John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	March 26, 2018 9:20 AM
To:	##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject:	Morning Clippings Summary: Monday, March 26, 2018

Good Morning,

- The IESO is taken to task by the Auditor-General for “bogus” hydro accounting.
- Good coverage in the London media about the weekend announcement regarding the new RPP.
- A number of articles focused on Friday’s release of the annual Sunshine List, with energy sector executives highlighted.
- And, a round up of Earth Hour around the world.

The Globe and Mail: Auditor-General blasts province over 'bogus' hydro accounting strategies (behind paywall but full story below)

- Ontario's Office of the AuditorGeneral said it uncovered irregular and improper accounting during a special audit of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).
- Bonnie Lysyk, the Auditor General, informed the province's public accounts committee last week of problems uncovered during the audit, which began late last year and is now nearly complete. Her concerns included incorrect accounting, deceptive and obstructive behaviour by the IESO's board and management, and poor financial controls. If the improper accounting isn't corrected, Ms. Lysyk warned, she might issue an adverse opinion on Ontario's public accounts—the first such opinion on any government's financial statements in Canadian history.
- It's the latest development in a year-long showdown between the Auditor-General, the IESO and the provincial government over the Fair Hydro Plan, which introduced significant, temporary reductions to Ontarians' electricity bills. Ms. Lysyk alleged the scheme's financial and accounting structure was designed to avoid reporting the costs of rate reductions on Ontario's public accounts, thus allowing the government to falsely claim it had a balanced budget. As of the end of last year, she estimated, Ontario's deficit would be understated by more than $1.3 billion - an amount that will continue to grow.

Global News: Pilot project aims to reduce hydro costs for Londoners

- An Ontario Energy Board (OEB) pilot project is giving Londoners a chance to save money on their hydro bills.
- The OEB is exploring ways to give residential customers greater choice in the price they pay for electricity at different times, and London Hydro has been chosen to run a Regulated Price Plan (RPP) pilot project.
- “We want to experiment and see how customers behave before the regulator looks at making a province-wide program,” said Vinay Sharma, CEO of London Hydro.
- Asked about Ontario’s hydro prices, Sharma says, as a society, we’ve chosen to shut down coal and in return, there is some added cost our electricity, but he wouldn’t speak to the politics surrounding the soaring costs.
- “I cannot control the political side of the price, but I can give [my customers] the tools to manage it,” said Sharma.

Toronto Star: Sunshine List gets 6 per cent longer; Power Generation CEO tops list of civil servants being paid six figures

- Jeffrey Lyash, the president and CEO of Ontario Power Generation, again topped the annual compendium released Friday, this time with a pay boost just shy of $400,000 from 2016.
- Responsible for overseeing the country's largest fleet of nuclear reactors and the 10-year, $12.8-billion refurbishment of the Darlington nuclear plant, Lyash earned $1,554,457 in 2017 in salary and performance bonus, according to the list, which comprises seven volumes, stacked as high as an Extra-large coffee cup.
- "The Darlington refurbishment is on time and on budget, which is attributable to Jeff's leadership and the team he has selected to manage the project. This saves ratepayers money," Ontario Power Generation said.
- Employees of Hydro One are no longer subject to public sector salary disclosure, because the Wynne government has partially privatized the former Crown corporation, but its chief executive Mayo Schmidt earns $4.4 million.
- Others on the list: Glen Jager, nuclear president and chief nuclear officer, Ontario Power Generation, $858,445.
- Bruce Campbell, president and chief executive Independent Electricity System Operator, $745,211.
- Martin Scott, senior vice-president business and administration, Ontario Power Generation, $739,854.

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, March 26, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 50 Results

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Auditor-General blasts province over 'bogus' hydro accounting strategies

The Globe and Mail - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: MATTHEW MCCLEARN

Ad Value: $19,250
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A8

Ontario's Office of the AuditorGeneral said it uncovered irregular and improper accounting during a special audit of the **Independent Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**), a government body that manages key aspects of ...

Pilot projects feature new London Hydro app

London Free Press - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: $3,105
Reach: 70995 **Page:** A3

With Ontarians struggling to keep pace with soaring **electricity** prices, **London Hydro** has been tapped by the **Ontario Energy Board** to pilot two projects aimed at reducing costs. The ...

Pilot project aims to reduce hydro costs for Londoners - London | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

An Ontario Energy Board (OEB) pilot project is giving Londoners a chance to save money on their hydro bills.

Fraudster impersonating Festival Hydro employees | Beacon Herald

www.stratfordbeaconherald.com - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

First, it was the Canada Revenue Agency, then banks and financial institutions. Now, fraudsters are using Festival Hydro as their front to trick people into giving up their money and personal information.

Major Simcoe County, York Region electricity distributor Alectra is about to get bigger

Barrie Advance - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $51
Reach: 51249 **Page:** 1

Alectra appears charged up to grow again. The **utility** company that handles **electricity distribution** for several Simcoe County and York Region communities - and is already the second largest municipally-owned ...

Ex-CSIS director warns against Aecon sale; Former head of intelligence agency says the transaction with China is not in Canada's strategic interests

The Globe and Mail - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ROBERT FIFE, STEVEN CHASE

Ad Value: $22,593
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A4

Former CSIS director Ward Elcock says the takeover of **Canadian** infrastructure giant Aecon Group Inc. by a Chinese state-owned firm is not in the country's strategic interests even if a national security **review** approves or ...

Newsroom : Smart Grid Projects to Boost Innovation and Reduce Electricity Costs

news.ontario.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario is supporting 12 innovative projects that will improve the delivery of electricity to families and businesses, reducing costs and creating over 100 high-tech jobs across the province.

Canada’s Wataynikaneyap project receives $1.2bn in funding - Power Technology

www.power-technology.com - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The governments of Canada and Ontario have granted C$1.6bn ($1.2bn) in funding to support the construction of the proposed Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project.

Massive federal funding energizes Watay Power project - Northern Ontario Business

www.northernontariobusiness.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler applauded a “landmark funding” announcement by Ottawa on March 22 for a pivotal First Nation-led infrastructure project in northwestern Ontario and the Far North.

Ontario project to connect 16 First Nation communities to grid

www.digitaljournal.com - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A new agreement between Ontario First Nations, the federal government and the province will see 16 northern communities connected to the power grid in a $1.6-billion project that will end their dependence on diesel fuel for power.

Green energy is the Grits'mega-blunder

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $2,820
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

When it comes to the countless blunders Ontario's Liberal government has committed on the **energy** file, its passage of the Green **Energy** and Green Economy Act in 2009 was its worst blunder of all. It facilitated the waste of ...

Hello Solar Goodbye Farmland; Liberal green energy projects taking up valuable space for crops: Farmers

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jenny Yuen

Ad Value: $10,484

Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

At the end of 2016, the **Ontario** Liberals cancelled their seven-year **Feed**-**in**-**Tariff** (FIT) program to encourage **wind**, **solar**, bio-**energy** and hydroelectric **renewable** ...

Ford pledges to cut red tape

Toronto Star - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jillian Follert Ajax News Advertiser

Ad Value: $3,030
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A2

Ontario's new Progressive Conservative leader, Doug Ford, talked about cutting red tape for business as he revved up supporters at a campaign office opening in Ajax on Saturday. "There's no reason why we can't have the manufacturing jobs back," ...

Doug Ford's position on carbon tax makes no sense | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

How does Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford's oft-repeated promise that, if elected premier, he would repeal Ontario's carbon tax make no sense? Let us count the ways.

Where've you been Wynne?

Toronto Sun - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Don Leschuk

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A18

The Wynne government's throne speech promising to fund health care begs the question - what have you been doing the last 14 years? This is worst than Al Gore - the second most powerful man on the planet who had eight years to do something about ...

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15 Years Of Red Ink; How Wynne's debt bomb derailed Ontario's economy

Ottawa Sun - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $1,907
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A10

Premier Kathleen Wynne treats her government's massive debt as if she's won the lottery. To her, runaway debt is a force for good, helping her to treat Ontarians "fairly," with no economic consequences. But the premier's belief she can spend ...

Pass On The NDP

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jeremy Thornton

Ad Value: $1,270
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "Now is the NDP's big chance" (Tom Parkin, March 12): Oh I hope not. I still remember Rae days. I really don't think the NDP would do anything about cutting back the deficit or cutting back taxes. That's just not in their DNA. Truthfully, I'm ...

Carbon tax doesn't exist

The Belleville Intelligencer - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Bill Bowen

Ad Value: $185
Reach: 9933 **Page:** A6

Ford with his rebates and rhetoric. The truth is Ford cannot repeal a carbon tax that doesn't exist or avoid putting a price on carbon. The Ford carbon-tax promise denies reality. If Ford refuses to be on the right side of history, he can at least ...

Cap, Then Trade

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Fred Lawson

Ad Value: $266
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

I have now decided to become a proponent of **cap and trade**. Put a cap on government spending, and trade Kathleen Wynne for a player to be named later. FRED LAWSON HAMILTON (Sounds similar to what Doug Ford has said, ...

We Need Change

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Chris Topple

Ad Value: $1,004
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A14

It is incredible to witness the disrespect that Premier Wynne has for the intelligence of **Ontario** voters. She has made **Ontario** a have-not province and the largest sub-national debtor in the world through massive spending, ...

As Trudeau and Wynne cut health care, Notley's Alberta turns a corner

Ottawa Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tom Parkin

Ad Value: $1,617
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A21

Hallway medicine. Crowded emergency rooms. Overcapacity, understaffed hospitals. Wait times. Tragedies. If, in some provinces, it feels like our **Canadian** health care system is suffering from cuts, it's because it is. On average, ...

Show us (all) the money

Ottawa Sun - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $820
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A17

Do you think $100,000 is a lot to earn in a single year? We do. Yet every 12 months, when the **Ontario** government's so-called Sunshine List of government workers earning $100,000 or more is made **public**, some expert suggests ...

Sunshine list grows to 131,741 workers

National Post - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,186
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A9

Ontario Power Generation executives, a pair of hospital CEOs, and the president of a **corporation** that manages investments for a university are amongst the highest paid **public**-sector employees in ...

Sunshine List gets 6 per cent longer; Power Generation CEO tops list of civil servants being paid six figures

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson and Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $25,246
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A4

The man who keeps the lights on shines brightest on the new Sunshine List of **Ontario public** sector workers earning $100,000 or more, which grew by 6 per cent, or 7,460 people, in the past year. Jeffrey Lyash, the president and ...

Province's top earners basking in sunshine

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $3,920
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A10

Top 10 earners Jeffrey Lyash - **Ontario Power Generation** - $1,554,456.95 Daren Smith - University of **Toronto** - $936,089.48 Glenn Jager - **Ontario Power Generation** - ...

Sunshine List swells; More than 1,700 public servants in Sudbury made $100,000 or more in 2017

Sudbury Star - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,735
Reach: 15423 **Page:** A1 / Front

More than 131,741 **public** sector workers in **Ontario** - including more than 1,700 in **Sudbury** - earned $100,000 or more in 2017, figures show. The so-called "Sunshine List" released Friday shows those workers earned ...

NUGGET

Sunshine list swells in city, across province; Top city, police, fire, education and health earners listed

North Bay Nugget - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,174
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

More than 131,741 **public** sector workers in **Ontario** -including more than 1,000 in **North Bay** -earned $100,000 or more in 2017, figures show. The so-called "Sunshine List" released Friday shows those workers ...

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lfp lfpress.com

OPG execs among top earners in public sector

London Free Press - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,107
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A7

Ontario Power Generation's chief earned nearly $1.6 million last year, making him the highest-paid **public**-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more. Jeff Lyash, whose salary ...

More workers included in Ontario 'Sunshine List'; list grows to 131,741 | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The CEO of Ontario Power Generation earned nearly $1.6 million last year, making him the highest-paid public-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more.

Ontario releases its annual Sunshine List of top public sector salaries - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario government has published its annual Sunshine List of public sector employees who earned more than $100,000 last year.

Stay tuned: Sunshine List is out, local details this afternoon - Sudbury.com

www.sudbury.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The annual Sunshine List, which details those workers paid from the public purse who make $100,000 a year or more, is out.

