

John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: March 20, 2018 9:00 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning Clippings Summary: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Good Morning,

- Hydro Pole Attachment fees are back in the news with the Energy Minister saying this is a decision for the **OEB**, not him.
- But fee hikes could (eventually) be moot because of government investment in 5G. In a widely reported story yesterday about public/private investment in 5G, there were comments about how this technology could change the way wireless service is delivered. (Full Story below-highlighted section about service to rural/remote areas)
- NextBridge tells Sudbury City Council they are 100% behind the East-West Tie Line and optimistic they will win out over Hydro One's competing bid.
- The head of the CAQ in Quebec is proposing an "energy alliance" with Ontario and the Atlantic provinces

CBCNews Sudbury: Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says he has no control over proposed hydro pole fees

- The Energy Minister telling the CBC (Sudbury) he has no control over the proposed fee hikes.
- Glenn Thibeault says "This is an **OEB** decision and as the **Ontario Energy Board** is our economic regulator it is not something that I can say yay or nay to," he said.
- This is the follow up story from the same reporter who contacted **the OEB** last week. **OEB** is mentioned. (see today's full story below.)

Toronto Sun, Canadian Press, CBC and elsewhere: 5G wireless could change almost everything

- The \$400 million public/private investment will bring ultra-fast broadband to the Ontario and Quebec corridor.
- 5G will offer download speeds up to 100 times faster than today's 4G networks
- This new technology will not only make driverless cars ubiquitous, it could change the way wireless service is delivered and make attachment fees moot. (Full Story below-highlighted section about service to rural/remote areas)

TBNewswatch: NextBridge '100 per cent' committed to East-West Tie (OEB** is mentioned)**

- Consortium optimistic they will receive approval by **Ontario Energy Board** to build East-West Tie despite late push by Hydro One.
- Speaking to Thunder Bay city council on Monday night, NextBridge project developer Jennifer Tidmarsh made it clear they are not backing down. " "We are 100 per cent committed to this project,"
- "We are relying on the **Ontario Energy Board** to provide us approval for our leave to construct in July of this year," Tidmarsh said, adding the application was made last July. "We need the **Ontario Energy Board** to approve our project so we can continue to construct it."

Montreal Gazette, TVA Nouvelles, Canadian Press: CAQ's Legault wants energy alliance with Ontario, Atlantic Provinces (Full story in English below)

- If elected premier, Francois Legault would push for an eastern-Canadian alliance to maximize Hydro-Québec exports

- The 'Coalition avenir Québec' political party wants Hydro-Québec to sign lucrative electricity contracts similar to the recent one in Massachusetts. (i.e. 20-year contract expected to generate up to \$500 million for that province)
- Party leader François Legault wants Quebec to do more to export its electricity.
- Last September, however, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne balked after Legault boasted that she had said she was open to his export plan. She said that her province did not have unmet energy needs at that time.
- He replied that he understood the reluctance, that the refurbishment of shuttered nuclear plants creates Ontario jobs while importing Quebec hydro creates jobs outside her province, however he hopes that the cost savings overall would convince Ontario to buy in.
- Quebec voters go to the polls October 1

Full CBC Sudbury Story on Hydro pole fees

Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says he has no control over proposed hydro pole fees

Ontario Energy Board proposing 133% increase for fees on hydro poles

CBC News Posted: Mar 20, 2018 4:01 AM ET Last Updated: Mar 20, 2018 4:01 AM ET

The Minister of Energy says there isn't much he can do about a possible increase to hydro pole attachment fees in Ontario.

Last week, CBC News reported a 133 per cent increase is being proposed by the **Ontario Energy Board**. Internet and cable providers pay a fee to hydro companies to attach their wires to hydro poles. Providers have formed the Ontario Broadband Coalition to fight the rate hike as they say the expense would be one they'd be forced to pass on to customers.

Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says there isn't much he can do.

"They can send those [letters] to me but this is an **OEB** decision and as the **Ontario Energy Board** is our economic regulator it is not something that I can say yay or nay to," he said.

"They make their decision. We don't overrule the economic regulator."

The coalition says if the hydro pole fee goes through they may be forced to halt broadband expansion plans to rural and remote communities.

Thibeault says he's not aware of any company that's looking at dropping broadband expansion plans over the proposed increase.

"I've talked with some of the companies," he said.

"Some of them are very concerned, others say 'yes they understand it's the cost of doing business', but ultimately the OEB has the interest of the electricity and energy ratepayer at heart and so they've got to make sure that there will be no costs associated with that."

