John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	April 5, 2017 9:59 AM
To:	Brian Hewson; Ceiran Bishop; Christine Long; Corinne Carvalho; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject:	FW: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, April 5, 2017

The summary should say George Vegh was former General Counsel at the OEB … NOT Board member.
The Attribution in the Globe did indicate General Counsel.

Good morning,

Here is the OEB morning media summary for Wednesday, April 5.

Overview

News coverage today is varied. Topics covered include an updated Union Gas application before the OEB, an op ed on Ontario Energy policy and regulation from a former board member of the OEB and articles about negative impacts of energy policy in Ontario, Sunshine list disclosures, the Cap and Trade auction and continuing reaction to the Fair Hydro plan.

Stratford Beacon Herald Union Gas submits updated application to OEB for proposed Milverton natural gas expansion
News article on the updated Union Gas submission to the OEB that amends an earlier proposal to extend natural gas distribution to the Milverton area. The proposal which was sent to the OEB at the end of March calls for the funding model to change after direction was given by the OEB on an earlier submission that the full funding by ratepayers would not be approved. In the revised application the article makes note that the funding is now more broadly shared by the municipality as well as ratepayers. A spokesperson for Union Gas indicates that although a hearing date for the revised application has not been provided yet by the OEB, if approved in time the extension could start construction in July and have the project completed by December.

Globe and Mail How Ontario can end the cycle of meddling in electricity markets
Opinion editorial from George Vegh from McCarthy Tetrault and a former OEB board member concerning the lack of governance in the Ontario Energy system. Vegh's critique indicates that the need for price freezes on hydro rates in Ontario in recent decades reflects a broader lack of oversight on the approval of new projects and plans for the system. Vegh indicates that other jurisdictions do a better job of cost benefit evaluation ahead of project approval and that in Ontario neither the OEB or IESO has the same role or level of oversight in regard to these decisions.

Global News Toronto-area Freezie company not eligible for hydro relief
Sean O'Shea report on the lack of relevance of the planned Fair Hydro plan to Kisko manufacturer, the manufacturer of Freezies in the GTA. Highlights that the company is too large to benefit from the Ontario government's planned Fair Hydro Plan but that it witnessed its electricity bills rise by $100,000 between 2015 and 2016. Kisko owner comments that the company has received numerous offers to relocate to other areas but that despite the challenges they want to remain in Ontario and to purchase product and supplies from Ontario.

Durham Region.com Whitby-Oshawa residents working harder, paying more, getting less

Op-ed column by area MPP Lorne Coe. Critiques the energy policies of the Ontario Liberal government and questions how the new Fair Hydro plan will actually benefit Ontarians in the long run. Coe puts emphasis on the negative impacts of rising hydro rates and the disruptive impact this is having on business and consumers in the region.

Newstalk 610 CKTB NOTL HYDRO WANTS PROVINCE TO REDUCE BUSINESS ELECTRICITY RATES

Report indicates Jim Ryan, Chair of NOTL Hydro, is asking how many jobs have been lost or not created because of Ontario's high electricity rates? Report indicates that the board of NOTL Hydro wants the Ontario government reduce hydro rates for small business and farmers. The report goes on to note that large business is currently excluded from the proposed benefits of the Fair Hydro plan.

QP Briefing OPG PRESIDENT ACTUALLY EARNED MORE THAN $2 MILLION LAST YEAR, DOCUMENT SHOWS (full article below)

Ontario Power Generation's president and chief executive officer earned more than $2 million in total compensation last year – not the nearly $1.2-million pay package revealed in the Sunshine List last week – with changes to the contract of the province's highest-paid employee still to come. The considerable difference was disclosed by OPG in its annual "Statement of Executive Compensation" form on March 31, wherein company CEO and president Jeff Lyash was shown as having earned $775,000 in salary, $755,459 in performance-bonus cash, $460,000 in pension money and $38,138 worth of "other pay" in 2016, for a total of $2,028,597. The bonus is paid out the year after it is earned. This is why Lyash's compensation on the 2016 Sunshine List, which he topped, was about $1.16 million. This is also why former OPG CEO Tom Mitchell made $562,957 in 2016, despite having retired from the provincially-owned power company in 2015. Lyash took over as OPG's CEO in August 2015, and earned $1.37 million in total compensation that year. His five-year contract, however, is being revised to bring it into line with a new provincial framework for public-sector executives that was introduced last September.

