Rosemarie Leclair

From:	Rosemarie Leclair
Sent:	March 17, 2017 9:49 AM
To:	Neil Brodie
Subject:	Fwd: Morning News Clippings - Friday, March 17, 2017

I'm not sure how much time, effort or money goes into producing this...and who does it....but I question its usefulness....Can you do an informal walk around to Lynne, Mary Anne, Brian...not sure who else gets this,..to see if they think it adds any value beyond clips....also what's your view in terms of whether it helps at all from an issues mgt perspective? All I ever wanted was more like politicians....here is what's trending today.....and what we need to be ready for immediately ...or emerging... and the issues team is on it...
Have the time we identify things for discussion that aren't needed and don't identify things that are....for example, yesterday WPower..but that was not flagged as something to watch....Today, FN rate being talked about, RPP pilots....and oeb has no info out although we are ref in both, somebody should be saying ..we need to think about that....

Any way this has been on my radar for a bit...and given resourcing constraints and our reload at issues mgt, I thought we should review its need and effectiveness...

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** John Bozzo <John.Bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>
> **Date:** March 17, 2017 at 9:33:13 AM EDT
> **To:** ##Clippings_Distribution_List <Clippings_Distribution_List@ontarioenergyboard.ca>
> **Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, March 17, 2017**
>
> Good Morning.
>
> Here is the OEB news summary for Friday March 17.
>
> **OVERVIEW**
>
> Coverage on debate over hydro costs is becoming increasingly focused on economics for business, farmers and hospitals.
>
> National Post Power bills: Ontario manufacturers eye greener pastures stateside as hydro rates go through the roof
> Feature report on the impact of rising hydro rates on the competitiveness of Ontario's manufacturing sector. Includes reaction from owners of a manufacturing plant in Toronto and Richmond Hill who talk about the competitive benefits of relocating their operations to locations in the US because of lower hydro costs. Ontario Economic Development Minister Brad Duguid in contrast talks about the success of Ontario in recent months in terms of economic growth.
>
> Ottawa Citizen Platt: Forget politics. What's being done to lower electricity costs permanently?
> Opinion column highlights that broader measures are required to permanently address the challenges that have created dramatically rising hydro costs in Ontario. Digital Editor and former Queens Park reporter, Brian Platt references the OEB RPP Pilot programs as the type of remedy that is required to enact broader change in the provinces electrical energy system.
>
> Windsor Star Updated: Despite rebates, industry says hydro still too costly
> Report on the visit of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Bob Delaney to a meeting in Essex County on the rising cost of hydro. Public meeting held at Enwin Power with CEO, Helga Reidel who noted that the LDC was responsible for only 20 percent of the hydro bill. Article focuses mostly on concerns of local growers who fear that the rising cost of hydro is making them uncompetitive with their neighbours in Ohio and thus considering the value of shifting operations to the US. Similar report on CTV Windsor.

[Timmins Daily Press Hydro crisis costing hospital jobs: Fedeli]
Critique of Fair Hydro plan and overall energy policy by Nippising MPP Vic Fidelli. Fidelli claims that rising hydro rates are costing jobs in Ontario healthcare institutions and diminishing the quality of care in the province. Article includes comment from Paul Heinrich, President of the North Bay Regional Health Centre who notes that the facility does not qualify for the provinces recently announced Fair Hydro plan and the related 25% cost reduction benefit.

[CBC As it Happens 'Ridiculously out of reach' hydro bills have rural Ontarians turning to churches for help]
Interview with Wallaceburg Minister on his church group's experience of helping low income Ontarians and the increasingly negative impact that rising hydro costs are having on the circumstances of those most in need.

Flagged for discussion

N/A

Tweets

gardengnome22: @Kathleen_Wynne @HydroOne @OntEnergyBoard #onpoli #hydrooneripoff #heatoreat
https://twitter.com/gardengnome22/status/842411470717648896

YOMLtd: Ontario manufacturers eye greener pastures stateside as hydro rates go through the roof business.financialpost.com/news/energy/on… #business
https://twitter.com/financialpost/status/842406174783877120

SwansonArt: :(:(:(fb.me/4OI7Yo6VD
https://twitter.com/SwansonArt/status/842406438530121729

BrynneKKelly: ...the equivalent charge by US utilities is the infamous "Reconciliation Charge" in their tariff rate. $XLU
business.financialpost.com/news/energy/on…
https://twitter.com/BrynneKKelly/status/842408801097654278

francesdonald: Bad bad not good ! -> "Ontario manufacturers eye greener pastures stateside as hydro rates go through the roof" business.financialpost.com/news/energy/on…
https://twitter.com/francesdonald/status/842417368106184705

tomadamsenergy: Ontario has long shifted power costs to small/medium enterprises. They didn't complain enough. Might be changing. business.financialpost.com/news/energy/on…
https://twitter.com/tomadamsenergy/status/842431234164834304

