audit into higher debt.

That also clashes painfully with Mr. Ford's pledge to wrestle the debt to the ground.

Almost certainly, Mr. Ford will choose the third door: still-deeper cuts in provincial spending. He needs $10-billion in cuts over three years to offset carbon-tax revenue; $6-billion more to meet the efficiency target; and still more to pay for any additional tax-cut promises. All that's on top of $1.9-billion in annual spending cuts from cancelling **cap and trade**. All told, he will need to cut spending by close to $25-billion over three years - and around $10-billion in the third year alone. Cuts of this magnitude would significantly damage government services (all the more so given continual inflation and population growth).

Ten billion dollars a year is a major chunk of purchasing **power**: more than 1 per cent of provincial GDP. We don't know, of course, the precise composition of the cuts, but they would inevitably include a combination of direct staff and program delivery, incomesupport programs and private-sector activity (including the cancelled capand-trade projects). And that's just the direct first-order impact. Cuts this big would also spill into **consumer** spending and other forms of aggregate demand.

Moreover, reducing provincial spending by more than 1 per cent of GDP cannot but have a parallel affect on provincial labour markets. It is reasonable to expect job losses (both direct with government, and indirect via private-sector actors also affected by the austerity) to total at least 1 per cent of **Ontario** employment: or around 75,000 lost jobs. That estimate is conservative: Since government services are relatively labourintensive, the final impact on employment would likely be proportionately **greater** than the impact on GDP. In 2014, then-PC leader Tim Hudak pledged to cut 100,000 jobs in a war on the deficit, and went down in flames. Let's see if Mr. Ford's tough love fares any better at the ballot box.

Mr. Ford won the leadership by stoking populist resentment against government, taxes, sex-ed and environmentalism. That mobilized enough grassroots party support to put him over the top. Completing a similar journey from centrism to austerity in a provincial budget, however, will be much harder. And many Ontarians will pay a steep price for the trip.

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Could Ford manage Ontario's economy?

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: David Olive Toronto Star

Ad Value: $30,226
Reach: 500678 **Page:** B3

What sort of economic manager of **Ontario** would a Premier Doug Ford be?

Ford is a sometime fan of Six Sigma, a 1990s-era management fad by which complex organizations are reduced to a few straightforward goals. In that spirit, Ford said this week that as premier he would reduce the challenges of **Ontario** to just a few points.

Ford's priorities, he says, will include health, education, job creation and cutting **hydro** bills. He would also scrap **Ontario**'s **cap-and-trade** system for reducing greenhouse **gas** emissions, and he rejects a carbon-tax regime to replace it.

That is the crude platform Ford will run on in the June 7 election that he is favoured to win, becoming **Ontario**'s 26th premier.

Ford will also tout his record as a businessman.

Ford successfully expanded the Rexdale, Ont.-based family business, Deco Labels & Tags Ltd., a $100-million (sales) firm that makes packaging labels, into the Chicago market. He was less successful in bids to expand into New Jersey, Florida and Ohio.

Assessing Doug Ford's managerial acumen on the basis of Deco is difficult, given that Deco, as a privately held firm, is not required to disclose its financial performance or much else about itself.

Ford himself isn't always clear on where he stands.

On Feb. 27, Ford told supporters, "I'm proud that I'm a social conservative." And Ford does have a caustic regard for unrestricted access to abortion, and to Premier Kathleen Wynne's sex-ed curriculum.

But this week, Ford told another **Toronto** newspaper that "I wouldn't consider myself a social conservative, I just don't."

Last month, Ford told the journal iPolitics that he would merely "tweak" the Tory platform he inherited. But last week, Ford boasted over how he has thrown it out entirely, replacing that 78-page document with his point-form platform.

It's worth shedding a tear for the commendable PC platform built by a team led by Patrick Brown, ousted as PC leader for alleged sexual misconduct in January. (Brown denies the allegations made against him.)