5G wireless corridor slated for Ontario, Quebec

Canadian Press

March 19, 2018 2:10 PM EDT

<http://torontosun.com/news/provincial/5g-wireless-corridor-slated-for-ontario-quebec>

Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains speaks during an announcement on investments in 5G technology by the Ontario, Quebec and federal governments, in Ottawa on Monday, March 19, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

OTTAWA — The governments of Canada, Ontario and Quebec are partnering with some of the world's digital heavyweights to usher in the next generation of wireless technology.

A \$400-million public-private investment will create a corridor of 5G wireless test beds through Canada's two largest provinces, aimed at giving companies a chance to experiment with new ideas and products that are only now becoming possible thanks to recent breakthroughs in telecommunication technology.

While many estimate it will take years before 5G is widely rolled out to the Canadian mass market, it's being

billed as the wireless backbone to futuristic technologies including driverless cars, remotely controlled complex surgeries, and download speeds up to 100 times faster than today's 4G networks.

"5G is the gateway to the future and we are just on the brink of this technological revolution," Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains said Monday at a funding announcement in Ottawa.

The new project is called ENCQOR — Evolution of Networked Services through a Corridor in Quebec and Ontario for Research and Innovation — and will allow an estimated 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses to plug into an early 5G platform for research and development.

Ontario, Quebec and the federal government have each pledged about \$67 million, while the remaining \$200 million will come from five private-sector partners. Ericsson, Ciena Canada, Thales Canada, IBM Canada and CGI will lead the public-private partnership, which is expected to "secure" more than 4,000 jobs, 1,800 of which will be specialized in 5G.

Karl Sasseville, a spokesman for Bains, clarified that those jobs are made up of existing positions within the five private-sector partners that will be repurposed for the project.

Borje Ekholm, CEO of Swedish telecom giant Ericsson, said Canada is "leapfrogging" to the front of 5G technology with its commitment to wireless innovation. When people think of national infrastructure they often think of roads and streets, Ekholm said.

"We believe the future highways will all be digital," he said.

Ekholm said he expects the test-bed technology to be deployed later this year and become operational by early 2019.

Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains speaks during an announcement on investments in 5G technology by the Ontario, Quebec and federal governments, in Ottawa on Monday, March 19, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

The government estimates information and communications technology contributed \$76 billion to the country's gross domestic product in 2017.

One of the first looks at the potential of 5G technology came at the recent Pyeongchang Winter Games, where a test network powered self-driving vehicles, virtual reality content, and an app that allowed viewers to access multiple camera angles of events.

But these experiences weren't open to just anyone with a smartphone or tablet. Accessing the next generation wireless networks will require consumers to upgrade to a new device with updated hardware.

It's expected that the rollout of 5G networks will also help bolster internet access for rural communities that currently have poor broadband connections.

Last month, Bell and Huawei announced a trial launch of so-called wireless-to-the-home technology that's being seen as a precursor to how 5G would extend the availability of high-speed internet access. Rather than having sparsely populated rural areas wired for internet access, a wireless transmitter can establish a connection with nearby homes that are outfitted with the right modem.

Facebook is also working on so-called high altitude platform station (HAPS) technology, which would see solar-powered unmanned drones help provide internet access in rural and remote areas.

The role of 5G in an increasingly digital world has also become political.

U.S. President Donald Trump blocked Singapore-based Broadcom's US\$117 billion hostile buyout bid for U.S. chip maker Qualcomm — which has invested heavily in the race to 5G — saying it would risk national security by opening the door to foreign data theft and espionage. Some American officials have also expressed concerns that Chinese companies, such as Huawei, could take a larger, or even a dominant, role in setting 5G technology and standards and practices.

Montreal Gazette: CAQ's Legault wants energy alliance with Ontario, Atlantic Provinces

If elected premier, he would push for an eastern-Canadian alliance to maximize Hydro-Québec exports

Last Updated: March 19, 2018 7:10 PM EDT

The leader of the Coalition Avenir Québec says he wants to form an energy alliance with Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces to if he becomes premier in this fall's election.

François Legault announced his plan, which he says would help export more Quebec electricity, on Monday as part of an address to the Conseil des relations internationales de Montréal (CORIM). The multi-region deal would involve building additional power lines to Ontario, the northeastern United States and even the

U.S. Midwest. It even left open the possibility of building another dam.

"If Quebecers put their trust in us, I intend to start discussions to forge an alliance with Ontario and with the Atlantic Provinces the Energy Alliance. In fact, we must have the ambition to significantly increase Quebec's electricity exports, and thus, to enrich Quebecers," he said.