Koffy25: @Kathleen_Wynne More companies leaving due to your policies, please resign for Ontario #OneTermPremiere #LockHerUp tinyurl.com/hd7ugcg
https://twitter.com/Koffy25/status/842435991428321282

KyleOuellette1: Manufacturers want to leave bcause high energy prices... what do you expect them to do!! #cdnpoli business.financialpost.com/news/energy/on… via @financialpost
https://twitter.com/KyleOuellette1/status/842439261798449152

From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: March-17-17 8:02 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Friday, March 17, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Friday, March 17, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (**Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca**)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 15 Results

Ontario manufacturers eye greener pastures stateside as hydro rates go through the roof | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu Mar 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Jocelyn Bamford, a white hard hat perched over red hair that curls down around her shoulders, has her hands on her hips. Behind safety glasses, her eyes flash. On the shop floor in the bustling Automatic Coating Inc. plant owned by her family, she ...

Proposed hydro bill cuts hoped to help Windsor small businesses | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Liberals have started a tour to explain the province's recently announced plan to slash electricity rates.

Platt: Forget politics — how are we really lowering electricity costs? | Ottawa Citizen

ottawacitizen.com - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

When Premier Kathleen Wynne finally announced her hydro relief package earlier this month, it put to rest the immediate political question of how to reduce bills quickly.

Quebec and Ontario sign $1-billion annual hydroelectricity agreement - Article - BNN

www.bnn.ca - Thu Mar 16 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Quebec and Ontario have signed a $1-billion annual hydroelectricity deal. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Quebec's Philippe Couillard met today for the official signing ceremony for the agreement, which was announced in October.

Wynne has run out of our money

Toronto Sun - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$1,823
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

Margaret Thatcher famously said the problem with socialism is that eventually, you run out of other people's money. In Ontario, that's the problem with Liberalism. More specifically, with Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberalism. It's not entirely her ...

ENTERPRISE-BULLETIN

Wynne and cheese at Barrie shop

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Cheryl Browne

Ad Value:$826
Reach: 18500 **Page:** B5

Tucked in behind the coolers stuffed with 150 exotic cheeses is the $800 **hydro bill** to keep those freezers and the chocolate tempering machine running. When Premier Kathleen Wynne dropped in to the J'Adore Fine Cheese & ...

THE DAILY PRESS

Wynne mortgaging future with hydro

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Judith Van Boxel

Ad Value:$445
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A4

It's fair to compare the Wynne government's extension of **hydro** costs to an extended mortgage on a house. As any homeowner knows, this always results in a huge escalation costs. The Wynne government cannot wiggle out of the ...

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theobserver

Rewiring power agency key to lower hydro costs

Sarnia Observer - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Brian Platt

Ad Value:$639
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

When Premier Kathleen Wynne finally announced her **hydro** relief package earlier this month, it put to rest the immediate political question of how to reduce bills quickly. The reduction mostly comes from kicking generation costs further ...

WINDSOR STAR

Despite rebates, growers say hydro still too costly

Windsor Star - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Doug Schmidt

Ad Value:$6,462
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A1 / Front

Blame Essex County's sticky humid **climate**, and not just high **hydro rates**, for local greenhouse growers fleeing Ontario for more southerly climes like Ohio, the province's parliamentary assistant to the ...

NORTH BAY NUGGET

Chief applauds hydro fee cut

North Bay Nugget - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles ,

Ad Value:$330
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod applauds the province's decision to exempt onreserve First Nation households from hydro delivery charges. "There are so many cases where I hear delivery charges for electricity far ...

Vanthof wants answers regarding hydro prices

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value:$243
Reach: 5917 **Page:** A1 / Front

Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP spoke in the legislature about the impact of high hydro rates on small businesses in Northern Ontario. He gave the example of Leis Wood Products, located in the Cobalt area. "Leis Wood Products takes ...

NEOMA, Vanthof talk hydro rates

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ben Sherratt

Ad Value:$615
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A2

The Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association is imploring the province to reduce the price of electricity. The association, which is headed by Kirkland Lake Mayor Tony Antoniazzi says the increased costs have "resulted hospitals, ...

Energy minister rejects hardeman's criticisms; Glenn thibeault slams provincial tories for not offering their own plan to reduce electricity costs

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Bruce Chessell

Ad Value:$364
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A6

Ontario's energy minister offered his own criticism of the province's Progressive conservative, responding thursday to comments made by local Oxford MPP ernie hardeman. in a statement provided to the Sentinelreview, Minister ...

Voters plugging into short-term rate relief

Orillia Packet & Times - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value:$475
Reach: 9181 **Page:** A4

Incredibly and against all odds, Ontarians may be prepared to forgive Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Liberals when they go to the polls in June 2018. According to a Mainstreet Research/Postmedia poll, approximately 47 per cent of Ontarians approve ...