"Mr. Lyash has an employment contract which is currently under review as there are some elements that will not be compliant with Regulation 304-16 if they are not changed," said OPG spokesman Neal Kelly in an email. "OPG has a three year window to make any changes to ensure compliance and discussions are occurring to determine an appropriate solution."

While OPG didn't specify what aspects of Lyash's contract were in violation of the regulation, it has said the province's new executive pay rules mean it can no longer give signing bonuses. Lyash received a $450,000 signing bonus when he joined OPG in 2015, and chief financial officer Kenneth Hartwick received a $100,000 signing bonus last year, before the new rules were in effect, the compensation statement shows.

The province's new executive pay guidelines are also prompting other changes to OPG's compensation program, such as the end of an annual allowance for the C-suite residents. For Lyash, the annual executive allowance is $24,000 a year, while for other executives it is $20,000. OPG says it is discontinuing the annual executive allowance at the end of 2018, because of the province's new rules. OPG's statement of executive compensation for 2015 said Lyash's contract included a $3.15-million severance agreement if he is fired without cause, including $50,000 for moving expenses to take him back to the United States from where he was recruited. The 2016 statement says that these "elements of Mr. Lyash employment agreement will be brought into compliance" with the province's regulation before the end of 2019.

Hartwick received $688,121 in total compensation last year, the disclosure shows. Interim CFO and senior vice-president of finance, strategy and risk Carlo Crozzoli earned $746,338, nuclear president Glenn Jager $1,132,381, renewable generation president Mike Martelli $1,377,100 and deputy chief nuclear officer Sean Granville $668,475.

The compensation numbers come on the heels of Hydro One disclosing that its CEO and president earned nearly $4.5 million in compensation last year, about six times what was paid out when the company was solely owned by the province. The Liberal government has sold approximately 30 per cent of Hydro One to private investors since 2015, in return for money to fund infrastructure projects. In doing so, the Liberals exempted Hydro One from having to disclose its salaries for the Sunshine List, which still showed that more than 123,000 employees made more than $100,000 in 2016.

The opposition parties have charged the rising pay is just further proof the Liberals are out of touch with everyday Ontarians. PC MPP Lisa Thompson put forward a motion in committee Tuesday to do a value-for-money audit on the executive raises, which would require Liberal support to pass. The Grits have said the Sunshine List threshold hasn't increased along with inflation, and that if it did, the threshold for making the list would now be $149,424. The government also says Hydro One has managed to reduce costs and improve customer service since being privatized.

Yet, the $2-million-plus compensation for Lyash contradicts what OPG has reportedly promised the provincial government it would pay the CEO under Ontario's new framework for executive pay in the broader public sector. The framework allows for government agencies to compare their executive salaries to other comparable agencies in the

public sector, and possibly propose a pay hike as a result.
The Canadian Press reported last week that, prior to the release of the Sunshine List, OPG board chairman Bernard Lord sent a letter to the government saying OPG had voluntarily set the maximum compensation for the CEO at $1,937,500, but that the targeted pay package was $1.5 million. This followed a request from the Premier for OPG to rethink its proposed $3.8-million cap on compensation for the CEO, which the company arrived at amid the Liberal government's gradual thawing of a wage freeze in the public sector. OPG says these are two different tracks. The statement of executive compensation includes salary, the potential performance bonus, taxable benefits and pension earnings. Its new executive compensation program, in compliance with the government's new public-sector framework, does not include pension payments, the company says. "Under OPG's Executive Compensation program the salary compensation for OPG's President and CEO is $1,937,500," said Kelly. "And, is only available for outstanding individual performance."
Lyash's bonus is based off a scorecard of "key performance indicators," such as the schedule for repairing the first of four nuclear reactors at OPG's Darlington power plant. OPG says their "stretch target" for the number of nuclear fuel channels defuelled by the end of 2016 had been 311, but that the company actually defuelled 437. Lyash collected about 97 per cent of his possible bonus, which is his entire salary, working out to $755,459. Other execs at OPG are eligible for short- and medium-term bonuses. The company generates about half of the province's electricity at its nuclear and hydroelectric facilities.