Dealing with scores of issues facing Ontarians, the Brown platform promised an additional $5 billion in GTA subway funding, $1.9 billion for a long overdue upgrade of Ontario's mental-health system, 15,000 new long-term hospital care beds over five years to cut wait times, and a refund covering as much as 75 per cent of a family's child-care expenses.

It would also have reduced middle-class income taxes by 22.5 per cent, cut the average hydro customer's bill by 12 per cent, reduced hydro costs for medium- and large-sized businesses, and cut the small-business tax rate by 28.5 per cent.

It's worth eulogizing the Brown platform because it was a substantial down-payment on future economic and social prosperity. And it aligned with the fiscally conservative, socially progressive formula by which the Tories were able to govern Ontario for an unbroken 43 years until Bill Davis' retirement in 1985.

Ford's rejection of carbon pricing would deprive Ontario of the more than $4 billion over the next four years that Ottawa would remit to Queen's Park from carbon-pricing revenues raised in Ontario.

That means a Premier Ford would have to trim his ambitions in health care, education, economic development and so on, though we don't yet know if they are truly ambitious. It's either that or run even bigger deficits, or slash existing programs. No worries, Ford told the Star this week. He will finance his platform with close to $6 billion in as-yet unidentified cost cutting.

That might not turn out to be a chimera, as so often is the case. But even if those savings are to be had, they would account for a mere 3.9 per cent of Ontario government spending of almost $155 billion in fiscal 2018-19. As a platform centrepiece, it is disingenuous. But Ford's obsession has been cost cutting since he joined the family business in the 1990s, and it also evokes the "gravy train" theme that helped get his late brother elected mayor of Toronto.

That all provinces must have carbon-pricing regimes is compulsory. Fighting Ottawa on that is a distraction Ontario can ill afford.

Since he entered the PC leadership race, Ford has had little to say about how he would run the $763-billion economy of Ontario, one of the world's largest and most complex economic jurisdictions.

Ford's economic agenda, or what little we know of it in these early days, includes further privatization of alcohol and marijuana sales. And Ford would scrap the foreign-buyers surtax on housing purchases. Along with stricter mortgage-lending rules and rising interest rates, the surtaxes in B.C. and Ontario on offshore housing purchases have helped to gently deflate the housing bubbles in Vancouver and the GTA.

Those taxes are temporary measures to prevent a devastating housing-market collapse. Ford, possibly unaware of the conditions that triggered the epic U.S. housing bust and resulting Great Recession, is emphatic that the private sector has sole wisdom on managing supply and demand. That's an economic doctrine that went out with Herbert Hoover.

Neither, Ford believes, should governments intervene in the provision of single-family housing, a shortage of which cripples the GTA economy.

That we need, as Ford says, more single-family dwellings built on the GTA's abundance of underused land is a given. But believing that private-sector developers will eventually provide it, as Ford does, is a triumph of hope over reality.

GTA developers have been distorting the housing market for a generation. The free-market ideology to which Ford is in thrall says the developers would have responded by now to market signals that there's lots of business to be had in building affordable shelter. But instead, developers keep building mostly luxury condo towers and monster houses.

Ford stands an excellent chance of becoming **Ontario**'s next premier, as Brown did. Except that Brown would not have brought obsolete management thinking to the **Ontario** premier's office.

Obviously, there's no saying precisely what a Premier Ford would do. But a mid-life makeover in his reductionist approach to government seems unlikely. In which case, 13.4 million Ontarians might pay a steep price for the alleged sexually inappropriate conduct of one individual.

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Wynne's throne speech will be a fairy tale

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 19 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $4,248
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

Believing anything in Premier Kathleen Wynne's throne speech on Monday will be the equivalent of believing that this time Lucy is going to hold the football in place for Charlie Brown.

To believe Wynne's election promises, we'll have to practice "doublethink," holding two contradictory ideas at the same time, as famously defined by George Orwell in his dystopian vision of the future, 1984.

Because doublethink is required to make any sense of the Wynne government's ever-changing numbers on the dismal state of **Ontario**'s finances.