Phase out nuclear to cut costs

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline:K. Clune

Ad Value:$199
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A4

letter to the editor and open letter to Premier Kathleen wynne: Premier wynne, your rebate notice arrived in my recent hydro One bill. it says, "Ontario's government is reducing electricity costs" by ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Ontario manufacturers eye greener pastures stateside as hydro rates go through the roof | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Thu Mar 16 2017
Tone: Neutral

Jocelyn Bamford, a white hard hat perched over red hair that curls down around her shoulders, has her hands on her hips. Behind safety glasses, her eyes flash. On the shop floor in the bustling Automatic Coating Inc. plant owned by her family, she has to shout to be heard above the squirt of compressed air nozzles, honks from forklifts, the clang of steel as it's dipped in baths, and the hum of exhaust fans.

Back to Top

Proposed hydro bill cuts hoped to help Windsor small businesses | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Liberals have started a tour to explain the province's recently announced plan to slash electricity rates.

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Platt: Forget politics — how are we really lowering electricity costs? | Ottawa Citizen

ottawacitizen.com - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

When Premier Kathleen Wynne finally announced her hydro relief package earlier this month, it put to rest the immediate political question of how to reduce bills quickly.

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Quebec and Ontario sign $1-billion annual hydroelectricity agreement - Article - BNN

www.bnn.ca - Thu Mar 16 2017
Tone: Neutral

Quebec and Ontario have signed a $1-billion annual hydroelectricity deal.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and Quebec's Philippe Couillard met today for the official signing ceremony for the agreement, which was announced in October.

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Wynne has run out of our money

Toronto Sun - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$1,823
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A18

Margaret Thatcher famously said the problem with socialism is that eventually, you run out of other people's money.

In Ontario, that's the problem with Liberalism.

More specifically, with Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberalism.

It's not entirely her fault. She shares the blame with her Liberal predecessor, Dalton McGuinty.

Together, they more than doubled the $138 billion debt the Liberals inherited from the previous Conservative government in 2003 to over $300 billion, making Ontario the most indebted sub-sovereign (nonnational) borrower in the world.

That explains the shell game Wynne is now playing as the clock ticks down to the next election scheduled for June, 2018. It explains her reducing **electricity** bills to **hydro ratepayers** , by having them subsidized by provincial taxpayers. Unfortunately, they're the same people. Laughably, Wynne and the Liberals now challenge the opposition parties to explain what they would do differently, the same tactic they used when they cancelled two **gas** plants at a public cost of up to $1.1 billion over 20 years.

Essentially, they're asking what a competent government would have done differently and on that score, there are plenty of answers.

For example, not waste billions of dollars on green **energy** that wasn't needed to replace **coal-fired electricity**, which the Liberals actually replaced with nuclear **power** and **natural gas**.

Not give **wind** and **solar** **power** developers outrageously generous, 20-year, no-cut contracts for expensive, unreliable and unneeded **power**.

Power we have to buy first, before all other forms of **energy**, making the entire system run less efficiently, meaning we have to sell less expensive forms of conventional **energy** at a loss to Quebec and the U.S., or pay **energy** producers not to provide **electricity**.

Thus, the answer to the Liberal challenge of what the opposition parties would have done is pretty simple.

It starts with not repeating all the disastrous blunders the Liberals made that doubled **hydro rates** in a decade.

This also explains Wynne having to sell 60% of **Hydro** One so she can balance the budget next year, an election promise which is meaningless because it does nothing to solve the structural deficit the Liberals have created in the province's books.

Because that's what happens when you run out of other people's money.

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Wynne and cheese at Barrie shop

Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Cheryl Browne

Ad Value:$826
Reach: 18500 **Page:** B5

Tucked in behind the coolers stuffed with 150 exotic cheeses is the $800 **hydro** bill to keep those freezers and the chocolate tempering machine running.

When Premier Kathleen Wynne dropped in to the J'Adore Fine Cheese & Chocolate shop on Dunlop Street East, Tuesday morning, the fresh scent of chocolate, as well as sheep and goat cheeses, assailed her senses.

"This is the kind of business that builds community. The cheese and chocolate are amazing, j'adore," Wynne said, standing in the SpeakCheasy or basement tasting rooms of the shop.

Addressing cheese and chocolate shop owners, Bekki Martin and Jessi Fournier, Wynne turned her attention to the reason for her visit.

"You told me your **hydro** bill is your second highest bill after your rent, and then you said, every bill is a challenge for an entrepreneur when they come in," Wynne said.

"What we've heard over the last number of months and years is that there are challenges that are being faced by businesses like yours, by farms, by residents, that are seeing their **hydro** bills go up at a **rate** or a pace that's too fast for you to keep up with and too high," she added.

After speaking with Martin and Fournier about the intricacies of monitoring air conditioning for the chocolate, as well as heat in a room with four cheese coolers, she said she could appreciate the specific **electrical** requirements of the chocolate and cheese shop.

"So what we hope is that the 25% reduction in your **electricity** bill will help, and it will allow you a bit more flexibility so that your business can grow," Wynne said.

Wynne spoke about the $50 billion investment the government has made to ensure Ontario has a clean and reliable **electricity** grid, and how those fees have left many small businesses and residents facing expensive bills.