Legault is hoping such an alliance would attract Ontario and put an end to decades of hydro squabbles between Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Last September, however, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne balked after Legault boasted that she had said she was open to his export plan. She said that her province did not have unmet energy needs at that time. He replied that he understood the reluctance, that the refurbishment of shuttered nuclear plants creates Ontario jobs while importing Quebec hydro creates jobs outside her province, however he hopes that the cost savings overall would convince Ontario to buy in.

Hydro is "the business of the century," he said Monday.

He also touted his plan as part of the fight against climate change, calling it the cleanest option. "Quebec has an immense store of clean energy in the Northeastern U.S.," he said.

He also pointed out that Hydro-Québec had just landed a deal with Massachusetts that could generate \$10 billion in revenue over 20 years — and that he'd like to repeat that success.

He believes that Quebec must intensify ties with the various levels of government and with major economic players in the United States, with a particular focus on the Northeast states.

"We must also act with greater strength at home," he added, emphasizing the need to have local content requirements in major infrastructure projects in Quebec. His government would make them mandatory, he said, but did not set a minimum percentage.

Legault's Coalition has been riding high in recent opinion polls, with at least one indicating he would have formed a majority government had the election been held when the survey was conducted.

The Quebec election will be held Oct. 1.

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 16 Results



Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says he has no control over proposed hydro pole fees - Sudbury - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The Minister of Energy says there isn't much he can do about a possible increase to hydro pole attachment fees in Ontario. Last week, CBC News

reported a 133 per cent increase is being proposed by the Ontario Energy Board.



Greater Sudbury Utilities warns of phone scam | CBC News

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If you get a call from someone claiming to be with Sudbury Hydro threatening to disconnect you, the utility says to check before you send any money.



NextBridge '100 per cent' committed to East-West Tie - TBNewsWatch.com

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The consortium that was originally selected to develop a 450-kilometre transmission along the north shore of Lake Superior line is intent on moving forward to meet a 2020 completion date, despite Hydro One's application to take over the ...



Entegrus, St. Thomas Energy merger approved; C-K-based utility will become 10th largest LDC in Ontario on April 1

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Positive** Page: A16

Chatham-Kent's **electrical utility** is about to make it into the top 10. The **Ontario Energy Board** has issued a decision and order approving the **application** to allow **Entegrus** ...



Ontario budget to include major investments in health

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords and Michelle McQuigge The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$2,795

Reach: 103267 Page: A1

The final budget before a looming provincial election will offer measures to cut hospital wait times, lower child-care costs and expand mental-health services while reducing the overall deficit, the **Ontario** government said Monday. The ...



Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford tells supporters he can 'take back' province | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Doug Ford told a group of nearly 2,000 supporters that he plans to "take back this province" at his first major event since he was made leader of the Progressive Conservative party earlier this month.



Ontario government lays out priorities ahead of upcoming election | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018

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Dental care is overdue

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$11,040
Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Give Ontario's New Democrats full marks for putting a key health issue - extending basic dental coverage to everyone - at the top of their election agenda. If the Liberals try and steal the idea, as they hinted at in Monday's throne speech, then ...



Wynne's throne speech is Liberal snake oil

Toronto Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$4,138
Reach: 171076 Page: A5

In a textbook example of bribing **Ontario** voters with their own money, Premier Kathleen Wynne claimed more government spending will make our lives better in her throne speech on Monday. Finance Minister Charles Sousa will follow up with a ...



Out-of-control spending key to Ontario election

Sarnia Observer - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Byline: Jim Merriam

Ad Value: \$559
Reach: 12173 Page: A4

The 2018 **Ontario** election will be fought around the edges of the central issue facing the province: how much government can we afford? Premier Kathleen Wynne was right when she said the contest will offer a clear choice between her ...



There are three parties in this race

Peterborough This Week - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$31
Reach: 47038 Page: 1

On a late October day in 1990, the 21st premier of **Ontario** sat in my City Hall office eating a salmon sandwich. "I really didn't expect to be here, you know," said Bob Rae, eyeing a cookie. I thought it best not to agree, since I ...



Ford fires up Tories at rally; Skipping throne speech, PC leader meets fans at 'unity' celebration

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$22,405

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Newly minted PC boss Doug Ford took a big swipe at Premier Kathleen Wynne's throne speech during a Monday night rally designed to make up for the lack of a splashy victory celebration after a chaotic Tory leadership announcement just over a week ...