Opening last year's budget speech on Apr. 27, 2017, Wynne's finance minister, Charles Sousa, boasted: "Four years ago, our government promised to balance the budget. And today, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce ... we did it! ... I am pleased to announce that we will be balancing the budget this year. And the next year and the year after, we're projecting it to be balanced, too. And the people of **Ontario** can count on it."

With the provincial economy booming under the Liberals, according to Sousa, he asked Ontarians to "imagine what we can do now ... now that we're in a stronger position."

He said with the Wynne government achieving a balanced budget in 2017-18 for the first time in a decade, and with two more to come, the Liberals now had the financial freedom to slash **hydro rates** by 25% (by taking on more debt), give 210,000 college and university **students** free tuition, provide free prescription drugs to Ontarians under 25 and to launch "the greatest infrastructure investment in our province's history" for "roads ... **public transportation** ... hospitals and schools."

Almost seven months later, on Nov. 14, 2017, Sousa assured Ontarians in his fall economic statement that: "The government is continuing to project a balanced budget in 2017-18 and ongoing balance in 2018-19 and 2019-20, unchanged from the 2017 budget forecast."

But that was then and this is now.

On March 7, less than four months later, in a speech to the Economic Club of Canada, Sousa announced that in the Wynne government's upcoming March 28 budget, "in order to invest more in hospitals, mental health, longterm care and child care ... **Ontario** is choosing to run a deficit" of less than 1% of Gross Domestic Product.

While Sousa refused to give a specific number, that means a deficit of up to almost $8 billion for the coming year.

Heaven only knows what will happen in the years after that if Wynne is re-elected June 7.

Clearly, promising to balance the budget for three years was one of Wynne's "stretch goals," the excuse she gave when she failed to deliver on a previous election promise to cut auto insurance **rates** by 15%.

To be **fair**, Wynne is hardly the first **Ontario** premier to break a promise (see her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, laughably promising "not to raise our taxes" in the 2003 election that brought the Liberals to **power**).

And until the Progressive Conservatives threw him out as their leader, Patrick Brown had said the PCs would run a $2.8 billion deficit in 2018-19 if they won the election.

But what is astonishing about the Wynne Liberals is how brazenly they say one thing and do another.

Including attacking and/or ignoring the two now-vindicated, **independent** fiscal watchdogs of the legislature - the auditor general and the financial accountability officer - who have been warning for months that the Liberals'numbers simply did not add up.

Which is why Wynne's Monday throne speech will be good for one thing and one thing only ... a good laugh. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Wynne says government must lay out priorities

The Sault Star

The Sault Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $540
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A1 / Front

Ontario's premier is defending her decision to prorogue the legislature and deliver a throne speech next week, saying it's the only way her government can lay out its priorities in the leadup to the spring election.

Kathleen Wynne denied the move is an attempt to wipe the slate clean before the June 7 vote or get a head start on the campaign, as her political opponents have suggested.

"The throne speech is one of the few ways that we actually have to lay out the government priorities and so that's why we had to do this technical prorogation," she said at an event at Humber College's Lakeshore campus in **Toronto** on Friday.

The surprise decision was announced Thursday and requires the government to briefly shut down the legislature.

The Liberals have stressed no sitting days will be lost because the closure will take place this week over March Break, and said all government bills and motions introduced before prorogation will be reintroduced as soon as the legislature resumes.

But the opposition parties have accused the Liberals, who are lagging in the polls, of trying to hit the reset button ahead of the election.

Doug Ford, the newly elected Progressive Conservative leader, said there is "no reset on 15 years of Liberal waste and political corruption," while NDP Leader Andrea Horwath called the prorogation of the legislature a "stunt."

The throne speech will come just a week before the Liberal government is set to table its 2018 budget, which is expected to include an approximately $8 billion deficit.

The Liberals have said the deficit is necessary to enhance spending on health care, child care and support for **students**.

In September 2016, Wynne used a throne speech to announce relief for Ontarians from high **hydro** **rates**, an issue that had dogged her for months. At the time, the government removed the provincial portion of the **HST** from bills and would go on to slash 25 per cent from **rates** the following spring.