"And what we determined was that we need to spread those costs over a longer period of time. Instead of a 20-year mortgage for example, we're looking at 30-years and asking that the generation that comes next - that will use the assets we've invested in - to also take part in paying for those," she said.

Additional reductions in **energy** charges will be made for Innisfil customers using Innpower, whose distribution **rates** are "disproportionally high" she said, as well as expanding the **electricity**-bill support for low-income consumers.

Martin and Fournier moved into their new location at 123 Dunlop St. West last September after running their shop for more than a year in a store-front three doors down.

Fournier said they had installed a high-efficiency air-conditioner and use LED lights wherever possible.

But expanding the store to include the SpeakCheasy wine and cheese tasting rooms in the basement and adding a patio in the rear of the building (facing the lake) were expensive expansions.

"**Hydro** costs are scary," said Martin and Fournier added, "As a small business owner, you feel every bill. When you have a slow month, you still have to keep those fridges running."

A little closer to the Five-Points, Don Kellett of Donaleigh's Irish Public House said he took advantage of a retrofit through PowerStream to offset his **electricity** bills.

"We were the first business to sign up for the **energy** refit program," Kellet said. "PowerStream came in and changed all our lightbulbs to **energy** efficient ones, as well as swapped out all the motors on all our compressors in fridges and freezes with newer, more efficient motors."

Kellet said he can't give a dollar figure of how much money the bar saved, but said there has been a "noticeable difference."

Joining Wynne and Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth at J'Adore was the new president and CEO of the newly-formed Alectra **electricity** company, Brian Bentz.

He spoke about the merger of Barrie **Hydro** that brought about PowerStream and with it, annual savings of $100/year for consumers in 2013.

The latest amalgamation of municipal **hydro** utilities including Barrie, parts of Simcoe County, York Region, Hamilton, Mississauga, St. Catharines and Brampton, is the second largest municipally-owned consortium in North America, he said.

"Our new company is really all about value for customers," Bentz said. "The goal is be customer focused. We're in a changing world of **energy**. We want to provide new, innovative, faster, better, more reliable **electricity** solutions for customers and we are committed to doing that."

The 25% reduction to **energy** costs won't just be felt by small business owners and residents.

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) spends approximately $3.4 million on **electricity** each year to run its HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning), diagnostic equipment, cancer treatment accelerators and lighting, etc.

With the 25% reduction, RVH would save more than threequarters of a million dollars.

"We had anticipated a 4% to 6 % increase in those costs, but with a 25% **hydro rate** cut, we could realize a savings of $850,000 over the year," said Rob Purdy, RVH's operations director of facilities support services.
cbrowne@postmedia.com

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THE DAILY PRESS

Wynne mortgaging future with hydro

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Judith Van Boxel

Ad Value:$445
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A4

It's fair to compare the Wynne government's extension of **hydro** costs to an extended mortgage on a house.

As any homeowner knows, this always results in a huge escalation costs. The Wynne government cannot wiggle out of the **hydro** mess it has inflicted upon every person in the province. Attempting to soothe people by presenting the extension of costs to future generations is embarrassingly shameful. One almost cringes as the bald faced clumsiness of this manouever.

Premier Kathleen Wynne took over the birth of the **hydro** fiasco from former premier Dalton McGuinty, who, through complicated and questionable Liberal government inefficiency, incurred a hydrorelated debt to Ontario taxpayers of approximately $675 million.

By continuing to dabble in a variety of unproven **energy** initiatives, Wynne's government has continued to build on this awful debt and now we are expected to swallow her attempt to wriggle out of the problem by pushing upon our children the unacceptably high taxes imposed in order to meet that debt.

It is naïve of the Liberal government to think that taxpayers can be bought off so easily. It is almost insulting. It is certainly arrogant.

Judith van Boxel

Sudbury

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Rewiring power agency key to lower hydro costs

Sarnia Observer - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Brian Platt

Ad Value: $639
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A4

When Premier Kathleen Wynne finally announced her **hydro** relief package earlier this month, it put to rest the immediate political question of how to reduce bills quickly.

The reduction mostly comes from kicking generation costs further down the road, which makes bills cheaper now but will eventually cost us more. Further relief directed at low-income and rural residents will come from drawing money out of general tax revenues.

Yes, this was politics. It simply shifts around money so it seems like you're paying less. But everyone was demanding substantial relief right away, and there was no painless way to do it. What did you expect? Magic? The real question is how to lower the total cost of the system so we can stop monkeying around with "refinancing" and tax subsidies. Here, there's a big project worth watching.

The Independent **Electricity** System Operator, the agency in charge of the province's **electricity** grid, is in the midst of what it calls "market renewal." Currently, Ontario manages its daily **electricity** demand using a 15-year-old system built for a simpler time - before the province shut down its coal-fired plants and built renewable generators such as **wind** and **solar**, and before **time-of-use** pricing was introduced.