Statement from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on throne speech « Ontario NDP

www.ontariondp.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Following the throne speech on Monday, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath issued the following statement:



Campaign? What Campaign?

Ottawa Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mike Lefebvre

Ad Value: \$174

Reach: 45442 Page: A14

I have read three articles recently that hint that **Ontario** Conservatives should be a little nervous, in the upcoming election, because Kathleen Wynne is a great campaigner. My question would have to be, "What's she campaigning on?" Could ...



Working Ontario people pay for government ads

Northumberland News - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$199

Reach: 22800 Page: 1

To the editor: In recent years, watching TV and listening to radio, I can't help but think of some advertisements put forth by our different forms of government that are really starting to get under my skin. Take for example the ...



La CAQ s'allierait à l'Ontario pour l'hydroélectricité | TVA Nouvelles

www.tvanouvelles.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, March 19, 2018

The 'Coalition avenir Québec' political party wants Hydro-Québec to sign lucrative electricity contracts similar to the recent one in Massachusetts. (i.e. 20-year contract expected to generate up to \$500 million for that province) Party leader François Legault wants Quebec to do more to export its electricity. The head of the CAQ proposes to form an "energy alliance" with Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

Pour remplir les coffres du gouvernement, la Coalition avenir Québec veut qu'Hydro-Québec remporte plus de contrats lucratifs comme celui qu'elle a

obtenu récemment dans le Massachusetts.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Energy minister Glenn Thibeault says he has no control over proposed hydro pole fees - Sudbury - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

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If you get a call from someone claiming to be with Sudbury Hydro threatening to disconnect you, the utility says to check before you send any money.

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NextBridge '100 per cent' committed to East-West Tie - TBNewsWatch.com

www.tbnewswatch.com - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Neutral**

The consortium that was originally selected to develop a 450-kilometre transmission along the north shore of Lake Superior line is intent on moving forward to meet a 2020 completion date, despite Hydro One's application to take over the project.

The Ontario Energy Board in 2013 designated NextBridge Infrastructure as the developer of the East-West Tie, which would connect the Lakehead Transformer Station just east of Thunder Bay to the Wawa Transformer Station.

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Entegrus, St. Thomas Energy merger approved; C-K-based utility will become 10th largest LDC in Ontario on April 1

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Tue Mar 20 2018
Tone: **Positive** Page: A16

Chatham-Kent's **electrical utility** is about to make it into the top 10.

The **Ontario Energy Board** has issued a decision and order approving the **application** to allow **Entegrus Powerlines** Inc. to merge with **St. Thomas Energy** Inc.

The **St. Thomas utility** will adopt the **Entegrus Powerlines** name on April 1, at which time the combined **utility** will be serving 17 communities throughout Southwestern **Ontario** with a **customer** base of more than 58,000, making it the 10th largest local **distribution** company in **Ontario**.

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent will be the majority owner, followed by the City of **St. Thomas**. Corix will continue to be a minority shareholder.

"We are committed to offering the excellent levels of **service** customers have come to expect," stated **Entegrus** president and CEO Jim Hogan in a media release.

"Together, we will continue to operate by the strong values that guide us to be a safe, **customer** and communityfocused, and sustainable **utility**."

Rob Kent, chief operating officer of **St. Thomas Energy**, will become vicepresident of IT services and fibre operations with **Entegrus**.

Fibre optic network services previously offered by Ascent in **St. Thomas** will be provided under the **Entegrus** group of companies.

"We look forward to working with our new team as we begin this transition to merge our operations," Kent said in the media release.

"There will be no disruption to services offered by **St. Thomas Energy**," he said, adding the main office will remain open.

"Additional changes may occur as we begin to merge systems, but we will continue to communicate any changes that will affect our customers," Kent said.

St. Thomas Energy branding will change to **Entegrus** in the coming months on the building, fleet, **customer** billing and website.

Additional merger-related information is available online at www.entegrus.com.

"The combined expertise and dedication of our employees will ensure our customers and communities we serve will benefit from increased resources and experience," Kent said. "The name **St. Thomas Energy** may be changing, but as a company we are still committed to operating with local values in mind."

Distribution rates are expected to remain fairly stable over the next several years, with projected increases being less than inflation, stated the release.

The merged **utility** plans to seek **OEB** approval for harmonization of **distribution rates** between all communities during the next scheduled **distribution rate application** in 2026.