THESPEC.COM SPEC

Sunshine list: Mohawk's president paid more than leader of Mac

thespec.com - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: jfrketich@thespec.com
Reach: 90600

Mohawk College and foundation head Ron McKerlie is among the highest paid post-secondary leaders in Ontario with his total earnings for 2017 coming out ahead of McMaster University's president. McKerlie was paid $418,082 in salary and ...

Enthusiasm wanes for Earth Hour in Toronto

WORLD REPORT - Sun Mar 25 2018, 8:00am ET
Tone: Neutral **Reach:** 528000

VIK ADHOPIA (NEWSCASTER): The World Wildlife Fund is insisting Earth Hour is still relevant. Last night, the lights went dark on major landmarks around the world, but the number of people participating in the event appears to be declining. ...

Meanwhile, B.C. says what's Earth Hour?

Ottawa Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $808
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A18

British Columbians increased their power use during Earth Hour for the first time in a decade. B.C. Hydro says electricity use rose by 0.2% from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, compared with the same hour the week ...

Electricity use actually went up in B.C. during Earth Hour, says BC Hydro - BC | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

BC Hydro says it saw in increase in electricity use during Earth Hour, an annual global event that encourages people to turn off the lights to raise awareness about energy conservation and climate change.

B.C. electricity use rose during 2018 Earth Hour, says BC Hydro | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

For the first time since it began tracking electricity use in the province during Earth Hour, BC Hydro said customers used more power during the 60-minute period when lights are expected to dim.

Earth Hour energy savings wane in B.C., but WWF says event still relevant - British Columbia - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

B.C.'s electricity provider says participation in the annual dim your lights Earth Hour campaign is waning in the province, but the World Wildlife Fund — the non-profit organization that created the event — says BC Hydro's measure of who ...

Power use rises in B.C. during Earth Hour for first time in a decade | CTV Vancouver News

bc.ctvnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Despite their best intentions, British Columbians increased their power use during Earth Hour for the first time in a decade.

BC Hydro report suggests Earth Hour participation on the decline, but conservationists aren't buying it | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Conservationists are questioning a BC Hydro report that suggests Earth Hour participation is on the decline in the province, despite widespread interest.

Earth Hour 2018 results in a 1.5% drop in electricity: Alectra Utilities | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Households across Ontario dimmed their lights over the weekend to mark Earth Hour. In Barrie, hydro users reduced electricity consumption by 0.9 per cent according to Alectra Utilities.

Cities around the world go dark for Earth Hour | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Toronto plunged into darkness on Saturday in observance of Earth Hour.

Lights out: Toronto goes dark to mark Earth Hour | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The city's skyline looked a little bit different tonight as many buildings, including the CN Tower, went dark in observance of Earth Hour.

Hike, concert usher in 2018 Earth Hour | CTV Montreal News

montreal.ctvnews.ca - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Millions of people around the world showed their support for environmentalism on Saturday by turning off their lights as they marked the annual Earth Hour.

Lights go dark for Earth Hour to highlight climate change

National Post - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: The Associated Press
Reach: 607500

LONDON - In Paris, the Eiffel Tower went dark. In London, a kaleidoscope of famous sites switched off their lights - Tower Bridge, Big Ben, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye. That scene was ...

Globe's landmarks go dark for Earth Hour

www.newsweek.com - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The world's landmarks and buildings went dark last night for one hour in an international show of solidarity aimed at calling attention to climate change. New York City's Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower, iconic harbour skylines of Hong ...

Plant that aims to build charging stations for electric vehicles opens in Markham, Ont. - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario's first manufacturing plant that makes charging stations for electric vehicles has opened in Markham, Ont.

Nelson: Canada sure loves its foreign oil imports | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Monday, March 26, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

What do the United States, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Norway, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Angola, Russia, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Oman, Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Trinidad and Tobago all have in common? (And no, it isn't that they all beat ...

Local environmentalists hold Kinder Morgan Pipeline Protest - BayToday.ca

www.baytoday.ca - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Yan Roberts stood next to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in protest of the then proposed Energy East Pipeline project back in 2015.

Turbine construction brings complaints; County mayor says turbine preparation work prompting reaction from residents

Kingston Whig-Standard - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Bruce Bell

Ad Value: $981
Reach: 24008 **Page:** A3

Prince Edward County's mayor is not impressed with wind turbine preparation taking place in the southern reaches of the county. Robert Quaiff said construction appears to be moving ahead at a rapid pace as wpd Canada continues ...

Turbine construction brings complaints | The Kingston Whig-Standard

www.thewhig.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Prince Edward County's mayor is not impressed with wind turbine preparation taking place in the southern reaches of the county.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Auditor-General blasts province over 'bogus' hydro accounting strategies

The Globe and Mail - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: MATTHEW MCCLEARN

Ad Value: $19,250
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A8

Ontario's Office of the AuditorGeneral said it uncovered irregular and improper accounting during a special audit of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), a government body that manages key aspects of Ontario's electric-power system.

Bonnie Lysyk, the AuditorGeneral, informed the province's public accounts committee last week of problems uncovered during the audit, which began late last year and is now nearly complete. Her concerns included incorrect accounting, deceptive and obstructive behaviour by the IESO's board and management, and poor financial controls. If the improper accounting isn't corrected, Ms. Lysyk warned, she might issue an adverse opinion on Ontario's public accounts—the first such opinion on any government's financial statements in Canadian history.

It's the latest development in a year-long showdown between the Auditor-General, the IESO and the provincial government over the Fair Hydro Plan, which introduced significant, temporary reductions to Ontarians' electricity bills. Ms. Lysyk alleged the scheme's financial and accounting structure was designed to avoid reporting the costs of rate reductions on Ontario's public accounts, thus allowing the government to falsely claim it had a balanced budget. As of the end of last year, she estimated, Ontario's deficit would be understated by more than $1.3 billion - an amount that will continue to grow.

"We think this accounting is bogus," Ms. Lysyk told the committee.

Ms. Lysyk ordered the special audit late last year following a breakdown in her relationship with IESO's management, board and KPMG, the accounting firm which audits the IESO's books. In early 2017, KPMG did not respond to her office's inquiries about any looming accounting changes at the IESO. So she was blindsided in March, 2017, when IESO published financial statements using radically different accounting policies. Those new policies were put to immediate use with the Fair Hydro Plan.

At issue is how much influence the Auditor-General should have over the province's approach to accounting. Ms. Lysyk's office has the sole authority to audit the province's books, but the government itself is responsible for how they're presented. It has chosen to disregard her advice. Citing approval from "highly qualified **public** servants and highly respected accounting firms," the Ministry of Finance stated that "we know that **Ontario**'s financial statements have been and continue to be presented accurately."

As an auditor of a government body, KPMG is "accountable to us in terms of ensuring that we have no surprises," Ms. Lysyk told the **public** accounts committee. But the **IESO**'s chief financial officer, Kimberly Marshall, saw no need to consult or notify the AuditorGeneral prior to adopting new accounting policies. "We would look to our external advisers," Ms. Marshall told the committee in February. KPMG said it had fulfilled its obligations by providing information to the Auditor-General after the **IESO**'s books were restated.

The Auditor-General also objected to KPMG advising the government on how to structure the **Fair Hydro Plan**, while at the same time auditing the **IESO**'s books. Randy Hillier, a Progressive Conservative MPP on the **public** accounts committee, said he shared the concern. "With half a million dollars or more in advisory fees, there might be a reasonable expectation, you might say, that their ability to be impartial and effective auditors had become compromised," he said.

KPMG insisted it hadn't done anything wrong. "The professional standards for auditors clearly contemplate and permit a partner involved in providing advisory services of this nature to audit clients to also assist with the audit," it said in a statement.

The special audit also found the **IESO**'s pension liabilities for unfunded benefits was understated. Ms Lysyk said the error would result in material misstatements on **IESO**'s financial statements and the province's books.

The Auditor-General's relationship with KPMG and the **IESO** deteriorated further during the course of the special audit. Ms. Lysyk alleged that **IESO**'s board and management excluded her representatives from meetings at which the **IESO**'s financial statements were approved. "Instead of saying to us, 'You can come to meetings but you can't talk,' they didn't tell us when the board meeting was." Ms. Lysyk also said her office had been provided "a lot of non-truths" during the audit.

Ultimately, the Auditor-General's Office said it was unable to provide an audit opinion on the **IESO**'s financials due to the board and management's refusal to sign key documents. "No valid reason for these refusals was provided to us." The **IESO** said it would have been inappropriate to sign the documents because the Auditor-General "was not formally engaged to perform this audit."

Ms. Lysyk said this acrimonious relationship was unlike anything she'd experienced from the dozens of other agencies audited by her office. "When a board or management in any other province recognizes that an AG's office has issues with their accounting, they would have handled it differently," she told the committee "They basically treated, I think, my audit team like we were subservient to KPMG. In terms of the law in **Ontario**, that would be the reverse."

The **IESO**, KPMG and members of government asserted they'd been co-operative and transparent with the Auditor-General.

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Pilot projects feature new London Hydro app

London Free Press - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jonathan Sher

Ad Value: $3,105
Reach: 70995 **Page:** A3

With Ontarians struggling to keep pace with soaring **electricity** prices, **London Hydro** has been tapped by the **Ontario Energy Board** to pilot two projects aimed at reducing costs.

The first pilot provides Londoners with an app and special wiring that allows them to pre-select appliances to be turned down or off when the **energy** board determines the demand for **electricity** will likely outpace the supply in the province.

Using the Trickl App, developed by **London Hydro**, customers in the pilot will get a notification about 15 minutes before the deal demand kicks in - appliances pre-selected by customers will then **power** down unless the **customer** selects an override button.

Customers will have an incentive to allow a reduction in **electricity** because the **energy** board will charge drastically higher peak **rates** during high demand period of 59 cents per kil-owatt hour, offpeak **rate** of six cents.

A second pilot will allow customers to monitor their **energy** use, broken down by appliance type, in real time, using the same app.

The hope is the app will moti-vate those in the pilot - about 2,000 people who volunteered - to reduce their household's **energy** usage.

Everyone not in the pilot will continue to be charged existing **rates**: 13.2 cents for peak use, 9.5 cents for moderate times and 6.5 cents for off peak.

Those varying **rates** were supposed to reduce consumption, as customers shifted **electrical** use to off-peak hours, but the data has shown a reduction of only one per cent to two per cent, **London Hydro** chief executive Vinay Sharma said.

"These programs provide **London Hydro**'s customers with smart tools to use **energy** wisely…

London Hydro will gain insight into the effectiveness of these programs," he said. "We expect it will be a larger (effect than the existing price model)." The **pilots** begin May 1 and data will be collected for one year, with an analysis expected in mid-summer 2019, Sharma said.

London Hydro hosted a breakfast meeting Saturday with customers who signed up for the **pilots** so they could gain insight into how the apps work, each table of customers meeting with key staff who answered their questions.

The projects will be the first to get off the ground of six pilot projects approved and funded by the **energy** board that will pick up the $2.7 million tab for the **London** initiatives.

jsher@postmedia.com twitter.com/jsheratLFPress

Back to Top

Pilot project aims to reduce hydro costs for Londoners - London | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

An Ontario Energy Board (OEB) pilot project is giving Londoners a chance to save money on their hydro bills.

Back to Top

Fraudster impersonating Festival Hydro employees | Beacon Herald

www.stratfordbeaconherald.com - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

First, it was the Canada Revenue Agency, then banks and financial institutions.

Now, fraudsters are using Festival Hydro as their front to trick people into giving up their money and personal information.

Back to Top

Major Simcoe County, York Region electricity distributor Alectra is about to get bigger

Barrie Advance - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $51
Reach: 51249 **Page:** 1

Alectra appears charged up to grow again.

The **utility** company that handles **electricity** **distribution** for several Simcoe County and York Region communities - and is already the second largest municipally-owned **distribution** company in **North** America - is close to acquiring **Guelph** **Hydro** **Electric** Systems. A tentative agreement has been circulating among shareholders for **review** since last month.

Barrie, which owns 8.78 per cent of Alectra, endorsed the deal Dec. 18.

The company says the acquisition will save customers about .5 to .6 per cent annually, on average, over the next 20 years. Over the next decade, the merger should achieve net aggregate savings of $18 to $26.6 million. About $4.3 million will be saved annually after that.