"What it's really about is revisiting the fundamental design of the market," said **IESO**'s Chuck Farmer.

The market is how generators are contracted to produce a certain amount of **electricity** in a certain amount of time. It's tricky: produce too little and you have brown-outs; produce too much and you have to sell the excess to U.S. states at a loss.

How it all works in practice is an extraordinarily complex thing for the average person (or newspaper columnist) to understand, but the core goal of market renewal is to improve how the **IESO** anticipates daily **electricity** needs, and to build in more flexibility. A large report on how to do this was just released, and the **IESO** is now gathering feedback. Any changes are still about four years away.

There are two other big elements of the renewal process. One is to improve how Ontario trades **electricity** with neighbouring jurisdictions so that it's done more efficiently and reduces the cost of selling our surplus. The other is to use "technology-agnostic" auctions when the province needs to build new **power** plants.

In other words, instead of calling for a certain amount of **wind**,

solar or **natural gas**, the province will simply go for the most cost-effective solution that meets its needs (including on carbon emissions).

How much money will all of this save consumers? Over roughly 10 years, the **IESO** hopes about $3.5 billion in total. It's not a gamechanging amount. The government's plan to "refinance" the global adjustment charge, for example, will take about $1.5 billion off bills annually (for now). But the **IESO**'s project represents permanent savings, not artificial ones created through financial gimmicks.

There are other programs underway. The **Ontario Energy Board** has launched pilot projects with distribution companies to experiment with peak and off-peak prices. Eventually you may be able to choose your own **electricity** pricing plan, which could help some people (especially seniors, who tend to be home during peak hours).

So, yes, there is some money to be saved in the system. Overall, these reforms are common-sense initiatives that are just hard to achieve in practice. Yet what all of this really shows is how grindingly hard it is to get those permanent savings.

Every time you hear a politician musing about some big idea to inject into the **electricity** system, alarm bells should start ringing. bplatt@postmedia.com

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WINDSOR STAR

Despite rebates, growers say hydro still too costly

Windsor Star - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Doug Schmidt

Ad Value:$6,462
Reach: 54680 **Page:** A1 / Front

Blame Essex County's sticky humid **climate**, and not just high **hydro rates**, for local greenhouse growers fleeing Ontario for more southerly climes like Ohio, the province's parliamentary assistant to the **minister of energy** told reporters Thursday.

Bob Delaney (L - Mississauga-Streetsville) said he had met earlier in the day with local greenhouse growers and "they said part of what caused them to move were the high levels of humidity."

Asked to clarify, Delaney added that "**electricity** costs are (also) a factor."

Delaney and other government members, including Premier Kathleen Wynne, have been fanning out across the province to trumpet their new Fair **Hydro** Plan.

It was implemented, after withering public complaints over skyrocketing **electricity** prices, to give average Ontario household and small-business customers a 25 per cent break on their **hydro** bills by the summer.

In introducing Delaney at a media event hosted by Enwin Utilities, CEO Helga Reidel made a point of explaining that only 20 per cent of a Windsor household's monthly bill relates to the local utility's operations and costs.

Reidel said almost half of the more than 122,000 queries handled last year by Enwin Utilities' call centre dealt with anger and fear over customers' high monthly **hydro** bills. More than 2,000 of Enwin's nearly 76,000 customers had to be provided some form of payment plan in 2016 to assist them with those costs, she added.

Participants at the earlier business session were surprised to learn Delaney was explaining humidity as a cause for local industry investing across the border.

"That's a misunderstanding," said Jim DiMenna, president and CEO of Red Sun Farms. "Humidity, that's not a deal breaker - the cost of energy is a deal breaker," he told the Star. Ohio is as humid as Essex County, he added.

Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, said local business and industry is still waiting for answers from the province about what, if any, relief they can expect on their hydro bills. He said there's still been "no clarity" provided, for example, on whether greenhouse operations would be eligible for the rate relief currently being touted for Ontarians.

"We need help - this is scary for us," said DiMenna.

Marchand estimates that hydro bills in Ontario have gone up at least 350 per cent over the past 10 to 15 years for business and industry.

Standing in front of some Enwin Utilities trucks and speaking before an audience of Enwin employees, Delaney said high electricity costs are due to two key reasons: The need to invest more than $50 billion in generation, transmission and distribution improvements after "decades of under-investment" by governments of all stripes. Elimination of Ontario's coal-generated electricity and a switch to cleaner, renewable power.

Delaney said the $50-billion deficit remains, but that the 25 per cent rebate is paid for in part by extending the repayment period for the hydro debt.

"The immediate relief is obviously welcome," said Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara, who attended the announcement. "The last three or four years, all we've seen are increases, increases, increases," he added.

Delaney said residential and small-business hydro consumers will start seeing the savings when their air-conditioning bills get delivered in the summer. As part of the plan, he added, rate increases from the province would be held to the rate of inflation over the next four years.