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Ontario budget to include major investments in health

The Hamilton Spectator - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: Shawn Jeffords and Michelle McQuigge The Canadian Press

Ad Value: \$2,795

Reach: 103267 Page: A1

The final budget before a looming provincial election will offer measures to cut hospital wait times, lower child-care costs and expand mental-health services while reducing the overall deficit, the **Ontario** government said Monday.

The Liberal governments' speech from the throne, read out by Lt.-Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, offered no specific numbers for the promised investments, simply

saying they would be announced in the March 28 budget.

But the speech outlined some of the government's priorities for the final parliamentary session before the June 7 election, a contest in which polls suggest the Liberals are trailing the Progressive Conservatives.

Health care is poised to be a major focus of the coming budget, the government said, promising "significant investments" in hospital operations with a view to reducing hospital wait times.

Similar funding will be earmarked to expand home-care services, mental-health and addictions care, the speech said.

The government also announced plans to expand the OHIP Plus program that currently offers free pharmacare to residents under the age of 25, saying it wants to make the program available to a larger swath of the population.

"Your government's **plan** for care and opportunity is the right way forward for **Ontario**'s people, and **Ontario**'s economy, because the well-being of both are intrinsically linked," Dowdeswell read.

The speech also hinted at measures to address the cost of child care, which it identified as a "stumbling block" for many families.

It also contained promises for later in the child's life cycle, saying it would expand the program that currently offers free tuition to thousands of people.

Dowdeswell said the 2018 budget will run a small deficit of one per cent and would map out "a clear path" back to balance.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said it would be "precarious" to pursue a balanced budget and health-care supports simultaneously, adding that the current measures strike the best compromise.

"We can continue to balance, or we could continue to make these other investments that stimulate economic growth as well," he said.

"We're choosing to do that with a moderate deficit next year in order to accommodate all those areas."

The speech made no mention of rising **electricity rates** that have contributed to historically low popularity **rates** for Premier Kathleen Wynne and which are expected to be a key issue at the ballot box when voters go to the polls.

At least one opposition party promptly dismissed the Liberals' planned health-care measures as carrots dangled in anticipation of the looming vote.

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath likened the **plan** to her own dental-care platform announced just days ago, which saw her promise to invest \$1.2 billion on a dental program that would subsidize care for 4.5 million residents.

"The difference is New Democrats actually believe these things and will implement them upon being elected," Horwath said, adding that the Liberals often change their tune after they've been voted in.

"We believe in these things before elections and after elections."

Horwath has said the money for the dental care program, dubbed **Ontario** Benefits, would be raised through tax increases on corporations and wealthy individuals. She has said her government would run a deficit, but did not provide additional details.

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Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford tells supporters he can 'take back' province | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca · Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford told a group of nearly 2,000 supporters that he plans to "take back this province" at his first major event since he was made leader of the Progressive Conservative party earlier this month.

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Ontario government lays out priorities ahead of upcoming election | CTV Kitchener News

kitchener.ctvnews.ca · Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

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Dental care is overdue

Toronto Star · Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$11,040

Reach: 361323 Page: A10

Give **Ontario's** New Democrats full marks for putting a key health issue - extending basic dental coverage to everyone - at the top of their election agenda.

If the Liberals try and steal the idea, as they hinted at in Monday's throne speech, then fine. The more the merrier when it comes to a policy that would address a basic health need that has been neglected for decades.

If Doug Ford is serious about upholding the "progressive" part of the Progressive Conservative party he now leads, he could support extending dental care as well. We aren't holding our breath on that one, though.

More **public** support for dental care is hardly a new or revolutionary concept. More than a decade ago, the Liberals promised to help low-income workers access basic care, leading to headlines like this one from the Star in September 2007: "Dental **plan** could aid 500,000." Unfortunately, they backed off when the recession blew a hole in the province's finances and never carried through.

Still, it was a good idea then, and it's an even better one now. It's bizarre that our health-care system covers the whole body - but excludes the mouth and teeth. And basic dental care is no luxury. Untreated decay and infection can lead to serious illness, not to mention pain and emergency treatment that puts a heavy cost on health budgets.

The dental-care proposal will be a key part of the NDP's election platform. Over the weekend, leader Andrea Horwath gave a first look at some of what it will offer - including more money for health and long-term care, reversing the privatization of **Hydro One**, extending pharmacare and converting **student** loans into grants.

All this, they say, will be paid for by some combination of higher taxes on corporations and "the wealthiest" plus a larger budget deficit. Clearly, the NDP doesn't **plan** to let the Liberals outflank them on the left, as happened in 2014

when Premier Kathleen Wynne pulled off a surprise majority victory.