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Cranking up campaign; Wynne paints Ford as heartless businessman

Toronto Sun · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $4,118
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A8

Ontario Liberals are attempting to define new PC Leader Doug Ford as a hardhearted businessman before he has even released his election platform.

On Friday, Premier Kathleen Wynne told college kids that Ford would abolish rent control.

"Every chance he gets the new leader of the opposition talks about letting the free market rule," Wynne said. "He's about the bottom line."

Wynne referred to an interview Ford gave to the Globe and Mail where he was asked about **Toronto**'s foreign buyers tax and rent control, and his reply that he favours the free market.

Ford's team could not be reached for specifics on his rent control position, but he has said publicly that his election platform will focus on lower taxes and **hydro** **rates**, an end to the **cap-and-trade** program which puts a price on carbon through measures like fees on **gasoline**, a repeal of the controversial sex education curriculum and an open-for-business philosophy.

Wynne outlined for the **students** how she thinks the upcoming election campaign will be fought with her Liberals seeking to ease people's burdens and the Conservatives offering a fend-for-yourself approach.

"There's a stark choice on June 7," she said. "So we're making a deliberate choice with our next budget."

That budget, to be released on March 28, is expected to open the spending taps.

Instead, Wynne said there will be new money for mental health, seniors care and the environment.

Ford has said he will campaign on a balanced budget but can continue to meet health care and other needs by eliminating waste.

AArtuso@postmedia.com

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Horwath rallies troops, dangles election goodies; Promises full dental coverage and paid-off student loans

Toronto Star - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $12,880
Reach: 315452 **Page:** A1

An NDP government would provide Ontarians with dental benefits and convert post-secondary **student** loans to grants, said Leader Andrea Horwath in a speech Saturday that gave a glimpse into her party's election platform.

"We know we can do better to make sure that everyone can build a good life, right here in **Ontario**," she said, outlining five key promises in the party's platform for the June 7 election, which also include improvements to health and long-term care, returning **Hydro** One to **public** ownership while cutting **rates**, providing universal pharmacare and raising corporate tax **rates**.

"We can help people be healthier, and make more life affordable in **Ontario**, if we help more people go to the dentist," Horwath told the NDP's provincial council.

"We are going to make sure every working person in **Ontario** has dental benefits. And we will make the largest investment in **public** dental coverage in **Ontario**'s history - so that every senior can get the dental care they need, and every person on social assistance can get the dental care they need."

The dental program will be called "**Ontario** Benefits" and will be portable, moving with Ontarians when they switch employers, she said.

Horwath also outlined the NDP plans for **student** debt. "Young people need more opportunities, not more debt," she said. "With our **plan**, we will make repaying provincial **student** loans a thing of the past, and give young people a much better start in life."

A party spokesperson offered further detail on this point, saying an NDP government would "convert the provincial portion of **student** loans into grants that don't have to be repaid."

The NDP platform, which has not yet been released, will also touch on existing **student** debt, the spokesperson said.

In her speech, Horwath said the party will unveil its full platform in the coming weeks. The NDP **plan** for seniors begins with a "find-and-fix inquiry" into long-term care, she said.

"We will give them the support and the time they need to provide great care," she said, likely referring to a private member's bill put forward by her party recommending at least four hours of personal care each day for nursing home residents.

The NDP has been hammering the Liberals daily in the legislature about health care, overcrowded emergency rooms and long wait times.

"When we win, we will end hallway medicine inside our hospitals," Horwath said.

Horwath also said an NDP government would hold the federal government accountable for the rights of Indigenous people in areas such as clean drinking water on reserves.

Horwath had previously promised to cut **hydro** bills by 30 per cent, through a number of measures that include getting rid of **time-of-use** pricing, capping **power** profits and buying back **Hydro** One shares, which critics have said would cost many billions.

The governing Liberals have introduced tuition rebates to cover the costs for **students** from lower-income families, as well as OHIP+, providing free prescriptions for youth.

The NDP pharmacare **plan** would provide free prescriptions for all Ontarians, initially covering 125 of the most commonly prescribed drugs, at a cost of $475 million a year.