High power prices aside, Essex Powerlines CEO Ray Tracey advised Delaney that investment opportunities were being threatened due to the length of time it's taking to increase the power supply to Kingsville and Leamington.

"We need to move at a faster pace, if we don't, they (industrial customers) move," he said.

Delaney said Ontario's economy will benefit with a power grid that's more reliable than that found in parts of the United States suffering occasional brownouts and blackouts because similar infrastructure upgrade investments aren't being made.

But Marchand said Ontario businesses are making decisions to move now. "Once we lose an investment, it's gone - we have to deal with the reality now," he said.

Delaney said he "heard a lot about agricultural potential in Essex County" on his trip. Referring to the area's opposition-party representation, but insisting he wasn't being partisan, he said it was "the kind of feedback we have not been getting the last few years from this area."

Delaney wasn't able to answer some questions: Enwin bills have a separate line advising customers how much they're saving through a recently enacted eight per cent provincial **rebate** . Asked why there's no separate line for the new carbon tax the province began charging in January, Delaney said the **Ontario Energy Board** doesn't make that a requirement. Asked why the next Sunshine List (publishing the names of all Ontario civil servants earning over $100,000) won't include Ontario **Hydro** employees (always the largest number with the highest -paid executives), Delaney said that's a question for the finance ministry. dschmidt@postmedia.com twitter.com/schmidtcity

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NORTH BAY NUGGET

Chief applauds hydro fee cut

North Bay Nugget - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Hamilton-McCharles ,

Ad Value:$330
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

Nipissing First Nation Chief Scott McLeod applauds the province's decision to exempt onreserve First Nation households from **hydro** delivery charges. "There are so many cases where I hear delivery charges for **electricity** far exceed the cost of the bill. Some delivery charges are more than $200," McLeod said Thursday. "It's a big deal when you're on a fixed income. Many of our residents, especially our elderly, are on fixed incomes and are having to choose to either buy food or turn their lights on."

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault, confirmed Wednesday a provincial credit will cover 100 per cent of delivery charges to many First Nation and remote communities. The ministry says 21,500 onreserve customers will automatically qualify.

The **Ontario Energy Board** recommended the change after consulting with First Nations. It estimates that this would provide an average monthly benefit of $85. McLeod said **hydro** lines go right through traditional territory yet there's never been any compensation. He said he doesn't believe the payments will be retroactive. "At least this will stop the bleeding."

The government also is expanding its Ontario **Electricity** Support Program, which will provide additional support for some low-income First Nation **ratepayers** . Those who qualify for the lowest credit, will see an increase from a $45 per month subsidy to $65.

Those measures, along with a number of other credits to help lowincome Ontarians, will cost the government $2.5 billion over the next three years, Nekolaichuk said. Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day welcomed the news, saying it will reduce "**energy** poverty" in many communities. "Poverty, lack of opportunity and choosing to pay for **electricity** over food is a reality that affects our people," Day said.

McLeod said discussions are ongoing concerning off-reserve First Nation **ratepayers** .

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NORTHERN DAILY NEWS

Vanthof wants answers regarding hydro prices

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value:$243
Reach: 5917 **Page:** A1 / Front

Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP spoke in the legislature about the impact of high hydro rates on small businesses in Northern Ontario.

He gave the example of Leis Wood Products, located in the Cobalt area.

"Leis Wood Products takes shavings from our local planning mill, puts them in bags, and the bags are distributed throughout Ontario to horse farms and other people. It's a family business. Bruce helped out his kids, Andrea and Jason. It's a thriving little business, but it has the problems that other businesses in the province and in the riding share. I'd like to explain one of them. They need some answers." He went on to say.

Meantime NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to table her promised hydro bill on Monday.

"Premier Wynne, has issued a news release and delivered talking points - now it's time to deliver a plan," said Horwath. "Ontario families, businesses and municipalities have a right to know what will happen to their bills and who will pay the price for $40 billion going to pay interest rather than investing in hospitals, schools, transit and roads."

Horwath said the media appearances and talking points have raised more questions than answers. There's confusion throughout the province on whether Wynne's borrowing deal will help all Ontario businesses, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath whether there will be any relief on time-of-use premiums or if hospitals, schools and municipal facilities like community rinks will qualify for relief.

Plus, noted Horwath, there have been no details around repayment of interest costs that could amount to as much as $40 billion.

"If Wynne is planning to sign Ontarians on to a $40-billion borrowing deal, she owes us all one heck of an explanation. That's why I'm calling on her to table a bill Monday - so it can be properly debated by the legislature, by the public, and by experts."

Horwath is concerned that the Liberals plan on tabling their bill close to the end of the legislative session, undercutting scrutiny and debate. "Kathleen Wynne might think such a strategy will be good for her and the Liberal party but it is yet another affront to the people of Ontario".

Unlike the Wynne government, Horwath has already publicly released her plan to lower hydro rates by up to 30 per cent. The extensive NDP plan includes immediate bill-cutting measures like scrapping time-of-use premiums and unfair higher delivery charges; and it repairs the hydro system for the long-term by reversing the selloff of Hydro One.