As for the Liberals themselves, they also are planning to run on the left, building on the progressive measures they have brought in over the past year.

Monday's throne speech, vague as it was, promises more money to reduce hospital wait times, expand home care to help seniors stay in their homes, strengthen mental-health and addiction services, train more apprentices, and expand the OHIP+ pharmacare **plan** that now covers everyone under 25 "to include other parts of the population." Details presumably to come next week in the provincial budget.

Which leaves Ford and the PCs. At this point, 80 days before the general election, they have both the greatest support in opinion polls and the least to say about what they would actually do if they win on June 7.

Ford says he'll be presenting "five simple points" to voters - including lowering hospital waiting times; cutting **hydro rates**; reducing the cost and size of government; ending the **cap-and-trade** system; and revamping sex-education in schools. All this while saving \$6 billion in costs every year through finding unspecified "efficiencies" and not laying anyone off.

It doesn't add up, and the PCs owe it to voters to spell out how they intend to accomplish this governmental miracle.

This election is shaping up as a once-in-a-generation choice between fundamentally different directions for the province, and we deserve to know where the parties **plan** to take us - and how they intend to get there.

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Wynne's throne speech is Liberal snake oil

Toronto Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: Negative

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$4,138

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A5

In a textbook example of bribing **Ontario** voters with their own money, Premier Kathleen Wynne claimed more government spending will make our lives better in her throne speech on Monday.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa will follow up with a March 28 budget that will be a desperate attempt by the Liberals to buy the June 7 election by assuring us we can spend ourselves rich.

It's the oldest snake oil in the Liberals' bag of tricks and if it was true, **Ontario's** streets would already be paved with gold.

In reality, Wynne faces the classic dilemma of socialism as famously described by Margaret Thatcher.

The premier has run out of other people's money. Our money.

Since coming to **power** in 2003, the Liberals have doubled government spending from \$71 billion to \$141 billion.

They've more than doubled provincial debt from \$139 billion to \$312 billion.

Ontario is now the world's most indebted nonnational government.

Last week, the Liberals broke their pledge of just one year ago to balance

Ontario's budget for the next two years.

Wynne now proposes to add billions of dollars in new debt to pay for more Liberal election bribes.

And yet, despite 15 years of runaway Liberal spending, taxing and debt, Wynne herself admitted in her throne speech that, "life is getting harder" for average Ontarians.

That "people are struggling to take care of themselves, and their loved ones."

That "the cost of living is rising".

That "part-time and precarious work is becoming more common."

That medical wait times are too long and that it's getting harder for seniors to stay in their homes as they grow older.

So much for the utopia the Liberals promised us.

So much for their claim that we could spend ourselves rich.

Nowhere in her throne speech did Wynne acknowledge the reality that the Liberals'reckless budgeting means **Ontario** taxpayers are now paying \$1 billion a month just to **service** the interest on debt, money that can't be used to make our lives better.

That Wynne's carbon pricing scheme has inflated the cost of living.

That seniors have been forced to choose between heat and food because of skyrocketing **electricity** prices under the Liberals'insane **energy** policies.

That at least 50,000 jobs of the province's most vulnerable workers will be lost by her reckless 31.6% hike to the minimum wage over 18 months, according to the Legislature's **independent**, non-partisan financial accountability office.

And yet, Wynne's solution for all of the hardships the Liberals'tax-and-spend policies have caused is more taxing, more debt and giving away more "free" stuff.

More free prescription drugs.

More free college and university tuitions.

More free dental care, as part of a bizarre bidding war for voters with NDP leader Andrea Howarth.

And a 25% discount on **hydro** bills, financed with more debt and skyrocketing **electricity** prices in four years.

In the real world, nothing is free. Everything has to be paid back, with interest.

As the Fraser Institute recently noted, over a lost decade of runaway Liberal taxing, spending and debt, **Ontario** ended up in seventh place out of the 10 **Canadian** provinces in average annual GDP growth per person; eighth in private sector job growth; ninth in government debt accumulated per person and tenth and dead last in median household income growth.

And what's Wynne's solution? More of the same.

Which is why we can't afford the Liberals anymore. [@goldstein@postmedia.com](mailto:lgoldstein@postmedia.com)
[@sunlorrie](#)

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Out-of-control spending key to Ontario election

Sarnia Observer - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jim Merriam

Ad Value: \$559

Reach: 12173 Page: A4

The 2018 **Ontario** election will be fought around the edges of the central issue facing the province: how much government can we afford? Premier Kathleen Wynne was right when she said the contest will offer a clear choice between her governing Liberals and the poll-leading Conservatives.