Flagged for Discussion

- Globe and Mail George Vegh Op Ed
- Stratford Beacon Herald
- NOTL Hydro Board

Tweets

CommEnergieOnt: @CommEnergieOnt parleront aujourd'hui d'équilibrer les besoins des consommateurs et des services publics @CdnInst: ow.ly/sL0t30anyJT
https://twitter.com/CommEnergieOnt/status/849230382725771264

NanaimoFC: Ontario Green Energy Scheme is costing taxpayers BILLIONS. Don't do this in BC please. #bcpoli thestar.com/news/queenspar…
https://twitter.com/NanaimoFC/status/849011869549346816

NanaimoFC: Gas plants were not even built. The only failure was a political one that now costs taxpayers billions. business.financialpost.com/fp-comment/how…
https://twitter.com/NanaimoFC/status/849013264910491648

Freedomzone_: Triggered. LOL. Green Energy failures are well documented. How much Green Energy stock do you own? ep.probeinternational.org/2014/03/21/ont…
https://twitter.com/Freedomzone_/status/849014389596315648

NanaimoFC: Who is winning the Green Energy Subsidy Game in Ontario? business.financialpost.com/fp-comment/ont…
https://twitter.com/NanaimoFC/status/849018206169702400

LocalToronto: Cap-and-trade auction in Ontario yields $472-million dlvr.it/NnxVfB
https://twitter.com/LocalToronto/status/849025243561639936

factoringco: Cap-and-trade auction in Ontario yields $472-million - Provincial government sells 100% of its 2017 permit offe... ow.ly/gxeE50aCgJr
https://twitter.com/factoringco/status/849026705784221698

stuartxthomson: By me: Here's how Alberta is trying to avoid Ontario's green energy boondoggle #ableg edmontonjournal.com/news/politics/…
https://twitter.com/stuartxthomson/status/849082248208973824

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From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: April-05-17 7:47 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, April 5, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 26 Results

The Beacon Herald

Perth East supports pipeline project; Union Gas submits updated application to OEB for proposed Milverton natural gas pipeline extension

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Galen Simmons

Ad Value: $997
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A1 / Front

When first elected to council in 2003, one of the most prevalent questions for Perth East Mayor Bob McMillan was when **natural gas** would be available to residents of Milverton and the surrounding area. Nearly 14 years later, ...

NOTL hydro wants province to reduce business electricity rates

www.iheartradio.ca - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Niagara on the Lake's hydro board wants the province to look to reduce electricity rates for small business and farmers.

Wasaga council should be careful about selling electricity company

Wasaga Sun - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $46
Reach: 8042

I was very disappointed with the outcome of Tuesday's (March 28) council meeting. Concerns were expressed over the sale of Wasaga **Hydro** and a costly information meeting to try to convince the vast majority who are against it. Concerns ...

First cap-and-trade auction a sellout; But environment minister says real measure of success will be in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Toronto Star - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $24,895
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B3

Ontario's first auction for greenhouse **gas** allowances was a sellout - with 100 per cent of current permits available snapped up by the province's biggest polluters. But Environment Minister Glen Murray said while the participation showed ...

Cap-and-trade auction in Ontario yields $472-million; Provincial government sells 100% of its 2017 permit offering

theglobeandmail.com - Mon Apr 3 2017, 6:15pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY
Reach: 1188000

Ontario's first auction under its controversial **cap-and-trade** system sold all its offering of 2017 permits, yielding the province more than $472-million that will be used to finance programs aimed at reducing ...

Hit by the hydro blame boomerang

National Post - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: $9,863
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A11

If you're the **energy** minister in a province filled with angry voters seething at exorbitant **electricity** bills, the last thing you want is to find yourself asserting that the $4.85 million paid to one of the **power** ...

Desparate Liberals

Ottawa Sun - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sandy Johnston

Ad Value: $179
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A16

That's not the smell of spring in the air, it's the smell of desperation by the provincial Liberal government. Now that Premier Kathleen Wynne has found out that her lame attempt to win back voters with cutting **hydro** isn't working she's ...

Too little, too late

National Post - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Renae Jarrett

Ad Value: $2,071
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A10

Re: What witchcraft has gripped Ontario? Rex Murphy, April 1 Our soon-to-be-former Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals should know Ontarians cannot be bought. They can make the Drive Clean test free and reduce **hydro rates**, ...

Poll numbers are no laughing matter; Premier makes light of standing

Ottawa Sun - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $527
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

If Kathleen Wynne could change one thing about her job, what would it be? The premier was asked that question while participating in a "fireside chat" with the Long Term Care Association members Tuesday. It didn't take her long to think of ...

Toronto-area Freezie company not eligible for hydro relief - Toronto | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Toronto-area company that makes the Freezie, a traditional summer frozen treat, won't get any piece of the Ontario Liberal government's recently-announced electricity rate relief plan.