Premier Kathleen Wynne is set to unveil the Liberals' election priorities in a throne speech on Monday.

"I welcome a number of the ideas brought forward by the NDP today, especially those to help seniors and support our health-care system," Wynne said in a statement following Horwath's speech.

"Our approach is a sharp contrast with what Doug Ford and the Conservatives are proposing, with billions in cuts to health care and education to fund their platform."

A poll conducted by Campaign Research this week found Horwath had the highest approval rating of the three main party leaders. Ford was second, followed by Wynne.

With files from The **Canadian** Press

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Horwath Promises Have Bite?; Dental and prescription drug coverage for all, NDP leader vows

Toronto Sun - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $4,029
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A5

An **Ontario** NDP government would ensure universal dental and prescription coverage, Leader Andrea Horwath has promised.

"Everyone will be covered with the dental **plan**," Horwath said. "And they'll either be covered through work or through their OHIP card… Every single person in our province will be covered with dental and, of course, with pharmacare."

In a coy move, the details of the proposals won't be available until a technical briefing scheduled for Monday, the same day Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Liberal government releases a Throne Speech.

The cost of all the party's election commitments, including the five planks she announced in a speech to New Democrats Saturday, won't be revealed until the entire platform is released in a couple of weeks, she said.

In addition to dental care and pharmacare, a program she called **Ontario** Benefits, Horwath said she would reverse the privatization of **Hydro** One, address **student** debt and invest heavily in frontline health and seniors care.

Horwath gave a rather large hint as to how the NDP plans to pay for these pricey promises - tax increases for profitable corporations and wealthy individuals.

She has yet to provide any numbers.

"But what I can tell you for sure is that low income families and middle income people in this province will be protected absolutely," she said. "Folks are having a difficult time enough already making ends meet. Life has become very unaffordable for everyday families and we are not going to make it worse for them."

Top earners Top earners in **Ontario** already pay a combined federal and provincial tax **rate** of 53.53% on income over $220,000.

Horwath told the enthusiastic NDP **crowd** that the party plans to run a large campaign, offering itself as an alternative to voters so they don't have to choose between "bad and worse" - Kathleen Wynne's Liberals and Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives - when they go to cast their ballots for a provincial government on June 7.

Wynne, who is expected to unveil her party's vision in the government's Throne Speech Monday, said in a statement that she welcomes a number of Horwath's ideas, especially helping seniors and supporting health care.

"On Monday, in the Speech from the Throne, our government will outline our **plan** to invest in mental health, health care, home care and child care. It will also detail investments in areas that make life more affordable," Wynne said.

Ford said he is the only provincial leader presenting a vision for a more prosperous **Ontario**.

"A PC government will lower **hydro** **rates**, scrap Kathleen Wynne and Justin Trudeau's expensive carbon tax, end hallway health care, ensure **students** are ready for the workforce, and bring goodpaying jobs back to our province and accountability back to Queen's Park," Ford said in a statement.

Of the three main provincial leaders, Ford is the only one so far to have committed to balancing the books.

The Liberals have said they intend to run a deficit of up to $8 billion to invest in programs that they say will help all Ontarians benefit from good economic times. aartuso@postmedia.com

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Ontario NDP platform to include universal benefits for workers, deprivatizing Hydro One | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario's New Democrat leader says her platform will include improved public services, deprivatizing Hydro One and universal benefits for workers.

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Ontario NDP platform to include universal benefits for workers, deprivatizing Hydro One | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario's New Democrat leader says her platform will include improved public services, deprivatizing Hydro One and universal benefits for workers.