Here's the premier: "There's a stark choice on June 7. So we're making a deliberate choice with our next budget."

That budget, due March 28, is expected to begin a whole new era of spending since the government has abandoned its commitment to balance the books in 2018. (It never appeared to be a serious commitment.)

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

Across the great political divide, Doug Ford, the new Progressive Conservative leader, said he will campaign on a balanced budget and continue to meet needs by eliminating government waste.

Ford said he can cut billions through efficiencies, without any government employees losing their jobs.

In fact, the leaders of both parties reached into thin air and grabbed numbers to support their arguments.

Wynne pulled 40,000 from nowhere, saying that's how many jobs Ford will cut.

For his part, Ford has talked about cutting some \$6 billion from provincial expenditures.

Although I have serious reservations about Ford as premier, he is absolutely right about the need to reduce government spending.

With the province's debt of over \$311 billion, and carrying charges of \$1 billion a month, **Ontario** can't afford any more borrowing.

In the heartland - if rural **Ontario** can be called that - spending and debt at all levels of government, but particularly provincial, are a concern of many voters.

The out-of-control spending over the past 15 years of Liberal rule is proof that the government does not have what's best for the people, or the province, top of mind.

Today's debt levels simply are not sustainable, particularly in a province that has made life economically tough for small businesses and individuals in so many ways, from **hydro rates** to user fees.

Shovelling money out the door on all kinds of priorities at Queen's Park means more bureaucrats to keep track of it all. Since bureaucrats, in both the **public** and private sector produce nothing, the growth in their numbers is a warning sign of problems down the road.

The province needs entrepreneurs and business people willing to take a risk to establish entities that actually produce wealth and employ others.

The other party that should be in the running to win the June election, the NDP, seems anxious to outspend even the Liberals.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath has pledged free dental care and pharmacare as part of a universal health care **plan**.

Such a **plan** would be ideal in a province as rich as **Ontario**, but we can't afford it with today's balance sheet and the waste of billions over the past 15 years. The party is to discuss costing in the days ahead.

We're not even in the official election campaign yet, but we're getting good insight to where it's headed.

As I said, around the edges of the real issue. jimmerriam@hotmail.com

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There are three parties in this race

Peterborough This Week - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$31

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

On a late October day in 1990, the 21st premier of **Ontario** sat in my City Hall office eating a salmon sandwich.

"I really didn't expect to be here, you know," said Bob Rae, eyeing a cookie.

I thought it best not to agree, since I was trying to convince him to follow through with the previous Liberal government's promise to relocate the head office of the Ministry of Natural Resources to **Peterborough**.

Just a few weeks before, Rae and his NDP had pulled off what everyone in the province, including Rae, thought was impossible. They had soundly defeated David Peterson's Liberals to form the first and, until now, last NDP government in the province's history.

Rae couldn't have won at a worse time. The national economy tanked and his response, which by any objective accounting was not a bad one, upset his base and we got Mike Harris's Conservatives five years later.

Which brings us to Andrea Horwath. If all you know about the impending **Ontario** election is what you read and see in the media, you might well ask "Andrea who?"

It's all about the new, by-the-skin-of-his-teeth Conservative leader, Doug Ford, and the country's least popular premier, Kathleen Wynne. Just as 28 years ago it was all about David Peterson and Mike Harris.

Bob who?

Horwath has been barely visible in pre-election coverage, where the Conservative circus has sucked in most of the air.

Despite this, recent polls have found her as the province's most popular leader, undoubtedly due to the unpopularity of the other two. More interestingly, two recent polls, DART and Forum, have Horwath's NDP in second place to Ford's Conservatives.

Horwath comes with little baggage. She worked her way through school as a waitress, not (allegedly) pushing hash to her fellow classmates. Unlike Ford, she has a thought-out platform and, unlike Wynne, she isn't haunted by **hydro**

rates, gas plants or homophobia.

It's time to wake up to the fact that this is a three person race.

Sylvia Sutherland is a journalist and was **Peterborough's** mayor from 1986 to 1991 and from 1998 to 2006 and a provincial Liberal candidate in the 1990s.

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Ford fires up Tories at rally; Skipping throne speech, PC leader meets fans at 'unity' celebration

Toronto Star - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Rob Ferguson Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: \$22,405

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Newly minted PC boss Doug Ford took a big swipe at Premier Kathleen Wynne's throne speech during a Monday night rally designed to make up for the lack of a splashy victory celebration after a chaotic Tory leadership announcement just over a week ago.