"For Alectra, this will help grow dividends through economies of scale and that helps keep our **customer** **power** bills lower - that's also the benefit for Barrie residents since we own nine per cent of Alectra and the dividends are invested in our community," Barrie Mayor Jeff Lehman said. "Although the impact of this merger is modest, every little bit helps. The exciting part of this merger is that **Guelph** is a very progressive city with a strong focus on research. Alectra and **Guelph** together will be putting an emerging technologies lab in **Guelph** (Alectra was planning on establishing one and **Guelph** is the ideal place). **Guelph** has a very strong history of using new technologies to save money and protect the environment."

That site, called the Green **Energy** and Technology **Centre**, would help accelerate and integrate new **energy** technology into the **distribution** system. It would be based in **Guelph** **Hydro**'s current location.

Barrie's ownership stake will dip to 8.37 per cent after the merger, while **Guelph** will receive a 4.63 per cent share of Alectra as part of the deal.

Once the agreement is approved by shareholders - including the municipalities of Barrie, Mississauga, Vaughan, Hamilton, Markham and St. Catharines - it will go to the **Ontario Energy Board** for approval in the fall. The merger could officially take effect in January 2019.

Lehman said **service** levels and response times will not be affected by the merger.

Existing Alectra facilities, including Barrie's operations **centre**, will remain open.

"Alectra and Guelph Hydro are a perfect match and we are looking forward to taking the next steps on this exciting journey with them," Alectra president and CEO Brian Bentz said in a recent press release. "It will benefit the customers and communities that we serve."

Alectra was formed by the recent merger of PowerStream, Enersource, Horizon and Hydro One Brampton. It currently serves about one million customers in 15 municipalities spanning 1,800-square-kilometres. In Simcoe County, it covers Alliston, Barrie, Beeton, Bradford, Penetanguishene, Thornton and Tottenham. Aurora, Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan use Alectra in York Region.

Guelph Hydro provides service to more than 55,000 customers in Guelph and Rockwood.

"Customers will benefit from downward pressure on rates and our community will benefit from increased dividends that will go toward the municipal services and programs our citizens use every day," Guelph chief administrative officer Derrick Thomson said.

For more information, visit alectrautilities.com.

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Ex-CSIS director warns against Aecon sale; Former head of intelligence agency says the transaction with China is not in Canada's strategic interests

The Globe and Mail - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: ROBERT FIFE, STEVEN CHASE

Ad Value: $22,593
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A4

Former CSIS director Ward Elcock says the takeover of Canadian infrastructure giant Aecon Group Inc. by a Chinese state-owned firm is not in the country's strategic interests even if a national security review approves or places conditions on the $1.5-billion transaction.

A decision on whether to approve the acquisition by Beijingowned China Communications Construction Co. (CCCC) is expected by Friday, although the review could be extended for another 45 days.

Cabinet ordered a full national-security review of the takeover bid last month under section 23.5 of the Investment Canada Act, a measure invoked when the federal government believes an investment could be "injurious to national security."

Mr. Elcock, who was director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and a former deputy minister of National Defence, told The Globe and Mail that the transaction is not in the country's best interest.

"Allowing a Chinese stateowned company which is controlled by the state of China, and does what the state of China tells it, is not something we necessarily want to encourage," Mr. Elcock said in an recent interview. "They represent the Chinese government on everything they do."

Even if the takeover is approved, Mr. Elcock said he cannot imagine that Ottawa would allow Aecon to work on critical infrastructure in sensitive sectors of the economy that require security clearances.

Aecon - a 140-year-old Canadian firm - is heavily involved in critical infrastructure across Canada, including nuclear-energy installations, pipelines, transit and hydroelectric projects such as the massive Site C project in British Columbia.

Aecon, for example, has partnered with SNC-Lavalin Nuclear Inc. on a $2.75-billion **contract** to refurnish Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.

"From a security point of view, I doubt they would ever get a job that would require a security clearance," Mr. Elcock said. "If there are security clearances around it, my guess is that they would then have to build - if they want to keep the **contract** - they would have to build some sort of Chinese wall around the Darlington **contract** that would exclude a lot of people from the information or knowledge that was classified."

It is possible that the nationalsecurity **review** could recommend that Aecon must "sell certain business ... but you would still have a Chinese governmentowned construction company working in the **Canadian** industry and do you want that?" Mr. Elcock added.

Richard Fadden, another former CSIS director and national security adviser to Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau, raised similar concerns about the Aecon acquisition.

"There is a significant question about whether we should tolerate Chinese state-owned companies which are essentially under the thumb of the Chinese government, that we should tolerate Chinese companies buying into the **Canadian** market," Mr. Fadden told The Globe. "That gives me pause for concern."

Aecon spokesperson Peter Block said in statement on Friday that China Communications Construction Co. is a publicly traded company that operates "in other major western countries, including Australia where a similar acquisition of a construction company in 2015 was approved by the Australian government following an extensive government **review** that included national security considerations."

Investor concern about the Aecon deal mounted last month before **Ottawa** announced its national-security **review** and shares have traded below China Communications Construction Co.'s offer price of $20.37.

Chris Murray, an analyst at AltaCorp Capital Inc., said last week the national-security **review** announced by **Ottawa** in February has created additional uncertainty about whether the acquisition can be completed under existing terms.

Mr. Murray said he believes Aecon's telecom business is the primary reason for the lengthened **review** of the Chinese takeover as "the federal government is highly sensitive to potential Chinese access to core national infrastructure" in Canada.

Mr. Murray speculated that **Ottawa** could order the divestiture of Aecon's telecom business which generates annualized revenue of $150-million.

"We believe there is a very low probability of the transaction being approved as is, given security concerns expressed by the federal government and other allies around telecom infrastructure, particularly as Canada embarks on a once-in-a-generation process of replacing its fiber and wireless **networks**," Mr. Murray wrote in a note published on March 20.

Several of Aecon's largest competitors have asked **Ottawa** to block the takeover on the grounds that CCCC - which is one of the world's largest infrastructure companies - has a poor track record when it comes to safety and corruption, and that a statecontrolled Chinese entity is not suited to work on projects with security concerns.

The deal is also opposed by the **Canadian** Construction Association, which counts 20,000 member firms and has concerns that Aecon could undercut rivals by having access to Chinese government subsidies. The Conservative Party has raised worries about CCCC's close ties to the Communist Party and allegations of corruption and bribery on infrastructure in the developing world.

Aecon, led by chief executive officer John Beck, has played down concerns that have been raised about its involvement in critical infrastructure projects, such as nuclear facilities - contracts that would pass on to CCCC if the transaction is approved by **Ottawa**.

"Aecon does not own any intellectual property related to **nuclear energy**; nor does it possess any other sensitive proprietary technology," the company said in a statement last month.

The construction firm has also pushed back at the notion that an Aecon owned by China would receive subsidies from Beijing in the same way that China Communications Construction Co.

does. Any subsidies CCCC receives "are related to specific research and development projects in China that are available to any company involved in those projects." The subsidiary of CCCC that would own Aecon, the company said, "does not receive government subsidies for its international activities."

All foreign investments are subject to some degree of national-security screening, but the federal cabinet only infrequently issues an order of the kind it has made on Aecon.

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Newsroom : Smart Grid Projects to Boost Innovation and Reduce Electricity Costs

news.ontario.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario is supporting 12 innovative projects that will improve the delivery of electricity to families and businesses, reducing costs and creating over 100 high-tech jobs across the province.

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Canada’s Wataynikaneyap project receives $1.2bn in funding - Power Technology

www.power-technology.com - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

The governments of Canada and Ontario have granted C$1.6bn ($1.2bn) in funding to support the construction of the proposed Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Line project.

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Massive federal funding energizes Watay Power project - Northern Ontario Business

www.northernontariobusiness.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler applauded a “landmark funding” announcement by Ottawa on March 22 for a pivotal First Nation-led infrastructure project in northwestern Ontario and the Far North.

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Ontario project to connect 16 First Nation communities to grid

www.digitaljournal.com · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

A new agreement between Ontario First Nations, the federal government and the province will see 16 northern communities connected to the power grid in a $1.6-billion project that will end their dependence on diesel fuel for power.

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Green energy is the Grits'mega-blunder

Toronto Sun · Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: $2,820
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

When it comes to the countless blunders **Ontario**'s Liberal government has committed on the **energy** file, its passage of the Green **Energy** and Green Economy Act in 2009 was its worst blunder of all.

It facilitated the waste of billions of dollars of **public** money, as documented by two **Ontario** auditors general.

It denied natural justice to the citizens of rural **Ontario**, by dictatorially usurping the planning powers of their municipal governments with regard to the location of industrial **wind** factories and **solar** farms.

That turned neighbour against neighbour, as green **energy** developers quietly signed deals to lease privately-owned lands in rural **Ontario** for **wind** factories and **solar** farms, with the projects then presented to the surrounding community as a fait accompli, in which they had no meaningful say.

The fault was not with people who legally leased their lands to these developers.

It lies with the Liberal government, first under Dalton McGuinty and now Kathleen Wynne, who abdicated the proper role of government, which is to balance **public** and private interests.

Instead, the Liberals became shameless cheerleaders, advocates and allies of the green **energy** industry, to the point where citizens opposed to these projects faced the impossible task of fighting the industry and the Liberal government at the same time.

In 2011, when then-Auditor General Jim McCarter first investigated the Liberals'green **energy** strategy, he reported his department had to start from scratch because the Liberals, incredibly, "had not recently conducted any audit work on **renewable energy** initiatives."

Citing the **Green Energy Act**, McCarter warned the Liberals had "created a new process to expedite the development of **renewable energy** by providing the Minister (of **Energy**) with the authority to supersede many of the government's usual planning and regulatory oversight processes ... As a result, no comprehensive business-case evaluation was done to objectively evaluate the impacts of the billion-dollar commitment."

McCarter said the Liberals even ignored the advice of their own **energy** experts in deciding to pay inflated, 20-year **public** subsidies to **wind** and **solar** developers through their "Feedin Tariff" (FIT) program.

Had they heeded that advice, McCarter said, the Liberals could have saved the **public** $4.4 billion over two decades.

When Bonnie Lysyk, McCarter's successor, revisited the issue in 2015, she concluded the Liberals, and thus the **public**, will overpay $9.2 billion over 20 years for **wind** and **solar power**, at **rates** twice the U.S. average for **wind** and 3.5 times for **solar**.

In addition to grossly overpaying for unreliable **wind** and **solar power** -which provides less than 7% of **Ontario**'s **power** needs and cannot provide base load **power** to the grid - the Liberals gave it priority over all other forms of **energy**, meaning it must be paid for first, even when it can't be used, because **Ontario** has a huge **energy** surplus.

This makes the **electricity** system less efficient and more expensive, resulting in the dumping of other forms of green **energy**, such as **hydro power**, or selling it at a loss to Quebec and the U.S.

While the Liberals reluctantly admitted their blunder two years ago by finally ending provincial funding of green **energy** mega-projects they are still, inexplicably, bringing hundreds of smaller projects online, buying more expensive and unreliable **electricity** that we don't need.

Finally **wind** and **solar power** weren't needed to end **Ontario**'s reliance on **coal-fired electricity**, as the Liberals claim, which they actually did with nuclear **power** and **natural gas**. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Hello Solar Goodbye Farmland; Liberal green energy projects taking up valuable space for crops: Farmers

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jenny Yuen

Ad Value: $10,484
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

At the end of 2016, the **Ontario** Liberals cancelled their seven-year **Feed-in-Tariff** (FIT) program to encourage **wind**, **solar**, bio-**energy** and hydroelectric **renewable energy** projects.

The tariff program, which paid small producers handsome, fixed premiums above market **rates** to produce small amounts of **power**, was intended to help offset the loss of coal **power** and make **Ontario** a leader in **renewable energy**.

It was a costly failure.

And long after the plug was pulled, dozens of projects are still being built.

The Liberals ignored warnings about FIT from their own experts, ex-auditor general Jim McCarter revealed in 2011, that they didn't need costly, small projects to meet provincial environmental goals, but went ahead with the program anyway.