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Horwath rates high in polls

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Karen Gventer

Ad Value: $399
Reach: 11903 **Page:** A6

I find Jim Merriam's comments about Andrea Horwath in his recent column on the June provincial election surprising. Over and over, Andrea Horwath, the leader of the **Ontario** NDP, has **rated** higher in polls than Premier Kathleen Wynne and former PC leader Patrick Brown. Simply put, when people see Andrea Horwath speak they like her, and they trust her. One of Horwath's speeches on universal pharmacare which is circulating on the Internet has received a lot of positive attention. The reason people like the speech is because they see Horwath's passion for something she believes in. Pharmacare has been a pillar of the NDP platform for years. Many people have caught Horwath's enthusiasm, and it's great that another mainstream party is taking our lead and is now looking at the health benefits of pharmacare.

It is interesting that Merriam focused on the PC candidates'positions on **energy** and **hydro**. People in **Ontario** are really upset that the Liberals sold off **Hydro** One. It is a betrayal. It is well known that it was the **Ontario** PCs that set the stage for privatization in the **hydro** system and resulting higher bills. PC Premier Mike Harris had promised lower **hydro** **rates** and failed.

The PC leadership candidates talk about mismanagement of the **hydro** portfolio. They wish to subsidize private companies by giving them our **public** tax dollars, so the companies can make a bigger profit while we are paying more. That's expensive. They are not addressing the real issue. Both the Liberals and PCs have taken us down the path of privatization, which will cost **Ontario** **rate** payers dearly for generations to come unless reversed. Repeatedly, when asked, people say they want **Hydro** One put back in **public** hands, and the **Ontario** NDP is the only party that plans to do that.

Regardless of who is chosen as new leader of the PCs, recent history shows that the more people see Horwath in action, and the more they see her plans, the more people are inspired by her. Horwath is leading the **Ontario** NDP higher and higher in the polls. She is a serious contender to be the next Premier of **Ontario**. Karen Gventer Provincial Election Candidate Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound NDP

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How Canada can win in a low-carbon economy

The Globe and Mail - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: TOBY HEAPS

Ad Value: $17,803
Reach: 372649 **Page:** B4

CEO of Corporate Knights

While it is uncharitable to describe the Prime Minister's strategy of building pipelines to fight **climate** change as a "crock" or Orwellian logic - as David Suzuki and economist Mark Jaccard respectively have - it's clearly not working. We have to get beyond pipelines to lay down a genuine foundation so places such as Alberta and Saskatchewan can win in a low-carbon economy.

It is time to accept that pipelines are not an economic panacea. Thanks to the accelerating **energy** transition and low-cost producers such as the Saudis protecting their market share by playing with the taps, we are now living in what

Royal Dutch Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden describes as a "lower forever" oil price world. Today, even building 50 new pipelines would not spur major capital investment in the oil sands because the economics don't justify it.

While there is no doubt the current discount on Western Canadian select (WCS) to West Texas intermediate (WTI) is hurting Canada to the benefit of U.S. refiners, most of any pipeline dividend would flow directly to foreign shareholders, who own 76.8 per cent of oil sands companies on a market cap weighted basis, according to Bloomberg's shareholdings database.

The highest estimates indicate relieving the current price squeeze on WCS with new pipelines could add up to $30-million a day to the Canadian economy, but these estimates do not fully account for producers using vertical integration with refineries, upgrading, long-term shipment contracts for pipelines, or the futures market just to avoid getting hit by selling at a discount. Part of any recovered discount would end up in government coffers, but less than you might think owing to corporate tax loopholes and a 1-per-cent royalty rate for most oil sands producers when prices are low. Alberta collected just $827-million in royalties on oil sands company sales of $120-billion in 2016. With rosy assumptions, a pipeline dividend might bring in a few billion dollars in annual corporate income tax and royalty revenues.

New pipelines such as Trans Mountain probably wouldn't do much for new jobs either (beyond a few thousand during construction), since they will not spur significant new upstream investment at current crude oil prices.

The main environmental rationale for pipelines if you accept Justin Trudeau's assessment is that pipelines are the price we pay to get Alberta's support for the national carbon pricing plan. Alberta's United Conservative Party Leader Jason Kenney sees things differently, which could be a problem if he wins the provincial election next year. What Canada needs is a different Grand Bargain to create winning conditions for all parts of the country in a low-carbon world. This new bargain will include making the most of the hydrocarbon reserves in the Athabasca Basin, while building a bridge from the old-energy economy to the new-energy economy.