The former city councillor and brother of late **Toronto** mayor Rob Ford accused the Liberals of doing "anything to stay in **power**" with the June 7 provincial election fast approaching.

"Today Kathleen Wynne wrote a lot of cheques on the taxpayers' back," a feisty Ford told hundreds of supporters at the **Toronto** Congress **Centre** near Pearson airport.

"All those cheques are going to end up bouncing."

At every mention of Wynne's name, the diverse band of Progressive Conservatives jeered and booed, prompting a grinning Ford to veer from the prepared text he was reading during an eight-minute speech. "We've got a lively **crowd** tonight," he said.

Ford took the stage to the Rocky song "Eye of the Tiger" and joined hands with the three women he defeated in the brief leadership race to replace Patrick Brown, who resigned in the wake of a CTV News report on sexual misconduct allegations from two young women. Brown denies the allegations.

Ford, second-place finisher Christine Elliott - who initially refused to concede her loss of the job she had failed to win twice before - Caroline Mulroney and Tanya Granic Allen all raised their arms in the air, smiling.

But none of the women spoke, and Ford was not joined by the party's caucus of more than two dozen MPPs on the stage at what was dubbed a "unity rally."

Instead, Ford was introduced by new campaign chairperson Dean French, who joked that the massive convention hall - where Brown won the leadership in 2015 - was booked for the whole night "just to be safe."

That was a reference to the botched leadership announcement on March 10 at a Markham hotel, where PC official had promised to reveal the winner by mid-afternoon but snags in counting ballots delayed the news until after 10 p.m. By then, an impatient and disappointed **crowd** had been asked to leave because the convention room had to be cleared for a previously booked wedding.

Borrowing a phrase from former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper's ill-fated 2015 re-election campaign, Ford said supporters can expect "a strong, stable majority government," and called on disaffected New Democrats and

Liberals to join with the PCs to defeat Wynne after almost 15 years of Liberal rule.

"They are terrified when they see a united party like the PC party," proclaimed Ford. "That is their worst nightmare."

He has yet to reveal a formal platform for the pending campaign.

To date, Ford has promised to lower hospital wait times, cut **hydro rates** further than Wynne's Liberals, scrap the sexual education curriculum that was updated for the social media era, and shrink government by finding almost \$6 billion in "efficiencies" he has not identified, except to say "no one is getting laid off."

He has also mused about privatizing recreational marijuana sales in a "free market" - contrary to Wynne's **plan** to open a chain of government-run stores - and requiring girls under 16 to get parental permission for abortions.

Since being elected leader, Ford and the party have overturned controversial candidate nominations in a handful of ridings and barred Brown from running as a PC candidate in June.

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Statement from NDP Leader Andrea Horwath on throne speech « Ontario NDP

www.ontariondp.ca - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Following the throne speech on Monday, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath issued the following statement:

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Campaign? What Campaign?

Ottawa Sun - Tue Mar 20 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mike Lefebvre

Ad Value: \$174

Reach: 45442 Page: A14

I have read three articles recently that hint that **Ontario** Conservatives should be a little nervous, in the upcoming election, because Kathleen Wynne is a great campaigner. My question would have to be, "What's she campaigning on?" Could it be record deficits, corruption, mismanagement of the province top to bottom? Or perhaps she's campaigning on **hydro rates**, selling off provincial assets, wait times for health care, as well as alienating all our doctors?

MIKE LEFEBVRE SMITHS FALLS (Well said.)

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Working Ontario people pay for government ads

Northumberland News - Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$199

Reach: 22800 Page: 1

To the editor:

In recent years, watching TV and listening to radio, I can't help but think of some advertisements put forth by our different forms of government that are really starting to get under my skin. Take for example the **Hydro** Fiasco ads or the Opioids Crisis ads (which I agreed with) just to name a few.

It is not the content of these ads, but what it never fails to say at the end — Paid for by the Government of **Ontario**. Well, I think these ads should acknowledge where the money really comes from — Paid for by the working people of **Ontario**. Their money is our money, without it they would not have so much to boast about.

Terry O'Leary,

Castleton

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La CAQ s'allierait à l'Ontario pour l'hydroélectricité | TVA Nouvelles

www.tvanouvelles.ca · Mon Mar 19 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Pour remplir les coffres du gouvernement, la Coalition avenir Québec veut qu'Hydro-Québec remporte plus de contrats lucratifs comme celui qu'elle a obtenu récemment dans le Massachusetts.

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