How Ontario can end government meddling in electricity markets

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: GEORGE VEGH

Ad Value: $15,843
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

Head of McCarthy Tetrault's Toronto **energy**-regulation practice and teaches **energy** regulation at the University of Toronto. He is the former general counsel of the **Ontario Energy Board** and the ...

Will Brown 'Make Ontario Great Again'?

Waterloo Region Record - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $4,512
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

Here's a triumphal campaign slogan for the next provincial election: "Make Ontario Great Again!" Donald Trump did it with "Make America Great Again." Now the impulse is creeping into Ontario politics, finding an echo in PC Leader Patrick Brown. ...

Readers Write; RE: At least Wynne is getting is right (March 30)RE: Sammy and other pets get checkups (March 29)RE: Settlement reached over Channel 11 terminationsRE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)RE: Random acts of kindnessRE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tony Palango, Stoney Creek Helen Bradley, Stoney Creek Matt Hayes, Former CHCH employee, Hamilton Andrea Sinclair, Ward 15, Hamilton Ann Selemba, Hamilton Scott Forbes, Ancaster

Ad Value: $5,412
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A10

Enough with global warming junk science RE: At least Wynne is getting is right (March 30) Each morning I wake up and go to the mailbox for your fine newspaper hoping to find some positive news, something uplifting or even humorous. To my surprise ...

Cap and trade: A new Wynne blunder

Toronto Sun - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,837
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A16

As one of the few media outlets to accurately predict years ago that the Ontario Liberals'blunder into so-called "green energy" would end in skyrocketing electricity prices, we have another warning. If Premier Kathleen Wynne's ...

Whitby-Oshawa residents working harder, paying more, getting less

Whitby This Week - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorne Coe

Ad Value: $24
Reach: 79700

Every day I hear from families and businesses in Whitby and Oshawa that their hydro rates have reached crisis levels. The Wynne Liberals have created a hydro crisis in Ontario which is driving families and seniors ...

Liberals say one thing, and then do another

The Timmins Daily Press - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value: $337
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A4

The Ontario liberals must be held accountable for their broken promises and scandals: 1. "We will hold the line on taxes" - We have gotten higher taxes and fees and the Liberals have invented new taxes and new fees; 2. "We will not raise the debt" - ...

The unashamed arrogance of the Ontario Liberals

Ajax News Advertiser - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $471
Reach: 51400

To the editor: Re: 'RE: MPP defends government actions on reducing hydro bills', column, March 29 Having read Brad Duguid's article defending the Liberal plan to reduce hydro bills he completely ignored one major fact. It was ...

Green energy is not to blame for high electricity bills

Oshawa This Week - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,272
Reach: 111985

It is not difficult to find examples of news or political commentators blaming solar and wind energy for skyrocketing hydro bills in Ontario. It is both irresponsible and deceitful, however, to place the ...

Ontario's NDP Leader Andrea Horwath lights fire under Liberals' hydro plan | HamiltonNews.com

www.hamiltonnews.com - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath was at Southern Smoke Barbecue House to light a fire for her party's proposed hydro rate cut of nearly 30 per cent.

New electricity plant ready for operation; Natural gas-fired plant in St. Clair Township able to deliver power to the grid

Sarnia Observer - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $740
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A1 / Front

A controversial **natural gas**-fired plant in St. Clair Township is now able to generate **electricity** for the Ontario **power** market. On March 21, the Greenfield South **Power** Corporation generating ...

Noseworthy tops Sunshine List for health unit

Northumberland Today.com - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Valerie Macdonald

Ad Value: $481
Reach: 23714 **Page:** A2

As the media picks up on the legislated release of governmentand -related employees earning $100,000 and more, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Howarth is pointing to the high salary of Hydro's top employee. That position is now over 500% more than it paid ...

List shines light on growing problem

The Belleville Intelligencer - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $204
Reach: 9723 **Page:** B2

(Re: Health care execs bask in Sunshine List, March 31) Every time the annual Sunshine List arrives, it drives home the fact that while many of Ontario senior public servants are raking in huge salaries, the place they are managing is lacking in ...

Sunshine List: Hydro's good if you work in it; bad if you don't

Pickering News Advertiser - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $795
Reach: 51400

The bloat that is the provincial public service bureaucracy just got a lot more bloated in time for 2017 and, by the looks of things, isn't about to abate any time soon, certainly not in the realm of **hydro** generation. Yes, it's that ...

A low-carbon Canadian economy: How to get there

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: GLEN HODGSON

Ad Value: $16,531
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

The worldwide transition toward a low-carbon economy is well under way. Ambitious international targets are in place and policies are being actively debated, developed and implemented step by step to make the transition. Many businesses and ...