That cost **electricity ratepayers** an extra $4.4 billion over 20 years, according to McCarter, and was one of the reasons **electricity** prices in **Ontario** skyrocketed 71% between 2008 and 2016, according to a Fraser Institute report last year.

When **Ontario Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault** cancelled $3.8 billion worth of FIT projects in 2016, he admitted the program had "led to suboptimal siting, uncompetitive prices, and heightened community concern" - in other words, bad locations, increased **electricity** costs for consumers and upset communities.

Before the Liberals pulled FIT's plug, they pushed through 390 last-minute projects - within the 4,100 approved since 2009. Those projects are contracted to create 4,800 megawatts of **renewable energy** generation, enough to **power** almost 1 million homes.

However, in addition to adding millions to **consumer hydro** bills for decades, farmers are fighting what they say is the loss of valuable, even prime farmland to the Liberal government's lastminute FIT projects.

On John Kordas'farm, a row of tractors sit parked in a line as a form of protest.

Farmers from the Campbellcroft area drove their vehicles to his property recently as a show of solidarity against an approved 500-kilowatt **solar** project next door which is slated for development this year.

Kordas and other residents allege precious "prime agricultural farmland is being destroyed," eaten up by the Liberal government's green **energy** projects.

Of the 4,100 FIT projects approved by the Liberals - some 32%, or roughly 1,300 - are still in stages of development and come with 20-year contracts, which will make a long-lasting footprint with agricultural consequences, farmers say.

They complain they have no input over what green enterprises crop up on properties near them - because as part of the Liberals'**Green Energy Act**, FIT permits developers to bypass **public** consultations, leaving residents and local council powerless to stop them.

"The concern here is not 'We hate **solar**,'" maintains Caroline Thornton of the Port Hope Citizens' Association. "The amount of farmland being destroyed by developers is terrifying.

"The food chain is being threatened," Thornton said. "Eventually, we're going to run out of farmland and we won't be able to manage the agricultural products we need. For more than 100 years, that area has been a prime potato farming area in those fields that are now going to be destroyed. This is not junk land."

In the rural town 106 kilometres east of **Toronto**, Mississauga-based green **energy** supplier ReneSola is building a 500-kilowatt groundmounted **solar** project on two hectares of private property at 6330 Ganaraska Rd. next to Kordas' farm. The project is expected to be in operation by 2018 with a 20-year **contract**.

It's called GreenLife **Solar** #19 - or "Project 19" for short.

"We have been fighting these demons for well over a year," said Kordas, 60, who has written countless editorials in the local paper in an attempt to shed light on the "disenchantment, frustration and anger in our woods that those kinds of projects are apparently slipping through the back door.

"If you do simple arithmetic, (FIT projects) equate to about 2,500 acres of farmland that has permanently removed from agriculture production and now is slated for industrial development, not including projects approved and in various stages,"he said. "The big picture is quite different than just two hectares."

ReneSola alone currently owns 19 **solar** contracts under the program that are in various stages of development and construction throughout **Ontario**.

Both Lou Rinaldi, the Liberal MPP for the area and Anna Milner, press secretary for Environment Minister Chris Ballard said Project 19 met eligibility requirements regarding noise emissions, size, locations and environmental impacts.

Port Hope Councillor Louise Ferrie-Blecher - who sits on the municipality's planning committee - pushed for and got a voluntary threehour **public** information session with ReneSola on Mar. 30, 2017.

ReneSola project development director Bradley Davis said the company believed "it would be a good opportunity to speak to the concerns of local citizens in a **public** forum."

Thornton said the 100 residents who attended asked afterwards whether their concerns would make a difference.

"The answer was: 'Not one bit.'The contractor signed, the project is going ahead," she said. "This community has no chance ever, to interfere with our work. It was basically, 'Good luck with that.'" Ferrie-Blecher said the municipality will receive no financial benefit from this project. The general **public** was not notified about the **application** or the approval, she said.

"I think what the province was trying to do was prevent fighting amongst neighbours and to take it out of the municipality's control so that they're making decisions based on the planning applications rather than having neighbours pitting against neighbours," she said.

Not everyone objects to the projects.

John Beatty owns the land where Project 19 is being built. As it stands, construction equipment is onsite, but the project hasn't yet moved forward. Screens were erected so it's less of an eyesore from neighbours and surrounding roads.

Beatty's wife, Kari, said the family of four signed the **contract** because they support supplying green **energy**.

She declined disclosing how much ReneSola paid them for the lease.

But she contends while her neighbours may be vocal elsewhere, no one has discussed concerns with them.

"Not one," she said. "We actually don't know what the problem is. We just grow vegetables and produce that we supply to three different farmers' markets. And there is nothing we will not continue to do because of the **solar** panels. The Liberal government is going ahead with the **Green Energy Act**, regardless of whether we like it or not."

"Apparently, Mr. Kordas thinks our farm is prime agricultural farmland, but he's never set foot on it," she added.

The farmers opposing the project say they had the land tested, and believe it was improperly reclassified to non-prime agricultural land. ReneSola maintains they did everything by the books. A local firm with over 30 years'experience in agricultural land assessments completed a soil analysis.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture president Keith Currie said it's difficult to determine how much farmland would be at risk if in fact, **solar** panels are being built on prime agricultural land.

"Green **energy** projects are not to be located on prime land, which for crops, is our most productive land," he said. "You can have a (lower grade) of soil, you're getting into more gravelly type of soil. It could be pasture land for sheep, goats, cattle."

New **Ontario** PC leader Doug Ford said Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals have given out "sweetheart deals" to **wind** and **solar** companies that have jacked-up hydro rates for families.

"While Liberal insiders get rich, life gets harder and more unaffordable for families across Ontario," he said. "The Liberals' Green Energy Act has torn apart rural Ontario, stripped away the rights of communities, and given important planning decisions to bureaucrats in downtown Toronto. We will rip up the Green Energy Act, lower hydro rates for families and seniors, and ensure municipalities get the respect they deserve."

With more political help, the horizon for Port Hope farmers seems slightly sunnier. But they're not about to clear their tractors yet.

"We're still fighting it," Thornton said. "We still believe giving up prime farmland is not the right choice."

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Ford pledges to cut red tape

Toronto Star · Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jillian Follert Ajax News Advertiser

Ad Value: $3,030
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A2

Ontario's new Progressive Conservative leader, Doug Ford, talked about cutting red tape for business as he revved up supporters at a campaign office opening in Ajax on Saturday.

"There's no reason why we can't have the manufacturing jobs back," Ford told a cheering crowd at the opening for Rod Phillips, the PC candidate in the redrawn riding of Ajax.

Ford said 333,000 manufacturing jobs have left Ontario, and that as premier, he could attract investment by cutting red tape. "When I talk to owners of companies, no matter if it's small or large, the No. 1 issue is all the bureaucracy and red tape and regulation that they have to face," he said, adding that businesses "have to make sure that we don't have a carbon tax, they have to make sure that we're competitive when it comes to hydro rates."

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Doug Ford’s position on carbon tax makes no sense | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com · Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral

How does Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford’s oft-repeated promise that, if elected premier, he would repeal Ontario’s carbon tax make no sense? Let us count the ways.

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Where've you been Wynne?

Toronto Sun · Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Don Leschuk

Ad Value: $826
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A18

The Wynne government's throne speech promising to fund health care begs the question - what have you been doing the last 14 years? This is worst than Al Gore - the second most powerful man on the planet who had eight years to do something about **climate** change but didn't say a word until out of office. Wynne and her government could have spent (saved) billions more on health care, seniors, mental health and indigenous people the last 14 years if they didn't blow our money on Ornge, e-Health, MaRS, **gas** plant relocation, social justice agendas, **hydro**, full-time JK and SK, sex-ed, and massive **public** sector expansion.

Her election motto should be: 'If you can dream it, we can borrow it'or 'Let's really once and for all screw our kids' futures.'

DON LESCHUK

OSHAWA

(As we say in Sunday's editorial, much of the mess created is of their doing, how do they think they can fix it now?)

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15 Years Of Red Ink; How Wynne's debt bomb derailed Ontario's economy

Ottawa Sun - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorriegoldstein

Ad Value: $1,907
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A10

Premier Kathleen Wynne treats her government's massive debt as if she's won the lottery.

To her, runaway debt is a force for good, helping her to treat Ontarians "fairly," with no economic consequences.

But the premier's belief she can spend **Ontario** rich is nonsense.

In reality, imposing decades of economic hardship on present and future generations of Ontarians by saddling them with record levels of debt, is the true legacy of 15 years of Liberal rule in **Ontario**, going back to Dalton McGuinty's election as premier in 2003.

Their reckless spending has put us on a treadmill of higher taxes, rising debt and deteriorating **public** services.

Here's why: Since 2003, the Liberals have doubled government spending from $71 billion to $141 billion annually, while increasing provincial debt by 125%, from $138.8 billion to $311.9 billion, making **Ontario** the world's most indebted sub-sovereign borrower.

Even the Liberals concede a healthy debtto-Gross Domestic Product ratio for **Ontario** - a key indicator of economic health - would be 27%, which is what the Liberals inherited from the previous Progressive Conservative government in 2003.

By contrast, in their 15 years in **power**, they've increased the debt-to-GDP ratio to 37.5%, and rising, while lacking a credible **plan** to reduce it to 27%, according to the Legislature's **independent**, nonpartisan Financial Accountability Office.

And that was before Finance Minister Charles Sousa announced that in Wednesday's budget, the Liberals will abandon the commitment they made a year ago to balance the province's books in 2018-19 and 2019-20, after claiming they balanced them in 2017-18 following almost a decade of deficits.

But the Auditor General and Financial Accountability Office say that for the 2017-18 fiscal year, the Liberals are actually running a deficit of $4 billion to $4.5 billion, hidden by accounting tricks.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says the Wynne Liberals have improperly claimed a $12.4 billion surplus in two **public** sector pension plans as an asset, because they cannot access these funds without the permission of the employees' unions.

They have also, she says, improperly kept the $39.4 billion required to fund Wynne's **Fair Hydro Plan** - temporarily reducing **electricity rates** by 25% before sending them skyrocketing - off the province's books, by transferring the debt to **Ontario Power Generation**, meaning **electricity** consumers will have to pay up to $4 billion extra in unnecessary interest costs.

Even using Wynne's numbers, the Liberals in 2018-19 will spend $12 billion of taxpayers'money - $1 billion a month - just paying interest on the province's $311.9 billion debt.

In the four years Wynne has been premier, the Liberals have spent $44.5 billion paying interest on debt.

Not one penny of that - the government's fourthlargest annual expenditure after health, education and social services - has gone towards improving **public** services, reducing debt, or lowering taxes.

All this during a period of historically low interest **rates**, when the Liberals should have been gradually reducing debt, especially now given their claim **Ontario**'s economy is booming.

Small wonder vital **public** services like health care are deteriorating, even as Wynne plunges the province further into debt to pay for her election promises, leading up to the June 7 vote.

Meanwhile, the Liberals are simultaneously raising the cost of living for Ontarians by $1.8 billion annually, through Wynne's ill-conceived **cap-and-trade** carbon pricing scheme.

The Liberals have both undermined **Ontario**'s economy and left the province in dire financial straits when the next recession hits, as it inevitably will.

As the Fraser Institute recently reported, during the "lost decade" of reckless Liberal spending from 2007 to 2016 - during which all provinces had to cope with the aftermath of the 2008 global recession - **Ontario** fell to seventh place among Canada's 10 provinces in GDP growth per person; eighth in annual privatesector job growth; ninth in accumulated debt per person and tenth and last in median household income growth.

Righting the ship will require a fiscal discipline Wynne is incapable of delivering. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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Pass On The NDP

Toronto Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jeremy Thornton

Ad Value: $1,270
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "Now is the NDP's big chance" (Tom Parkin, March 12): Oh I hope not. I still remember Rae days. I really don't think the NDP would do anything about cutting back the deficit or cutting back taxes. That's just not in their DNA. Truthfully, I'm getting pretty much done with all of these ridiculous social welfare programs and I think the NDP will just increase our taxes to have more and bigger ones. I have a better idea. How about we concentrate on cutting back taxes first. Especially for business. While we are at it, let's fix the freaking horrible mess that we call **hydro**. Let's instead of increasing social programs, create more jobs. Let's get people working again. Let's create an environment that will entice companies to invest here and build factories that provide wellpaying jobs so that people like me aren't overtaxed to the hilt to support people who aren't working. Let's make it affordable to live in **Ontario** again. Wynne is crying that Doug Ford will make it hard for the **public** sector workers. Well boo frikity hoo! They've had it way too good for way too long. They should not be getting it any better than the private sector. This is something that the Liberals, and I bet the NDP too, just don't get. I'm voting for Doug. He gets it. He understands that people like me, the regular working stiff, is sick and tired of getting stiffed.