The good news is we have the ingredients to do it.

While the sun is setting on the "rip and ship" model of oil extraction in Fort McMurray, Alta., there could be a new dawn of prosperity if we can "pump and polish" or "mine and shine" our abundant oil and gas feedstocks. Low prices are not good news for upstream energy producers, but they are a boon for the downstream energy sector, which can transform low-value feedstock into high-value products.

This opportunity is not going to just fall into our lap. It will require leadership on par with Peter Lougheed's Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority, which imagined the oil sands into the multibillion-dollar industry it is today.

Aside from leadership, the single most important obstacle to this is capital costs, which are 10 per cent to 15 per cent higher in Alberta than in competing jurisdictions. The obvious options are federal measures to help bring those costs down, and expedited approval for green power corridors from B.C.

to Alberta and from Manitoba to Saskatchewan to decarbonize the electricity system, which would take more emissions out of the atmosphere than any new pipelines could create.

Ottawa could also provide support to attract the investment capital needed to foster diversification. The Prime Minister has often said the environment and the economy go together like paddles and canoes. The above measures might just get the entire country paddling in the same direction.

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Ontario Should Opt Out Of Cap And Trade

Windsor Star - Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Michael Dobson,

Ad Value: $1,468
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

Re: Former U.S. VP Gore praises **cap and trade**, by The **Canadian** Press, March 9. When Al Gore comes to see Kathleen Wynne it's no coincidence her government is in trouble and an election is around the corner. When Al Gore says, "I don't want to interfere in your politics," that is an outright lie. Al Gore was there specifically to interfere in our politics.

Ontarians are suffering and need relief on their **energy** bills while billions go to California to balance **cap and trade**? How do you balance **energy** between California and **Ontario**? California probably gets two or three times more **solar** and geothermal heat. **Ontario** has none of this, so it's no wonder we have to pay them.

Ontario should join other provinces and opt out of **cap and trade**. Given the choice between giving money to California and using it here there would be no argument except for the most die-hard fanatics. Had the Liberals not totally screwed up green **energy**, the economy might be different. A made-in-**Ontario** solution could be part of revitalizing the economy. Doug Ford has my support.

Michael Dobson,

Windsor

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Environment minister Catherine McKenna on the contradiction at the heart of Canada's energy policy | CBC Radio

www.cbc.ca - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

Oil pipelines have been touted as nation-building projects in Canada, a term that evokes bold feats of nation-spanning infrastructure, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway or the St. Lawrence Seaway.

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Canada's Pipeline Challenges Will Force More Tar Sands Oil to Move by Rail | DeSmogBlog

www.desmogblog.com - Sun Mar 18 2018
Tone: Neutral

The Motley Fool has been advising investors on “How to Profit From the Re-Emergence of Canada’s Crude-by-Rail Strategy.” But what makes transporting Canadian crude oil by rail attractive to investors?

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Panda: Firm action needed on pipelines | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

If there's one thing I hope all Albertans can agree on, it's the desperate need for more pipelines to get our abundant oil and gas resources to market. According to recent reports, Alberta is losing $7 billion per year because of lack of pipeline capacity, with industry losing $6.7 billion more annually.

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Global Citizen' Trudeau's anti-Canadian energy policy is costing our nation billions of dollars ~ Lake Superior News

lakesuperiornews.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has found that the Trudeau government is exempting foreign oil from the emissions regulations they impose on oil made right here in Canada.

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Rex Murphy: Trudeau is Captain Canada to our threatened steel workers. Our oil workers? Silence | National Post

nationalpost.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

Steel and oil. Strength and energy. The world is built on both. They are both major Canadian industries.

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Gormley: Pipelines, the carbon tax standoff, and stories on Boushie | Saskatoon StarPhoenix

thestarphoenix.com · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

For the second time in less than a week, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau jetted to Regina, this time to let Evraz steel workers know that he's supporting their industry and resisting U.S. tariffs on steel which have so far exempted Canada.