Stop making nuclear waste

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Linda Murphy

Ad Value: $51
Reach: 13178 **Page:** A5

"Canada needs a neutral agency that helps citizens both in Canada and the U.S., to analyse the **OPG** plan." Erika Simpson understands the seriousness of the issue. We should stop producing the nuclear waste until there is a solution. ...

NEB to review Energy East and Eastern Mainline together | World Pipelines

www.worldpipelines.com - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A National Energy Board (NEB) Hearing Panel will review the Energy East and Eastern Mainline pipeline projects concurrently. After reviewing comments from 11 groups and individuals, the Hearing Panel said that the two project applications are ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Perth East supports pipeline project; Union Gas submits updated application to OEB for proposed Milverton natural gas pipeline extension

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Galen Simmons

Ad Value: $997
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A1 / Front

When first elected to council in 2003, one of the most prevalent questions for Perth East Mayor Bob McMillan was when **natural gas** would be available to residents of Milverton and the surrounding area.

Nearly 14 years later, McMillan is still fielding that same question, only now there is renewed hope **Union Gas** will break ground on its proposed **natural gas** line extension into Milverton, Rostock and Wartburg as early as July.

At the end of March, **Union Gas** filed an amended proposal with the **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) seeking approval to bring **natural gas** to four communities - Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and Lambton Shores, Moraviantown, Prince Township, and Milverton, including Rostock and Wartburg.

"**Union Gas** applied to the **Ontario Energy Board** last year for a number of projects to serve northern and rural communities in Ontario, which under the then-**OEB** regulations and guidelines were really cost prohibitive to serve. The **OEB** had a review and came up with a new framework to serve communities where the cost of the pipeline is more expensive than the revenue it would generate," said Andrea Stass, **Union Gas**'s manager of external communications.

"So, we have a new structure now and it's very close to **Union Gas**'s original proposal, with one key difference."

In its original application to the **OEB**, **Union Gas** had requested approval to cross-subsidize these projects with contributions from existing customers. The **OEB** decided it would not allow **Union Gas** to charge its existing customers for the new infrastructure, forcing the company to re-evaluate how the proposed projects would be funded.

In the amended application, **Union Gas** requested approval from the **OEB** to bring **natural gas** to the four communities listed above. The company proposed that funding for these projects would come from a combination of voluntary municipal contributions and a 15-year surcharge of 23 cents for every cubic metre of **gas** used by new customers in these service areas, roughly $500 per year on average for each customer.

The total cost of all four proposed projects is estimated at more than $11 million, with the cost of the expansion into Milverton and area taking up the biggest chunk of that estimate at nearly $6 million.

In support of this **natural gas** expansion, Perth East council pledged at its March 7 meeting to contribute $41,000 annually to the project for the next 10 years if it gets approval from the **OEB**. In all, **Union Gas** would be paying approximately $83,000 in annual property taxes, $25,000 of which would go the municipality and $58,000 would go to Perth County and the school boards.

Since Perth East will be making about 60 per cent of its annual $41,000 contribution to the expansion project in Union Gas property taxes, the municipality will only have to fund the remaining $16,000 yearly. According to CAO Glenn Schwendinger's March 7 report to Perth East council, the remaining municipal contribution will be more than covered by the potential savings in energy costs this natural gas expansion should bring.

"Of the two numbers there ($25,000 and $16,000), one is the taxation on the pipeline itself, which if it's not there we don't get, and if we give it back to them and it allows this project to move forward, it makes good sense," McMillan said. "As far as the municipal contribution, we're obviously going to save on our own arena, library, public works buildings, admin building, so on and so forth, plus the potential for new construction when developers can say, 'Hey, now I can build a home with access to natural gas,'let alone the businesses and companies that might start to locate or expand in the community."

Over council's 10-year pledge period, Schwendinger estimated a switchover to natural gas could save owners of residential, commercial and industrial properties in Milverton, Rostock and Wartburg nearly $5 million. Additional savings of an estimated $850,000 for Knollcrest Lodge and the two local schools, significant savings for the agricultural community, and savings in energy costs for both county buildings located in Milverton could also be observed.

At its March 7 meeting, Perth East council also voted to send a letter of support for the project to Union Gas for submission as part of the company's application to the OEB. Alongside Perth East, letters of support from the Avon Maitland District School and the Milverton Business Association (MBA) were submitted as part of the Union Gas application.