Horwath's plan will bring an additional $7 billion in dividends to the province - money that can be used in schools and hospitals - while Wynne's borrowing deal is expected to cost Ontarians as much as $40 billion more in interest payments.

While the Wynne plan appears to benefit bankers most, the Conservatives haven't provided any sort of a plan at all to deal with sky-high hydro bills.

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THE DAILY PRESS

NEOMA, Vanthof talk hydro rates

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ben Sherratt

Ad Value:$615
Reach: 19038 **Page:** A2

The Northeastern Ontario Municipal Association is imploring the province to reduce the price of **electricity**.

The association, which is headed by Kirkland Lake Mayor Tony Antoniazzi says the increased costs have "resulted hospitals, schools, municipalities, businesses, farms and industry being faced with unbudgeted and unanticipated increases in costs for this essential utility and forcing many residential users to actual ration the use of **electricity**."

They also say that in the District of Timiskaming it has also resulted in "valuable farmland being covered in **solar** panels and denied the vital agricultural crops that it would provide because of the excessive prices paid for this 'green **energy**' produced by these panels.

They go on to say the district has to pay the highest **rate** of delivery charge because of the low density levels in many areas of the district. The association is also asking Timiskaming -Cochrane MPP John Vanthof for support on this resolution.

Vanthof recently spoke in the legislature about the impact of high **hydro rates** on small businesses in Northern Ontario.

He gave the example of Leis Wood Products, located in the Cobalt area.

"Leis Wood Products takes shavings from our local planning mill, puts them in bags, and the bags are distributed throughout Ontario to horse farms and other people," said Vanthof. "It's a family business. Bruce helped out his kids, Andrea and Jason. It's a thriving little business, but it has the problems that other businesses in the province and in the riding share. I'd like to explain one of them."

He went on to say, "Leis Wood Products takes shavings from our local planning mill, puts them in bags, and the bags are distributed throughout Ontario to horse farms and other people. It's a family business.

"It's a thriving little business, but it has the problems that other businesses in the province and in the riding share. I'd like to explain one of them. They need some answers."

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is calling on Premier Kathleen Wynne to table her promised **hydro** bill on Monday.

"Premier Wynne, has issued a news release and delivered talking points - now it's time to deliver a plan," said Horwath. "Ontario families, businesses and municipalities have a right to know what will happen to their bills and who will pay the price for $40 billion going to pay interest rather than investing in hospitals, schools, transit and roads."

Horwath said the media appearances and talking points have raised more questions than answers. There's confusion whether Wynne's borrowing deal will help all Ontario businesses, if there will be any relief on **time-of-use** premiums, or if hospitals, schools and municipal facilities like community rinks will qualify for relief.

Plus, noted Horwath, there have been no details around repayment of interest costs that could amount to as much as $40 billion.

"If Wynne is planning to sign Ontarians on to a $40-billion borrowing deal, she owes us all one heck of an explanation," said Horwath. "That's why I'm calling on her to table a bill Monday - so it can be properly debated by the legislature, by the public, and by experts."

Horwath is concerned that the Liberals plan on tabling their bill close to the end of the legislative session, undercutting scrutiny and debate. "Kathleen Wynne might think such a strategy will be good for her and the Liberal party but it is yet another affront to the people of Ontario".

Horwath has already publicly released her plan to lower hydro rates by up to 30%. The extensive NDP plan includes immediate bill-cutting measures like scrapping time-of-use premiums and unfair higher delivery charges; and it repairs the hydro system for the long-term by reversing the sell off of Hydro One.

Horwath's plan will bring an additional $7 billion in dividends to the province - money that can be used in schools and hospitals - while Wynne's borrowing deal is expected to cost Ontarians as much as $40 billion more in interest payments.

The Conservatives have yet to provide their comprehensive plan when it comes to dealing with skyhigh hydro bills.

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SENTINEL-REVIEW

Energy minister rejects hardeman's criticisms; Glenn thibeault slams provincial tories for not offering their own plan to reduce electricity costs

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Bruce Chessell

Ad Value:$364
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A6

Ontario's energy minister offered his own criticism of the province's Progressive conservative, responding thursday to comments made by local Oxford MPP ernie hardeman. in a statement provided to the Sentinelreview, Minister of energy Glenn thibeault said the Pcs have been eager to criticize his government's proposed hydro plan but have offered no plan of their own - or any ideas - that would help lower electricity costs.

"while our plan provides substantial, wide-spread and long-lasting relief that will have an immediate impact on peoples' lives, MPP hardeman and the Pcs have yet to bring forward anything credible," thibeault said. "One of their criticisms - halting the broadening of hydro One - won't take one cent of electricity bills. and their push to rip up energy contracts would lead to increased rates, lawsuits and penalties." through Ontario's Fair hydro Plan, thibeault said the provincial government is cutting electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all families starting this summer, as well as about half-a-million farms and small businesses.