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The hypocrisy of fossil fuel protesters

Toronto Sun · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paigemacpherson

Ad Value: $2,916
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A17

The fossil fuel divestment movement is picking up steam.

Earlier this year, New York City announced it would sell $5 billion worth of investments in fossil fuels within its pension fund.

Quebec's Laval University became the first Canadian university to commit to divest from fossil fuels in February. While other schools such as the University of British Columbia and the University of Ottawa have mostly rejected fossil fuel divestment pushes from student activists, Dalhousie University's board of governors in Halifax is reportedly looking at divesting.

In Canada, it's worthwhile to consider what else we would be divesting from.

Clearly, the feet-on-thestreets divestment movement is a walking contradiction. Activists pile into giant buses and march down streets carrying foam core signs and plastic megaphones. They go home to their heated apartments, take hot showers, microwave some quinoa, spend several hours tweeting the revolution from their iPhones, turn off the lights and get into their warm beds. They could do none of this without oil.

It should be obvious that hydrocarbons fuel buses, make signs and megaphones, heat apartments, pump and heat water, create and power microwaves, farm and process quinoa, construct and power iPhones, create bedding fabrics and power lights. No quick transition to "solar-powered smartphones for all" is available.

But glaring as the hypocrisy might be, let's be fair. They aren't going to forgo the gas-guzzling bus until alternative buses fill the streets (or until they can afford a subsidized Tesla).

If they can't be the change they want to see (like their T-shirts say), they'll fight for change until it comes, someday. Maybe. Protesters will say we can't reasonably criticize them for using fossil fuels until accessible alternatives exist.

Ignoring the foreign money funding much of the anti-Canadian oil advocacy, most activists believe in their cause because it's the right thing to do.

The core is morality: the climate is changing and to salvage the earth you must stop burning fossil fuels. But the moral motivation is there.

Realistically, the world isn't going to stop burning fossil fuels - the growing demand comes mostly from other countries, anyway - but if they did, would the outcomes be moral? Mining in Ontario, oil extraction in Alberta and natural gas in Nova Scotia have bolstered government coffers through endless fees and taxes. These industries provide well-paying jobs and create spinoff sectors, leading Canadians to pay income taxes, property taxes, sales taxes and more.

Many of the same people who demand divestment from fossil fuels also want poverty alleviation programs, improved women's health services and free tuition. As of 2012, Canada's resource economy contributed about $170 billion to Canada's GDP every year - about 10% of Canada's GDP, and a lot of tax dollars.

About $17 billion tax dollars are annually spent on Canadian universities and colleges. That's a large sum that, like affordable energy, needs to come from somewhere.

Let's envision an end to Canada's resource economy. Would protesters be content to personally forgo subsidized university, see countless Canadians lose their jobs, and witness a dramatic reduction in health care? Education? Foreign aid? What the frack, guys? Activists have every right to protest and we may see more success in the divestment movement. Sure, they might think they mean well, but unless these protesters are also arguing for dramatic fiscal belt-tightening by government, students and families alike, the price to be paid may not be so righteous after all.

MacPherson is a contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable Energy and works for a Canadian taxpayer research and advocacy group

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Panda: Firm action needed on pipelines | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

If there’s one thing I hope all Albertans can agree on, it’s the desperate need for more pipelines to get our abundant oil and gas resources to market. According to recent reports, Alberta is losing $7 billion per year because of lack of pipeline capacity, with industry losing $6.7 billion more annually.

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Trump's goal of 'energy dominance' could change the global balance of power - Business - CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Sat Mar 17 2018
Tone: Neutral

Fuelled by technological breakthroughs and cuts to taxes and regulation, the United States is on target to become the world's biggest producer of crude oil in the next five years.

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Report: Russian Hackers Had The Ability To Shut Down U.S. Power Plants | Public Radio East

publicradioeast.org · Fri Mar 16 2018
Tone: Neutral

The Trump administration accused Russia on Thursday of orchestrating a campaign of cyberattacks that targeted the U.S. power grid.

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