"We believe that the public benefits of extending natural gas infrastructure to additional communities in Ontario should be a key consideration in addressing Union's proposal.

These benefits include the annual energy savings our members would experience, reduced costs for our existing businesses, and removing a local economic barrier for our community.

For these reasons, we fully support the concepts that Union Gas will propose in their application," MBA president Jeremy Matheson wrote.

Although Union Gas has not been offered a hearing date yet, work on the pipeline expansion would likely begin in July if the company's amended application is approved by the OEB, with completion of the project slated for December and cleanup stretching into the spring of 2018.

The project includes the installation of 21 kilometres of four-inch diameter steel pipeline within the road allowance. The pipeline would begin at the existing Union Gas Goderich pipeline in Sebringville and travel north along Road 130 for 17 kilometres. The pipe would then veer northwest for four kilometres along Road 119 and Road 131 until it reaches Milverton.

Sections of the pipe would be buried along the proposed route using a combination of trench and trenchless methods - an alternate way to install pipelines under railways, roads, sidewalks, trees and lawns. The sections would then be joined to together and the entire pipeline would be cleaned and tested. A network of smaller pipes branching off the main pipeline feeding into buildings in Milverton, Rostock and Wartburg would also be installed. A **Union Gas** cleanup crew would then restore the area to as close to pre-construction conditions as possible.

"It's been a long time coming and there's been a lot of work put into this," McMillan said. "I'm cautiously optimistic - I'm going to keep my fingers crossed. It's something that would be extremely valuable to the area along the route that has access - the communities of Wartburg and Rostock and farmers along the way - and then the people and businesses of Milverton.

"It's certainly been an endeavour, a learning opportunity, and we're hopefully nearing the point where we're going to have some positive news with whatever the **OEB** decides."

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NOTL hydro wants province to reduce business electricity rates

www.iheartradio.ca - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

Niagara on the Lake's hydro board wants the province to look to reduce electricity rates for small business and farmers.

Back to Top

Wasaga council should be careful about selling electricity company

Wasaga Sun - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $46
Reach: 8042

I was very disappointed with the outcome of Tuesday's (March 28) council meeting.

Concerns were expressed over the sale of Wasaga **Hydro** and a costly information meeting to try to convince the vast majority who are against it.

Concerns were raised that funds derived from the disposition could be put toward the overly ambitious Downtown Core vision.

While everyone agrees we need to move forward in developing our town, there are only a handful that feel it should be done in small steps and in a manner within our fiscal means. To sell **hydro** to finance this grandiose plan is like selling the baby to pay for the cost of a new stroller.

One of council's arguments is the town is holding a $3-million note on **hydro** and has not been able to collect on that note. I'd like to remind His Worship that Wasaga **Hydro** gave over

$2 million toward the Recplex shortfall. It all sounds like some creative bookkeeping to me.

Let's all take a deep breath, calm down and think very carefully. Let us also move forward in manageable steps. Let us not put ourselves in serious debt without an asset to help pay it down.

Robert Bortlisz

Wasaga Beach

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First cap-and-trade auction a sellout; But environment minister says real measure of success will be in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Toronto Star - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: **Positive**
Byline: Kristin Rushowy Toronto Star

Ad Value: $24,895
Reach: 361323 **Page:** B3

Ontario's first auction for greenhouse **gas** allowances was a sellout - with 100 per cent of current permits available snapped up by the province's biggest polluters.

But Environment Minister Glen Murray said while the participation showed "a high level of confidence" among businesses, the real measure of success comes in curbing emissions.

"The participation **rate** - whether 100 per cent or 20 per cent . . . is not the success of the market," he told reporters at Queen's Park.

"The success of the market is really based on our ability to reduce GHGs. We will not expect to get 100 per cent all the time."

Results of the auction, held March 22, were released Monday afternoon.

Some 25,296,367 allowances for 2017 were sold as well as 812,000 in future allowances - about a quarter of what was available for 2020 - bringing in a total of $472,031,155.

The next auction is scheduled for June 6.

Murray said he was pleased to see the trading price at $18.08, only slightly more than the minimum floor price.

"One of the objectives of **cap and trade** is to manage the transition to a low carbon economy at the lowest-possible prices to Ontarians and Ontario businesses, so we didn't want to see early upward movement on that," Murray said.

The government has to put all revenue raised - an estimated $1.9 billion a year - into emission-reducing programs and NDP environment critic Peter Tabuns wants to see more transparency on that front.

"We want to make sure the money is not allocated to projects already under way," he told reporters.