JEREMY THORNTON SCARBOROUGH

(The NDP is nowhere to be found these days in **Ontario**)

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Carbon tax doesn't exist

The Intelligencer

The Belleville Intelligencer · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Bill Bowen

Ad Value: $185
Reach: 9933 **Page:** A6

Ford with his rebates and rhetoric. The truth is Ford cannot repeal a carbon tax that doesn't exist or avoid putting a price on carbon.

The Ford carbon-tax promise denies reality. If Ford refuses to be on the right side of history, he can at least tell Ontarians the truth about where he stands. **Ontario** does not really have a carbon tax. The **cap and trade** system of pricing carbon put in place in 2016 imposes a limit on industrial emissions and allows companies to buy credits that let them exceed the limit.

The price is not paid directly by the taxpayers and is therefore not a tax.

Bill Bowen

Trenton

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Cap, Then Trade

Toronto Sun · Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Fred Lawson

Ad Value: $266
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

I have now decided to become a proponent of **cap and trade**. Put a cap on government spending, and trade Kathleen Wynne for a player to be named later.

FRED LAWSON HAMILTON

(Sounds similar to what Doug Ford has said, you might be on to something)

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We Need Change

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Chris Topple

Ad Value: $1,004
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A14

It is incredible to witness the disrespect that Premier Wynne has for the intelligence of Ontario voters. She has made Ontario a have-not province and the largest sub-national debtor in the world through massive spending, mismanagement, scandal, and tax increases. She has the gall to say that if new PC Leader Doug Ford is elected premier and ends her useless carbon tax, that there will be large cuts to hospitals, schools, and social services.

She caused the problem in the first place and any cuts would be to her billion-dollar projects such as in green energy, which has forced many people to have to choose between paying rent or buying food, medicine, or electricity.

Now she is fear-mongering in a desperate bid to hold onto power and thinks she can fool Ontarians again with her incompetence. Ontario is in a serious situation financially and the Liberals must be replaced in June. Most governments too long in power become stale and corrupt.

The Wynne government is the template for this.

CHRIS TOPPLE OSHAWA

(And with the billions of dollars the Liberals have been throwing around in just the last few days, imagine what they plan on announcing in next week's budget)

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As Trudeau and Wynne cut health care, Notley's Alberta turns a corner

Ottawa Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tom Parkin

Ad Value: $1,617
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A21

Hallway medicine. Crowded emergency rooms. Overcapacity, understaffed hospitals. Wait times. Tragedies.

If, in some provinces, it feels like our Canadian health care system is suffering from cuts, it's because it is. On average, Canadian provincial governments cut health care funding by three per cent from 2010 until 2015. It's only expected to recover to 2010 levels this year.

Adding to the problem are Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cuts. Federal health transfers to provinces are about 20 per cent of total public health care funding. Since 2016, transfers have been falling behind inflation and population growth.

Health care funding data, reported here on an inflation-adjusted and per person basis, are all from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) - our official health data agency.

And the CIHI data shows interesting differences between provinces-particularly **Ontario** and Alberta.

Last week in **Ontario**, only 10 weeks before an election, Premier Kathleen Wynne had a deathbed conversion, suddenly announcing more money for health care after years of cuts.

Since 2010, her Liberals have cut health care funding by five per cent. They've cut health care every year - except last election year, 2014. Fooled once, Ontarians now have the lowest **public** funding for health care in Canada.

Alberta was on the same track. Under the PCs, health care funding was cut almost five per cent between 2010 and 2015. Then an election changed it.

In 2015 the Alberta PCs campaigned for deeper cuts while Rachel Notley's NDP vowed to protect health care funding. Notley pulled off a spectacular upset and has kept her word, reversing PC cuts with a slight, two per cent increase since 2015.

And after the upcoming **Ontario** and Alberta elections, health care funding could again change - for the worse or better.

Appropriately, Premiers Notley and Wynne will be judged on their records. And those seeking to replace them need to show us their plans.

In **Ontario**, NDP Leader Andrea Horwath says she'll end Wynne's "hallway medicine." She hasn't detailed her **plan** yet, but has committed to increase taxes on profitable corporations and high incomes.

But in **Ontario** and Alberta there's a problem for conservatives. Big tax cut promises from PC Leader Doug Ford and UCP Leader Jason Kenney will create big budget holes.

The current **Ontario** PC platform, still to be tweaked by Ford, has a four-year **plan** to cut $8 billion from income tax, $6 billion from **cap and trade** revenues and $4 billion with boutique tax cuts. That's $18 billion - where does the money come from? Ford has said he'd "leave no stone unturned" on privatization, and in the past the PC party even privatized toll highways to pay for tax cuts. Or the money could come from cuts to **public** services like health care, **Ontario**'s largest expenditure. Or both. Either way, there's a big and unexplained gap.

Similarly, Kenney's draft policy calls for a $850 million income tax cut - all going to incomes over $126,000 - and cutting corporate and carbon taxes by $750 million a year, according to estimates provided by Finance Minister Joe Ceci.

People's health care is no game. Politicians peddling expensive money give-aways can't fluff-off important questions.

Any leader who truly respects voters will present an honest, fully-costed platform that adds up. And any Premier who launches health care cuts will have zero credibility pushing Trudeau to stop his.

Tom Parkin is a former NDP staffer and social democrat media commentator.

@Tom_Parkin_

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Show us (all) the money

Ottawa Sun - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $820

Reach: 38456 **Page:** A17

Do you think $100,000 is a lot to earn in a single year? We do.

Yet every 12 months, when the **Ontario** government's so-called Sunshine List of government workers earning $100,000 or more is made **public**, some expert suggests it's just not **fair**. Hogwash; of course it is.

The list was established in 1996 (under a Conservative government). It is disclosed annually in March, and lists the names and salaries of every Ontarian who was paid more than 100-grand by taxpayers the previous year.

If your neighbour is, say, a robustly remunerated college professor or a government media relations flak or a **public** school teacher, his or her earnings, if over that threshold, are made **public**.

In its first year, just 4,576 names made the Sunshine List. By 2017 - these numbers were released Friday - 131,741 workers were named.

On its face, that looks like a whole bunch more people, sucking more and more from the **public** teat, but really, a major reason the list swells each year is simple inflation.

According to the Bank of Canada inflation tracker, $100 in 1996 would have to be $147.22 in 2017 to buy the same "basket" of goods and services. So $100,000 in 1996 is equivalent to $147,220 today.

Thus, some argue, maybe that's where the cutoff should actually be. Identifying taxpayer-funded salaries at $100,000 is just an unfair game of "name and shame," they say. Make the cutoff $150K, they argue.

We disagree. Even in prosperous Canada, $100K is a lot of lucre to most folks. The 2015 census showed a median household income in Canada of around $70,000, which often includes more than one salary. In 2017, the average individual Ontarian earned about $52,260.

In short, $100,000 is nothing to sniff at, and, yes, we're entitled to know which **public**-sector employees are paid this amount or more. If they're good value for the money, there's no "shame" about us knowing it. If the disclosure raises questions, well, good; the **public** deserves answers.

By the way, the top-paid tax-dollar earner in **Ontario** last year was Jeff Lyash, CEO of **Ontario Power Generation**, who was paid a cool $1.55 million.

While you're mulling that figure, consider that the federal government has no Sunshine List at all. It should. Well, perhaps as soon as it gets this whole Phoenix mess sorted out.

Openness is always better than secrecy. In fact, we actually think every **public**-sector salary should be disclosed; after all, we taxpayers underwrite the payroll. The more "sunshine" the better.

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Sunshine list grows to 131,741 workers

National Post - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,186
Reach: 185480 **Page:** A9

Ontario Power Generation executives, a pair of hospital CEOs, and the president of a **corporation** that manages investments for a university are amongst the highest paid **public**-sector employees in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more. The so-called "Sunshine List" released Friday shows that in 2017 there were 131,741 workers on the list, up from 123,410 last year, earning salaries and benefits that total over $16.8 billion. The highest earner on the list is **Ontario Power Generation** CEO Jeff Lyash whose salary was $1,554,456.95 and $6,864.00 in taxable benefits, up nearly $400,000 from last year. The province's second-highest earner is Daren Smith, president of the University of **Toronto** Asset Management **Corporation**, with a salary of $936,089.48 and $448.14 in taxable benefits. The $100,000 threshold for those on the list has not changed since it was introduced by then-premier Mike Harris in 1996. Premier Kathleen Wynne says that she won't be increasing the threshold because $100,000 is still a lot of money.

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Sunshine List gets 6 per cent longer; Power Generation CEO tops list of civil servants being paid six figures

Toronto Star - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Rob Ferguson and Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau

Ad Value: $25,246
Reach: 500678 **Page:** A4

The man who keeps the lights on shines brightest on the new Sunshine List of **Ontario public** sector workers earning $100,000 or more, which grew by 6 per cent, or 7,460 people, in the past year.

Jeffrey Lyash, the president and CEO of **Ontario Power Generation**, again topped the annual compendium released Friday, this time with a pay boost just shy of $400,000 from 2016.

Responsible for overseeing the country's largest fleet of nuclear reactors and the 10-year, $12.8-billion refurbishment of the Darlington nuclear plant, Lyash earned $1,554,457 in 2017 in salary and performance bonus, according to the list, which comprises seven volumes, stacked as high as an Extra-large coffee cup.

"The Darlington refurbishment is on time and on budget, which is attributable to Jeff's leadership and the team he has selected to manage the project. This saves **ratepayers** money," **Ontario Power Generation** said.

Employees of **Hydro** One are no longer subject to **public** sector salary disclosure, because the Wynne government has partially privatized the former Crown **corporation**, but its chief executive Mayo Schmidt earns $4.4 million.

A record 131,741 workers in the broader **public** sector made six figures, running the gamut from chief executives of hospitals and universities to front-line police and TTC staff, many of them in the $100,000 club because of overtime.

The lowest salary in the top 10 was $718,300 and the highest-paid woman was Jill Pepall, executive vice-president and chief investment officer of the **Ontario Public Service** Pension Board.

Inflation is a major factor in the list, launched 22 years ago by former PC premier Mike Harris. Accounting for the ever-rising cost of living, $100,000 in 1996 is the equivalent of about $152,000 now - and $100,000 today would have been about $67,000 back then.

If threshold had been adjusted for inflation since its inception , the number of employees on it would be just under 20,000.

Premier Kathleen Wynne said "the threshold is not changing."

"To the vast majority of people in Ontario $100,000 a year is still a lot of money," Wynne told reporters on Friday.

"We think people in the province have a right to know what folks are earning," added the premier, whose salary is frozen at $208,974.

A union representing professional and supervisory civil servants urged Wynne to strike names from the list after a member's personal safety was put in jeopardy when a stalker used it to harass her at the government ministry where she works.

The woman "had taken significant steps to protect herself and her family, including moving cities and assuming a new name," said union president Dave Bulmer, noting the government "gave her stalker all the information he needed to harass her again."

As outlined on the sunshine list, cabinet ministers earn $165,851 and the base salary for MPPs is $116,500. Ousted PC leader Patrick Brown's salary was $180,856. MPPs no longer have a pension plan, which was axed by the Harris government.

Big earners rounding out the top 10 included:

Daren Smith, president and chief investment office, University of Toronto Asset Management Corp., $936,089.

Glen Jager, nuclear president and chief nuclear officer, Ontario Power Generation, $858,445.

Bruce Campbell, president and chief executive Independent Electricity System Operator, $745,211.

Mark Fuller, president and chief executive, Ontario Public Service Pension Board, $745,211.

Martin Scott, senior vice-president business and administration, Ontario Power Generation, $739,854.

William Reichman, president and chief executive, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, $722,875.