"it is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years," he said. "Our plan is about real relief for Ontarians and a way to ensure greater fairness in our electricity system." hardeman said he was unimpressed with the provincial liberal governments proposed Fair hydro Plan earlier this week, adding the solution being proposed was to just defer costs for hydro to the future. the proposed plan was introduced recently by the provincial liberal government and will ultimately give an average of 25 per cent off electricity bills for households, farms and small businesses. this target is going to be reached, however, by paying the costs of the electricity generation contracts over longer periods, which will mean higher interest fees down the road.

But in an interview with the Sentinelreview, hardeman said the government has to look at the root cause as to why hydro prices are so high.

"One of the main ones is, of course, the **Green energy act**, which is putting a lot of the cost of the **hydro** that they're paying for and putting it into the global adjustment pot and trying to pay for it that way," hardeman said. "if they don't look at how we got into this mess and solve that problem, obviously the mess is going to keep growing as time goes on." according to the MOe, the Fair **hydro** Plan will enhance low-income support (OeSP) and some customers could see as much as a 40 to 50 per cent reduction in their **electricity** bill. bchessell@postmedia.com

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Voters plugging into short-term rate relief

Orillia Packet & Times - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value:$475
Reach: 9181 **Page:** A4

Incredibly and against all odds, Ontarians may be prepared to forgive Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Liberals when they go to the polls in June 2018.

According to a Mainstreet Research/Postmedia poll, approximately 47 per cent of Ontarians approve of Wynne's decision earlier this month to lower **electricity rates** by an average of 17 per cent, beginning with the June billing - even as that decision would create additional long-term debt of an estimated $26 billion.

Indeed, the same poll found 41 per cent of Ontarians believe the Liberals' **electricity** plan is really a ploy to put the controversial issue behind them as Wynne and her party gear up for the next election campaign. But guess what? They're also willing to accept it for what it is and enjoy lower **electricity** bills. It's not only the Liberals who are cynical here; it is also those who support them while acknowledging and even applauding their opportunism.

What's interesting is even as Wynne's personal approval rating drags, her party continues to enjoy more support than the New Democrats, for whom only 17 per cent of Ontarians would vote if a general election was held today. The Liberals stand at 22 per cent, while the Progressive Conservatives are at 32 per cent.

But the number of undecided Ontarians sits at 25 per cent, and they will probably be the ones to elect the next government. Their decision will not be based on **electricity rates** alone but on a wide variety of issues, including the popularity of party leaders.

But by slightly moving the issue of **electricity rates** off the table, the Liberals have potentially removed an enormous obstacle to re-election. And with their plan set to begin in June, they'll have 12 months to remind Ontarians they were able to cut **electricity rates**.

The Mainstreet Research/Postmedia poll illustrates a compelling truth: many voters are searching for short-term and immediate solutions while disregarding long-term consequences. They are willing to be bought.

The NDP's Andrea Horwath has also put forward a plan to deal with Ontario's **electricity** challenges but the New Democrats have received little public traction, and what they have received pales to the Liberals' ability as the sitting government to simply cut immediate **electricity** bills while pushing the actual cost down the road.

Many voters aren't worried about "down the road" - they want relief, and are apparently willing to reward the party that provides that relief, even while understanding their relief will leave a substantial debt for future generations. - Postmedia Network

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Phase out nuclear to cut costs

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Fri Mar 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline:K. Clune

Ad Value:$199
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A4

letter to the editor and open letter to Premier Kathleen wynne: Premier wynne, your **rebate** notice arrived in my recent **hydro** One bill. it says, "Ontario's government is reducing **electricity** costs" by giving an 8% **rebate** to "eligible **hydro** One customers." the truth is Ontario taxpayers are subsidizing my **hydro** bill, not the liberal government. in fact, recent estimates suggest it will cost about $40 billion in interest to big banks to finance your plan. your notice arrived with a letter from **hydro** One's ceO, Mayo Schmidt. Schmidt talked about ensuring cost-effective **power** and explained they are working hard to keep their own costs down to make delivery **rates** affordable. in 2015, Schmidt's reported earnings were $4 million a year, with bonuses. how has Mr. Schmidt adjusted his earnings in order to "keep their own costs down?" Premier wynne, your plan to reduce **electricity** bills robs our provincial treasury, stretches the debt onto future generations to finance this mess, and does nothing to lower costs of the system as a whole. the **Ontario energy Board** reports "45% of the rise in **electricity** generation costs is due to subsidies for **Ontario Power Generation** and Bruce **Power**'s aging nuclear reactors." if you are serious about reducing Ontario's **electricity** costs, begin a phase out **nuclear energy**. Stop spending millions to refurbish old nuclear reactors. if you are serious about reducing Ontario's **electricity** costs, close Pickering nuclear and secure water **power** from Quebec. this would save an estimated $1 billion per year, benefiting Ontario residents now and into the future. awaiting your reply,

K. Clune

Orillia

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