"That doesn't advance the fight against **climate** change, it does make the government's books look better."

The **cap-and-trade** program sets emissions limits that will be reduced each year to help curb pollution. Businesses can, however, purchase or sell allowances at the auctions based on need.

PC Leader Patrick Brown has said the government should return the revenues to taxpayers, as **cap and trade** will mean increased costs for consumers and businesses.

Cap and trade has added 4.3 cents per litre to the price of **gas** since it began at the start of the year and is estimated to boost heating costs by about $80 a year per household.

March's auction was Ontario only, but the Liberals are currently negotiating with California and Quebec to link the three jurisdictions.

With files from Robert Benzie

and Rob Ferguson

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Cap-and-trade auction in Ontario yields $472-million; Provincial government sells 100% of its 2017 permit offering

theglobeandmail.com · Mon Apr 3 2017, 6:15pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY
Reach: 1188000

Ontario's first auction under its controversial **cap-and-trade** system sold all its offering of 2017 permits, yielding the province more than $472-million that will be used to finance programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, Environment Minister Glen Murray announced Monday.

The province's largest energy distributors and industrial consumers participated in the auction of greenhouse-gas emission allowances, which they need in order to comply with the provincial climate regulations. They include Suncor Energy Corp. and Imperial Oil Ltd., which market gasoline under the PetroCanada and Esso brands, respectively, and the province's biggest natural gas distributors, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. and Union Gas.

"Today's results demonstrate that our market system here in Ontario is functioning as intended, and that businesses across the province are engaged in the market," Mr. Murray said.

In an interview, the minister said he does not expect a 100-per-cent result in every emission-allowance auction the province holds over the next four years, but that results will vary according to circumstances at the time.

"I'm sure we'll see 100 again, but I'm sure we'll see much lower numbers and we'll see it move around a lot," Mr. Murray said.

"What's important to us is that the market is working well, is getting participation from across the economy, and is contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which is the important part of it," the minister said.

Under the plan, the large industrial operations, gasoline marketers and natural gas distributors face emission caps that will be reduced by 4 per cent per year. The energy suppliers must purchase allowances covering all the fuel and natural gas they sell in the province, while industrial emitters get free allowances up to their caps but must purchase permits in the market if they exceed those GHG limits.

Gasoline retailers are adding 4.3 cents per litre to the pump price to cover the cost of emission permits, while the gas distributors estimate it will add $80 annually to the average homeowner's gas bill.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown raised concerns just prior to the March 22 auction when he said he would end the **cap-and-trade** system if his party wins power in the election scheduled for 2018. There was some concern Mr. Brown's comment would put a damper on the bidding.

"It think this is a really good result; people were scared it would not be that good," said Nicolas Girod, head of trading and research for Toronto-based advisory firm ClearBlue Markets.

The province sold 25.3 million tonnes of 2017 vintage permits and three million tonnes for the 2020 period. The amount of bids was 16 per cent higher than the supply of allowances, Mr. Girod noted. The settlement price for 2017 permits was $18.08 per tonne.

The provincial government will auction off allowances on a quarterly basis, and expects to reap between $5-billion and $9-billion over the next four years. By law, that money is directed into climate-change related programs across the province.

However, it is not clear that the revenue target will be met. Similar auctions in the joint California-Quebec carbon market have been dramatically under-subscribed, with revenue well below what had been forecast. Ontario is expected to link with California and Quebec markets under the Western Climate Initiative in 2018.

California faces a number of uncertainties with its pioneering **cap-and-trade** program, including a court challenge from business groups that argue it is an illegal tax. The state won in the lower court, and a Court of Appeal decision is expected this spring.

As well, Governor Jerry Brown is trying to win enough support in the legislature to extend the program beyond 2020, but needs two-thirds approval as a result of a proposition approved by voters that now make it more difficult to establish fees to pay for programs such as **cap-and-trade**.

Mr. Murray said the provincial government is negotiating with Quebec and California over its plan to join the Western Climate Initiative but must work out some matters of concern.

The minister defended the provincial government's GHG plan, which will add to energy prices at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump is reversing course on climate change and environmental regulations. He said many states are "doubling down" on carbon-pricing systems, while public and private investments in efficiency measures and new technology will lower energy costs over the medium to long term.

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Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report -on-business/industry -news/energy-and-resources/ **cap-and-trade**-auction-in-ontario-yields-472-million/article34569543/ The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

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Hit by the hydro blame boomerang

National Post - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Kelly McParland

Ad Value: $9,863
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A11

If you're the **energy** minister in a province filled with angry voters seething at exorbitant **electricity** bills, the last thing you want is to find yourself asserting that the $4.85 million paid to one of the **power** companies'chief executive has nothing to do with the outrageous level of monthly charges.