Jill Pepall, executive vice-president and chief information officer, Ontario Public Service Pension Board, $721,224.

Michael Apkon, president and chief executive, Hospital for Sick Children, $719,694.

Peter Pisters, president and chief executive, University Health Network, $718,300.

Many of Toronto's list of top earners in 2017 are heading out the door early this year, including departing city manager Peter Wallace, who topped the city's earnings list as top bureaucrat. Wallace made $350,077. The former Ontario Public Service boss is leaving to be federal treasury board secretary.

Andy Byford, who left the helm of the TTC to run New York's transit system, made $346,791, while Toronto police chief Mark Saunders, earned $337,744 last year.

The Toronto Police Service continued to be the best paid city division, with 4,828 officers and civilians on the force making more than $100,000.

As in 2016, the highest paid constable was Abdulhameed Virani, who earned $245,611 plus benefits as a result of overtime pay - almost as much as a deputy chief and more than any of his other superiors. A constable's base pay is

$94,949.

With files from Jennifer Pagliaro

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Province's top earners basking in sunshine

Toronto Sun - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $3,920
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A10

Top 10 earners

Jeffrey Lyash - **Ontario Power Generation** - $1,554,456.95

Daren Smith - University of **Toronto** - $936,089.48

Glenn Jager - **Ontario Power Generation** - $858,445.43

Bruce Campbell - **Independent Electricity** System Operator - $749,862.59

Mark Fuller - **Ontario Public Service** Pension Board - $745,211.84

Scott Martin - **Ontario Power Generation** - $739,854.78

William Reichman - Baycrest **Centre** For Geriatric Care - $722,875.00

Jill Pepall - **Ontario Public Service** Pension Board - $721,224.22

Michael Apkon - The Hospital For Sick Children - $719,694.40

Peter Pisters - University Health Network - $718,300.56 Eyebrow raising

More than a dozen TTC collectors appear on the 2017 Sunshine List, with one raking in more than $130,000.

Toronto's top cop

Police Const.

Virani Abdulhameed accumulated $245,611.73 in salary in 2017. By comparison, Chief Mark Saunders brought in $337,744.78.

Gone but not forgotten Ex-TTC head honcho Andrew Byford earned $346,791.51 to keep **Toronto** moving.

NUMBERS

131,741

Total number of employees on the 2017 Sunshine List n $16.8 billion - Total salaries listed on the 2017 Sunshine List n 5,871 - The number of City of **Toronto** employees making more than $100,000

7,877 - The number of Sunshine List employees from **Ontario Power Generation**

42 - Art Gallery of **Ontario** employees making more than $100,000

3,650 - Combined total of TDSB/TDCSB employees on Sunshine List n 417 - OLG employees on the Sunshine List

1,540 - Toronto Transit Commission workers making more than $100,000

4,881 - City of Toronto Police Services on the Sunshine List

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The Sudbury Star

Sunshine List swells; More than 1,700 public servants in Sudbury made $100,000 or more in 2017

Sudbury Star - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,735
Reach: 15423 **Page:** A1 / Front

More than 131,741 public sector workers in Ontario - including more than 1,700 in Sudbury - earned $100,000 or more in 2017, figures show.

The so-called "Sunshine List" released Friday shows those workers earned salaries and benefits that total more than $16.8 billion.

In 2016, 123,410 workers made the list and taxpayers can expect that number to swell even more in 2108. Vito Pilieci of Postmedia reports that annual raises and the effects of inflation on salaries continues to push up the average pay of public sector government workers.

By comparison, about 79,000 Ontario public servants appeared on the Sunshine List in 2012.

"If you think the list is big now, wait," said Daniel Cohn, a professor in the school of public policy and administration at York University. "The high school teachers are starting to enter the list already. Next year the elementary school teachers will start to enter the list," he said, referencing expected teacher salary increases.

When the list was first released in 1996 the $100,000 figure encapsulated some of the top earners in the public service. Only 4,576 public service workers were named as part of the exercise, which aimed to bring more transparency to government spending.

Cohen and others experts question the value of the Sunshine list, arguing that it's not the salary of the rank-and-file public employee that average Ontarians are interested in. People want to be informed about the highly paid executives who head up Crown corporations.

"We learned today what the salary is of the CEO of OPG (Ontario Power Generation) which is the main public interest in this stuff," said Angelo Melino, a professor in the department of economics at the University of Toronto, referencing the news that OPG boss Jeff Lyash made $1.55 million in salary last year. "Over time, it's included a larger and larger fraction of people on the list. So, over time, everybody who works for the public sector will have their salary published."

Cohn said adding more average public employees waters down the effect of the list, which should be to highlight the government's big spend.

"What I'd like to see is us shrink the list and make the list based on people who hold positions that are strategically important," he said. "People who have the ability to influence the way everybody else does their job, like the deputy minister and the ADMs (assistant deputy ministers)."

Lyash, whose salary was $1,554,456 and $6,864 in taxable benefits, topped Ontario's so-called 2017 Sunshine List. His salary was about $400,000 more than what he made last year, when he was also the highest-earning employee on the list.

The top ten spots on the list were rounded out by several other **Ontario Power Generation** executives, a pair of hospital CEOs, and the president of a **corporation** that manages investments for a university.

Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne, who is headed for a spring election, defended the need to pay a premium for some of those at the top of the list, saying their skills are needed.

Wynne also said she won't be increasing the threshold because "to the vast majority of people in **Ontario** $100,000 a year is still a lot of money."

Closer to home, City of **Greater Sudbury** had more than 430 employees on the Sunshine List, including firefighters and police officers.

City CAO Ed Archer is the top earner, with a salary of $261,652.69 and benefits of more than $9,000.

Catherine Matheson, the city's general manager of community development, earned $215,179.28 in 2017, plus benefits of about $8,300. Tony Cecutti, general manager of infrastructure services, earned $211,014.76 and a benefits package worth about $9,000.

Former fire chief Trevor Bain, who was fired last October, earned $169,109.27 in 2017, plus benefits of about $2,300.

Police Chief Paul Pedersen earned a total of $241,980.40 in 2017, as well as a benefits package worth more than $16,000. Sharon Baiden, CAO of the police services board, and Al Lekun, deputy chief, were the next top earners for the **Greater Sudbury** Police **Service**, each pulling in $205,878.40 in 2017.

The top earning firefighter was Colin Braney, who earned $175,077.39 last year. Health Health Sciences **North**, which had more than 270 people on the list, was led by Dr. Chris Bourdon, the hospital's Vice President, Medical and Academic Affairs, who made $301,000 in 2017. Dr. Denis Roy, the hospital's President and Chief Executive Officer, made $273,000, but he left in June after stepping down. Dr. Andrew Knight made $273,000, and Joe Pilon, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, earned $287,000. Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, the medical officer of health, made $334,000. Dr. Roger Strasser, the dean of the **Northern Ontario** School of Medicine, earned $358,585 in 2017. Education Rainbow District School Board counted 165 employees on the Sunshine List. Director of education Norm Blaseg had his organization's top salary, with $238,328.66 for 2017.

Sudbury Catholic District School Board had 47 employees. Top earners were led by director of education Joanne Benard at $193,063.15.

Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-**Ontario** had 88 who earned $100,000 or more, including director of education Lyse-Anne Papineau with $203,515.82.

Conseil scolaire **public** du Grand Nord de l'**Ontario** also had 47 employees listed. The top earner was superintendent of education Barbara Breault at $156,856.43. Post-secondary schools Laurentian University had 410 employees on the 2017 Sunshine List.

Some of the top people were Dominic Giroux, recentlydeparted president and vicechancellor, who earned $235,437; John Dunn, Canada Research Chair, who made $208,388.24; Rui Wang, vice-president, research, who earned $206,316.96; and Pierre Zundel, interim president and vice-chancellor, at $246,224.96. Prof. Ozhand Ganjavi made $686,760.63, but that's because he took a severance when Laurentian closed its Barrie campus.

Cambrian College, meanwhile, had 60 people on the Sunshine List. They included president Bill Best, who earned $256,025.25.

College Boreal had 35 employees qualify for the Sunshine List. They included president Daniel Giroux at $258,663.58. Others There were many local **Ontario** Court of Justice judges who made the 2017 Sunshine List. They included John Keast, Andre Guay, Karen Lische and Andrew Buttazzoni who all earned $291,241.56.

The local Crown attorney's office was also well represented on the 2017 Sunshine List. Recently retired director of Crown operations, John Luczak, earned $227,625.32 while Susan Stothart, former Crown attorney and current director of Crown operations, had a salary of $220,996.10. - with files from **Canadian** Press and Postmedia sud.letters@sunmedia.

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Sunshine list swells in city, across province; Top city, police, fire, education and health earners listed

North Bay Nugget - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,174
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A1 / Front

More than 131,741 **public** sector workers in **Ontario** -including more than 1,000 in **North Bay** -earned $100,000 or more in 2017, figures show.

The so-called "Sunshine List" released Friday shows those workers earned salaries and benefits that total more than $16.8 billion.

In 2016, 123,410 workers made the list and taxpayers can expect that number to swell even more in 2108. Vito Pilieci of Postmedia reports that annual raises and the effects of inflation on salaries continues to push up the average pay of

By comparison, about 79,000 **Ontario** **public** servants appeared on the Sunshine List in 2012.

"If you think the list is big now, wait," says Daniel Cohn, a professor in the school of **public** policy and administration at York University.

"The high school teachers are starting to enter the list already. Next year the elementary school teachers will start to enter the list," he says, referencing expected teacher salary increases.

When the list was first released in 1996 the $100,000 figure encapsulated some of the top earners in the **public** **service**. Only 4,576 **public** **service** workers were named as part of the exercise, which aimed to bring more transparency to government spending.

Cohen and other experts question the value of the Sunshine List, arguing that it's not the salary of the rank-and-file **public** employee that average Ontarians are interested in.

People want to be informed about the highly paid executives who head up Crown corporations.

"We learned today what the salary is of the CEO of **OPG** (**Ontario Power Generation**) which is the main **public** interest in this stuff," says Angelo Melino, a professor in the department of economics at the University of **Toronto**, referencing the news that **OPG** boss Jeff Lyash made $1.55 million in salary last year.

"Over time, it's included a larger and larger fraction of people on the list. So, over time, everybody who works for the **public** sector will have their salary published."

Cohn says adding more average **public** employees waters down the effect of the list, which should be to highlight the government's big spend.

"What I'd like to see is us shrink the list and make the list based on people who hold positions that are strategically important," he says. "People who have the ability to influence the way everybody else does their job, like the deputy minister and the ADMs (assistant deputy ministers)."

Lyash, whose salary was $1,554,456 and $6,864 in taxable benefits, topped **Ontario**'s so-called 2017 Sunshine List. His salary was about $400,000 more than what he made in 2016, when he was also the highest-earning employee on the list.

The top 10 spots on the list were rounded out by several other **Ontario Power Generation** executives, a pair of hospital CEOs, and the president of a **corporation** that manages investments for a university.

Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne, who is headed for a spring election, defended the need to pay a premium for some of those at the top of the list, saying their skills are needed.

Wynne also said she won't be increasing the threshold because "to the vast majority of people in **Ontario**, $100,000 a year is still a lot of money."

Closer to home, the City of **North Bay** had close to 170 employees on the Sunshine List, including 60 firefighters and 79 employees of the **North Bay** Police **Service**.

Former CAO Jerry Knox, listed as a corporate adviser, was the top earner at $203,908, followed by current CAO Keith Robichaud at $183,015.

Also on the list are David Euler, managing director of engineering and environmental services and works, at $167,517, John Severino, managing director of community services, at $167,517, Lea Janisse, managing director of corporate services, at $169,661, Margaret Karpenko, chief financial officer, at $167,517, and city solicitor Peter Leckie at $152,196.

Fire Chief Jason Whitely earned $138,713, Deputy Fire Chief Michael Bechard $138,549, Capt. Keith Hann $130,738, Capt. Terry Hargrave $145,009, Platoon Chief Mike Hives $142,685, Capt. Murray Jonescu $133,766, Platoon Chief Gregory Kraft $143,987, Platoon Chief Michael Newman at $145,062 and Deputy Fire Chief Mcgregor Saunders at $138,207.

Police Chief Shawn Devine earned $206,820. Also on the list are Staff Sgt. Richard Dubeau at $146,074, Sgt. Michael Hunter at $166,407, Insp. Robert Jerome at $142,162, Insp. Kirk Kelusky at $153,056, Const. Gregory Mcclenaghan at $155,866, Sgt. Kenneth Rice at $149,758, Const. Thomas Robertson at $148,727, Deputy Chief Scott Tod at $180,148 and Staff Sgt. Danny Webber at $140,303. Health **North Bay Regional** Health **Centre**, which has more than 130 people on the list, is led by psychiatrist Kenneth Boss at $477,468, psychiatrist Douglas Marr at $359,279, psychiatrist Valarie Primeau at $341,293, president Paul Heinrich at $322,466, psychiatrist Scot Saltstone at $318,055, psychiatrist Susan Johnston at $316,534, psychiatrist Patricia Achiume at $286,758, physician Grant Mckercher at $276,117, physician Peter Lowry at $276,019, physician Margarita Gatchev at $234,136, vice-president Tanya Nixon at $191,838 and vice-president Tiziana Silveri at $191,838. Education Near **North** District School Board counts 106 employees on the Sunshine List. Education director Jackie Young tops the list at $171,000.

Nipissing -Parry Sound Catholic District School Board has 44 on the list led by education director Anna Marie Bitonti at $178,218. Post-secondary schools Canadore College has 35 people on the list, led by president George Burton at $245,552, vice-president Mary Bowers O'Farrell at $181,019, vice-president Shawn Chorney at $168,000 and vice-president Richard Peters at $168,000.

Nipissing University has 160 people on the list. Some of the top earners include president Michael DeGagne at $277,599, provost and vice-president Harley D'Entremont at $210,000, dean of arts and science Murat Tuncali at $183,418, dean of graduate studies Jim Mcauliffe at $183,251, vice-president Cheryl Sutton at $180,000, assistant vice-president Casey Phillips at $164,113, professor Chris Sarlo at $163,251 and education dean Carole Richardson at $162,999. **Transportation** The **Ontario** Northland **Transportation** Commission has 52 people on this list, led by president and CEO Corina Moore at $243,493. Also on the list are Dennis Higgs, vice-president rail mechanical and remanufacturing, at $154,90, and Chad Evans, vicepresident of corporate services, at $169,654.

Other Also on this year's list are Louise Paquette, CEO of the **North** East Local Health Integration Network at $299,750 Kathleen Fyfe, interim CEO of the **North** East Local Health Integration Network at $228,307 Jim Chirico, medical officer of health with the **North Bay** Parry Sound District Health Unit $311,248 Susan Baker, supervisor ongoing protection at the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound, at $159,585 Gisele Hebert, executive director of the Children's Aid Society, at $160,180 Peter Hickey, manager of finance and administration of the Children's Aid Society, at $204,154 Elaine Kendall, supervisor intake and assessment at the Children's Aid Society, at $176,089 Shannon Lachance, supervisor ongoing protection at the Children's Aid Society, $152,032 Nancy Rich-Lafrance, director of services at the Children's Aid Society, at $225,483 Joseph Bradbury, CAO and the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board, at $160,656 -With files from **Canadian** Press and Postmedia

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OPG execs among top earners in public sector

London Free Press - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $2,107
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A7

Ontario Power Generation's chief earned nearly $1.6 million last year, making him the highest-paid **public**-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more.

Jeff Lyash, whose salary was $1,554,456 and $6,864 in taxable benefits, topped **Ontario**'s socalled 2017 sunshine list of the highest paid **public**-sector employees, which was released Friday in six thick paper volumes.

Lyash's salarywas about $400,000 more than what he made last year, when he was also the highest-earning employee on the list.

The list's Top 10 was rounded out by several other **Ontario Power Generation** executives, a pair of hospital CEOs, and the president of a **corporation** that manages investments for a university.

Liberal premier Kathleen Wynne, who is headed for a spring election, defended the need to pay a premium for some of those at the top of the list.

"There are situations where there are particular skill sets that are needed that we want to make sure we have the very best," she said.

Wynne made her comments while making an announcement at Sick Kids Hospital in **Toronto**.

That's hospital's CEO, Michael Apkon, made $719,694 and $20,586 in taxable benefits last year, making him the 10 th-highest paid **public** sector worker in **Ontario**.

"I think we're standing in a place where we want the world's best here," Wynne said. "That's quite simply what we need.

"We need the very, very best people in our children's hospitals but also in our **public** services." In 2017, there were 131,741 workers on the list, up from 123,410 the year before, earning salaries and benefits that total more than $16.8 billion.

The $100,000 threshold for those on the list has not changed since it was introduced by then-premier Mike Harris in 1996.

Sun shines on Chakma Western University President and Vice-Chancellor Amit Chakma once again tops the school's sunshine list of salaries. Chakma received a salary of $484,000 and benefits worth $47,417 in 2017. Chakma's numbers were higher than the year before, because he was only paid for 11 months in 2016. "His base annual salary and bonus has not changed," the school said. This year's list from Western is 27 pages long and includes roughly 1,400 names. The second-highest salary on the list belongs to dean Robert Kennedy, who took home $409,999 in salary alone.

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More workers included in Ontario 'Sunshine List'; list grows to 131,741 | CTV Toronto News

toronto.ctvnews.ca · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

The CEO of Ontario Power Generation earned nearly $1.6 million last year, making him the highest-paid public-sector employee in the province on a growing list of those earning $100,000 or more.

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Ontario releases its annual Sunshine List of top public sector salaries - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

The Ontario government has published its annual Sunshine List of public sector employees who earned more than $100,000 last year.

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Stay tuned: Sunshine List is out, local details this afternoon - Sudbury.com

www.sudbury.com · Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral

The annual Sunshine List, which details those workers paid from the public purse who make $100,000 a year or more, is out.

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Sunshine list: Mohawk's president paid more than leader of Mac

thespec.com · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

Byline: jfrketich@thespec.com
Reach: 90600

Mohawk College and foundation head Ron McKerlie is among the highest paid post-secondary leaders in **Ontario** with his total earnings for 2017 coming out ahead of McMaster University's president.

McKerlie was paid $418,082 in salary and taxable benefits by the college and its fundraising foundation in 2017 compared to Patrick Deane's $397,902 for leading the university.

"It indicates the salaries have gotten a little bit out of hand," said Kevin MacKay, vice chair of the colleges of applied arts and technology provincial executive for the **Ontario Public Service** Employees Union. "We can say this across the board with a lot of **public service** senior managers."

Public Salary disclosure released Friday by the provincial government shows health care continues to dominate the list in Hamilton with the city's star researcher Dr. Salim Yusuf coming out on top with an income and taxable benefits of $764,573 paid in part by Hamilton Health Sciences and the rest by McMaster University.

The only other local salaries over $500,000 were hospital leaders Kevin Smith and Dr. David Higgins at St. Joseph's Healthcare and Rob MacIsaac at Hamilton Health Sciences.

Smith, who is leaving St. Joseph's Health System in May for **Toronto**'s University Health Network, was among the top earning hospital presidents and CEOs with salary and taxable benefits of $727,275.

Higgins is also stepping down from his role as president of St. Joseph's Healthcare at the end of June.

"Funding to these services tends to be getting cut back," said MacKay. "There is this lack of funds and yet…you've got folks making over $300,000 or over $400,000 a year. It seems excessive. It's taxpayers money."

But Richard Leblanc, associate professor of law, governance and ethics says salaries between $400,000 to $600,000 for running a large university, college or hospital are "pretty reasonable."

"That doesn't strike me as being egregious," he said. "It's a very demanding position and it's a 24-7 job. It's even in some respects more demanding than running a private company or a publicly traded company…There aren't many people who can do these types of jobs."

He also said college leaders don't necessarily have to make less than their university counterparts.

"Just because you are a college doesn't mean it is less demanding than a university," said LeBlanc, who has done consulting work for Mohawk College. "It's just in a different form."

McKerlie's college salary and taxable benefits in 2017 is not a standout provincially at $297,430 but when the $120,652 paid by the foundation is added on, it jumps to the top of the list, coming second only to Humber College. His pay is also higher than a number of university presidents.

The foundation pay is not included on the sunshine list but was provided voluntarily by Mohawk. The college did not comment on McKerlie's salary except to say he didn't get a raise in 2017.

"It creates a lightening rod and an X on your back," said LeBlanc generally about being at the top of the **public** salary disclosure lists. "It's often the poster child for bad pay but it's not… They're getting a pretty good deal for that type of talent and the demands for the position."

Mohawk College also stood out for being one of the few **public** sector organizations to see its list of employees making $100,000 or more drastically reduced.

The number of Mohawk staff on the sunshine list was cut in half to 163 in 2017 from 320 in 2016.

The college said the five-week strike in October was the reason for the drop.

"The system saves a lot of money while faculty and **students** take a hit," said MacKay. "It was worth it. You take a financial hit to move things forward."

The striking faculty did get strike pay that is not included in **public** salary disclosure but MacKay said it "was not close to replacing the lost wages" as it was only about $200 a week.

"If you go without pay for a month or two, it puts a hole in your annual income," said Wayne Lewchuk, professor in global labour issues at McMaster. "In the short term, there is a cost, but in the long term, there are benefits… More important, it sets a tone for future negotiations and it says to an employer… they are not pushovers so we need to be reasonable in terms of what we offer them… If workers never stood up, they would never get really great pay increases."

The drop at Mohawk was in stark contrast to other Hamilton organizations that had significant increases. The list for Hamilton Health Sciences went up nearly 32 per cent to 754 staff in 2017 compared to 573 the year before.

St. Joseph's saw its numbers go up nearly 20 per cent to 326 from 272 while Joseph Brant jumped 36 per cent to 79 staff on the list compared to 58 the year before.

The City of Hamilton went up by 27 per cent to 1,569 from 1,233 in 2016. McMaster and the City of **Burlington** also had increases.

Provincewide, a record 131,741 people made six-figures - up 6.8 per cent from the tally of 123,410 in 2016.

"We started this 20 years ago so the problem is the government hasn't adjusted that initial ceiling," said LeBlanc. "The ceiling probably should closer to $200,000 right now."

Premier Kathleen Wynne said there is "no **plan**" to increase the threshold to keep pace with the ever-rising cost of living. "One hundred thousand dollars is still a lot of money," Wynne told reporters at the Hospital for Sick Children on Friday.

At the city, Hamilton's mayor was among the best paid in **Ontario** with Fred Eisenberger earning salary and taxable benefits of $188,614. In **Burlington**, Mayor Rick Goldring made $179,949.

The city's list included suspended Hamilton Police **Service** Det.-Const. Craig Ruthowsky, who is on trial for corruption-related offences and drug trafficking. Ruthowsky, who has pleaded not guilty, made $104,829 in 2017.

Topping the sunshine list provincewide was Jeffrey Lyash, president and CEO of **Ontario Power Generation**, with $1,561,321 in salary and taxable benefits.

Second was Daren Smith, president and chief investment office, University of **Toronto** Asset Management Corp, earning $936,537.62.

The highest paid hospital CEO was Peter Pisters at the University Health Network making $791,458 in salary and taxable benefits. The top earning post-secondary leader was Amit Chakma, president of the University of Western **Ontario**, with $531,417 in 2017.

"I think there is such an emphasis in **Ontario** about watching the pennies and the resources and just being really careful," said LeBlanc. "But at the end of the day when it comes to executive pay, you get what you pay for. It's a competition for talent and we do want good people leading hospitals, universities and colleges." Top 25 local **public** sector earners

Top 25 salary and taxable benefits combined for 2017 in Hamilton and **Burlington**

Dr. Salim Yusuf executive director of the Population Health Research Institute Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University $764,573

Kevin Smith presidentand CEO St. Joseph's Health System $727,275

Rob MacIsaac president and CEO Hamilton Health Sciences $630,837

Dr. David Higgins president St. Joseph's Healthcare $510,146

Dr. Paul O'Byrne dean and vice president health sciences McMaster University $473,938

Richard McLean chief medical executive Hamilton Health Sciences $420,294

Ron McKerlie president Mohawk College and its fundraising foundation $418,082 (includes $297,430 from the college and $120,652 from the foundation)

Dr. Ralph Meyer vice president oncology and palliative care Hamilton Health Sciences $414,731

Dr. Akbar Panju professor in the department of medicine McMaster University $413,113

Brenda Flaherty chief operating officer Hamilton Health Sciences Hamilton Health Sciences $398,040

Patrick Deane president and vice-chancellor McMaster University $397,902

Dr. Mark Crowther professor pathology and molecular medicine $395,276

Dr. Julian Hart chief of laboratory medicine Joseph Brant Hospital $381,930

David McCaig chief financial officer Hamilton Health Sciences $380,000

Leonard Waverman dean of the DeGroote School of Business McMaster University $376,178

Dr. Mohit Bhandari professor in the department of surgery McMaster University $376,034

Winifred Doyle executive vice president clinical programs and chief nursing executive St. Joseph's Healthcare $371,943

Eric Vandewall president and CEO Joseph Brant Hospital $371,309

Dr. Peter Fitzgerald president McMaster Children's Hospital $369,321

Dr. Samih Salama pathologist St. Joseph's Healthcare $365,234

Dr. Stuart Connolly cardiac electrophysiologist Hamilton Health Sciences $360,000

Dr. John Kelton professor of pathology and molecular medicine McMaster University $356,743

David Wilkinson distinguished university professor of engineering McMaster University $351,658

Dr. John Fernandes chief Hamilton **Regional** Laboratory Medicine Program Hamilton Health Sciences $349,868

Rebecca Repa vice president integrated clinical support services and community surgery $348,280 Other notable earners

Salary and taxable benefits combined for 2017

Ishwar Puri dean of engineering McMaster University $332,732

Stephen Collins vice-president research McMaster University $329,506

James Ridge city manager City of **Burlington** $304,545

Donna Cripps CEO Hamilton **Niagara** Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network $300,901

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson medical officer of health City of Hamilton $292,346

Dr. Jennifer Everson physician lead clinical health system **Niagara** Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network $291,762

Christopher Murray city manager City of Hamilton $283,477

Eric Girt chief of police City of Hamilton $262,917

James Commerford president and CEO YMCA of Hamilton/**Burlington**/**Brantford** $249,763

Daniel Kinsella deputy chief of police City of Hamilton $232,698

Manny Figueiredo director Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board $228,278

Joe-Anne Priel special adviser City of Hamilton $224,821

Wayne Poirier vice-presidentstudent and alumni services Mohawk College $223,632

Mile Zegarac general manager finance and corporate services City of Hamilton $220,097

Donald (Jason) Thorne general manager planning and economic development $219,024

David Hansen director of education Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board $217,914

Shawn Blaj highest paid police inspector City of Hamilton $214,358

Daniel Mckinnon general manager **public** works City of Hamilton $212,367

Dominic Verticchio executive director Children's Aid Society of Hamilton $202,309

Fred Eisenberger mayor City of Hamilton $188,614

David Cunliffe fire chief City of Hamilton $184,640

Samuel Hammond president of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of **Ontario** Hamilton -Wentworth District School Board $184,369

Steve Hrab area's highest paid staff sergeant City of Hamilton $181,811

Rick Goldring mayor city of **Burlington** $179,949

Elizabeth Beader CEO **North** Hamilton Community Health **Centre** $179,195

Jeffrey Kemp highest paid advanced care paramedic City of Hamilton $177,070

Michael Sanderson chief paramedic **service** City of Hamilton $165,852

Rocco Gizzarelli executive director Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton $160,972

Jean Gibbard highest paid teacher Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board $135,849

Asha John highest paid registered nurse Hamilton Health Sciences $135,495

Victor Koschanow highest paid firefighter City of Hamilton $133,684

Denise Christopherson CEO YWCA Hamilton $129,942

With files from The **Toronto** Star

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Meanwhile, B.C. says what's Earth Hour?

Ottawa Sun - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $808
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A18

British Columbians increased their **power** use during Earth Hour for the first time in a decade. B.C. **Hydro** says **electricity** use rose by 0.2% from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, compared with the same hour the week before.

The Crown **corporation** says this also marks the fifth year in a trend of declining participation by British Columbians.

According to the report,

Lights out: Why Earth Hour is dimming in B.C., a total of 69% of British Columbians said their main motivation for cutting **electricity** use was saving money on bills, compared to 15% who said their motivation was to help the environment and 14% who believed it was "the right thing to do."

The biggest Earth-Hour drop in **electricity** use in B.C. occurred during the inaugural event in 2008, when **power** use dropped by 2%.

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Electricity use actually went up in B.C. during Earth Hour, says BC Hydro - BC | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

BC Hydro says it saw in increase in electricity use during Earth Hour, an annual global event that encourages people to turn off the lights to raise awareness about energy conservation and climate change.

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B.C. electricity use rose during 2018 Earth Hour, says BC Hydro | CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

For the first time since it began tracking electricity use in the province during Earth Hour, BC Hydro said customers used more power during the 60-minute period when lights are expected to dim.

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Earth Hour energy savings wane in B.C., but WWF says event still relevant - British Columbia - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral

B.C.'s electricity provider says participation in the annual dim your lights Earth Hour campaign is waning in the province, but the World Wildlife Fund — the non-profit organization that created the event — says BC Hydro's measure of who takes part is flawed.

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Power use rises in B.C. during Earth Hour for first time in a decade | CTV Vancouver News

bc.ctvnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

Despite their best intentions, British Columbians increased their power use during Earth Hour for the first time in a decade.

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BC Hydro report suggests Earth Hour participation on the decline, but conservationists aren’t buying it | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

Conservationists are questioning a BC Hydro report that suggests Earth Hour participation is on the decline in the province, despite widespread interest.

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Earth Hour 2018 results in a 1.5% drop in electricity: Alectra Utilities | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

Households across Ontario dimmed their lights over the weekend to mark Earth Hour.

In Barrie, hydro users reduced electricity consumption by 0.9 per cent according to Alectra Utilities.

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Cities around the world go dark for Earth Hour | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral

Toronto plunged into darkness on Saturday in observance of Earth Hour.

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Lights out: Toronto goes dark to mark Earth Hour | CP24.com

www.cp24.com - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral

The city's skyline looked a little bit different tonight as many buildings, including the CN Tower, went dark in observance of Earth Hour.

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Hike, concert usher in 2018 Earth Hour | CTV Montreal News

montreal.ctvnews.ca - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral

Millions of people around the world showed their support for environmentalism on Saturday by turning off their lights as they marked the annual Earth Hour.

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Lights go dark for Earth Hour to highlight climate change

National Post - Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: The Associated Press
Reach: 607500

LONDON - In Paris, the Eiffel Tower went dark. In **London**, a kaleidoscope of famous sites switched off their lights - Tower Bridge, Big Ben, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace, the **London** Eye.

That scene was repeated over and over across the world on Saturday night: at Sydney's Opera House; at New Delhi's great arch; at Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers; at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland; at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate; at St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow; at the Empire State Building in New York.

It lasted for just an hour and its **power** is purely symbolic. But in countries around the world, at 8:30 p.m., people switched off their lights for Earth Hour, a global call for international unity on the importance of addressing **climate** change.

Begun in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour has spread to more than 180 countries, with tens of millions of people joining in, from turning off their own porch lights to letting the grand sites like the Opera House go dark.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said 300 Paris buildings observed the blackout to send a "universal message."

These 60 minutes are "an opportunity" to shift "the consumption culture and behaviour change toward sustainability," Indian Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

All this happens and yet many people, of course, barely notice.

Around India Gate, New Delhi's monument to the Indian dead in World War I, thousands embraced the city's nightly warm-weather ritual Saturday. They bought ice cream and cheap plastic trinkets. They flirted. Young children rode in **electric** carts that their parents rented for a few minutes at a stretch.

But for an hour the arch stayed dark, a silent call for change.

In Jordan, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature arranged 11,440 candles on a hilltop in the capital of Amman, establishing a Guinness World Record for the largest candle mosaic.

The candles spelled the Earth Hour motto of "60+." However, attempts to light the candles largely failed because of **wind** on the hilltop, which is close to the city's landmark, the Amman Citadel.

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Globe's landmarks go dark for Earth Hour

www.newsweek.com · Sun Mar 25 2018
Tone: Neutral

The world's landmarks and buildings went dark last night for one hour in an international show of solidarity aimed at calling attention to climate change. New York City's Empire State Building, the Eiffel Tower, iconic harbour skylines of Hong Kong and Singapore, and Sydney's Harbour Bridge and Opera House, the birthplace of the movement - all went dark together in a show of the movement's strength.

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Plant that aims to build charging stations for electric vehicles opens in Markham, Ont. - Toronto - CBC News

www.cbc.ca · Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

Ontario's first manufacturing plant that makes charging stations for electric vehicles has opened in Markham, Ont.

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Nelson: Canada sure loves its foreign oil imports | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Mon Mar 26 2018
Tone: Neutral

What do the United States, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Norway, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Angola, Russia, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Oman, Ghana, the Ivory Coast and Trinidad and Tobago all have in common? (And no, it isn't that they all beat Canada's curlers at the Olympics.)

The correct answer is that this diverse collection of nations all managed to export crude oil to our shores in 2017.

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Local environmentalists hold Kinder Morgan Pipeline Protest - BayToday.ca

www.baytoday.ca - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral

Yan Roberts stood next to Prime Minister Stephen Harper in protest of the then proposed Energy East Pipeline project back in 2015.

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Turbine construction brings complaints; County mayor says turbine preparation work prompting reaction from residents

Kingston Whig-Standard - Sat Mar 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Bruce Bell

Ad Value: $981
Reach: 24008 **Page:** A3

Prince Edward County's mayor is not impressed with **wind turbine** preparation taking place in the southern reaches of the county.

Robert Quaiff said construction appears to be moving ahead at a rapid pace as wpd Canada continues to prepare sites for nine industrial turbines in South Marysburgh and Athol.

"It appears to me that they are trying to get as much done as fast as they possibly can so that there will be no turning back and it's almost like, 'Look how much we've done - you can't stop us now,'" Quaiff said. "They have trucks running around and don't seem to have any regard for anyone. Construction is starting to heat up and people are seeing all the activity and are starting to get worked up about it."

Last month, legal representatives for wpd asked the municipality to issue the company an urgent exemption for half-load restrictions (in effect until April 30), allowing the company to operate trucks up to 7,000 kilograms per axle.

In a letter, Andrew Faith of Polley Faith LLP wrote: "Assuming wpd could meet its schedule while operating with reduced 5,000 kilograms per axle loads - an assumption that, in wpd's view, does not reflect the real world limits such as the availability of trucks - it would not be reasonable to do so in light of the exceptional increase in the number of truck movements and the resultant impact the concrete trucks have on the roads and environment."

Quaiff said he was quite certain the request wouldn't be granted.

"Locally we have C.B. Fennell and **Power** Concrete and they both abide by the load restrictions every spring," he said. "I can't imagine how they would look at it if we were to give another company an exemption but still made them abide by it."

On Wednesday and Thursday, **electrical** contractor Avertex **Utility** Solutions of **Orangeville** was conducting repairs on Maypul Layn Road, a seasonal road, where **transmission** lines for the White Pines project will run. Crews were making repairs after a rock-**drilling** machine became embedded in the roadway.

Postmedia Network was informed by the contractor that Maypul Layn is considered a job site and a reporter would have to move several hundred metres to Royal Road before photographing the scene.

"That's exactly what I'm talking about," Quaiff said after hearing about the incident. "They don't even have **Ontario Energy Board** approval, yet they seem to think they own the roads here and residents should all move over to comply with them."

Quaiff said Shire hall has been inundated with complaints since construction activity picked up.

"I just finished reading an email from a resident who complained the trucks were still running the roads just before midnight," he said. "Someone else called the OPP, but they were referred back to the municipality so our bylaw official could look into it. It's the noise bylaw, so it's a municipal issue and not for the police."

Council is expected to have the half-load exemption request issue on its March 27 agenda. bbell@postmedia.com

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Turbine construction brings complaints | The Kingston Whig-Standard

www.thewhig.com - Fri Mar 23 2018
Tone: Neutral

Prince Edward County's mayor is not impressed with wind turbine preparation taking place in the southern reaches of the county.

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