But Glenn Thibeault wanted the job - he even quit the NDP to join Ontario's Liberal government - so there he was before the cameras, piously insisting that the rich pay package of **Hydro** One boss Mayo Schmidt was really just a pittance in the grand scheme of things.

"The salary of the CEO has nothing to do with the **rates** that we're seeing on our bills," Thibeault insisted. "The **rates** are set by the **Ontario Energy Board**, they're not set by the company."

Notice the clever reference to "our" bills, as in: "Hey, I live here as well. I'm stuck with the same price for 14 years of Liberal mismanagement as you are."

OK, Mr. Minister, good try.

Regrettably, Thibeault's timing was a bit unfortunate. This is the time of year when the annual Sunshine List is released - the tally of Ontario public employees earning $100,000 and above. And gee, who should top the list? Is that Jeff Lyash's name we see up there? Why, yes it is: the chief executive of

Ontario Power Generation, which produces the power that Hydro One delivers to Ontario businesses and households, made $1.2 million last year, beating out the 123,409 topearning people on the public payroll.

Together, that means the two utilities paid their bosses over $6 million last year. And Lyash could do even better next year, since OPG declined a request from Premier Kathleen Wynne to lower the cap it is willing to pay its CEO, which has been set at $3.8 million. Why, you ask, is it necessary to pay so much to executives at companies that so antagonize the people they are meant to serve? Stop me if you've heard this before: it's because, says Thibeault, the government needs to ensure that qualified people are in charge.

"I get that it's concerning for people but really, if we were to look at taking all of the salaries away of all the executives, we wouldn't be addressing one cent on any one bill," Thibeault said.

Busy defending others, the minister may not have realized that he was inadvertently condemning his own government in the process. If the people running the power companies can't be blamed for all the waste, boondoggles and faulty decision-making that has pushed bills through the roof, then it follows that the Liberals must get credit for doing it all on their own.

This is not the message Wynne wishes to send as she gears up for next year's election. Hydro bills - everyone in Ontario still refers to the electricity system as if it were entirely based on hydro power - have become the No. 1 concern among voters, outpacing all the usual worries about health care, taxes, education costs, etc. Wynne has scrambled to soothe the temper of frustrated consumers, offering up rebates, tax holidays and trite excuses about how, a decade and a half ago, the Liberals were left with an aging system by the previous government.

The Liberals maintain the mess they inherited was so bad they had no choice but to spend heavily to repair the damage. Thibeault says it cost $35 billion in all. No, no, it was $50 billion, claims Wynne. Both appear to assume Ontarians will be impressed by the figure, failing to appreciate that many voters feel large parts of it was been wasteful and unnecessary. Like the failed "smart meter" program. The gas plants closed for electoral reasons. The billions in solar and wind installations that operate sporadically and produce power the province doesn't need. The egregious contracts with alternativeenergy providers that saddle the province with decades of heavily-subsidized, highpriced power. The exports sold at a loss to Americans.

How much does the waste add up to? No one can be certain. As much as $30 billion? That's not far off the $37 billion Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk calculates Ontarians overpaid between 2006-2014.

Given such astronomical figures, Minister Thibeault is probably correct: even the most ridiculously overpaid power executives couldn't earn enough to put a dent in the total. You'd have to have thousands and thousands of power workers, all earning fat salaries, to make even the slightest impact.

Which, as it happens, we do: the 2016 Sunshine List is home to more than 7,600 **OPG** employees earning more than $100,000 a year, far more than any other employer spending public money. How many others could be found at **Hydro** One isn't known; only its top five earners are required to disclose their pay since Wynne began selling off chunks of the company to raise money for her cash-strapped government.

On Monday Thibeault sought to shift the spotlight, complaining that the opposition Progressive Conservatives refuse to reveal their policy plans. Tory leader Patrick Brown "doesn't want to do anything other than just ride into winning government in 2018. Government takes a lot of hard work. You've got to make tough decisions. He's continuing to take the easy way out on this," he complained.

And why not? If hard work and tough decisions are responsible for the calamity the Liberals have created, Brown is wise to stay well clear of it.

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Desparate Liberals

Ottawa Sun · Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Sandy Johnston

Ad Value: $179
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A16

That's not the smell of spring in the air, it's the smell of desperation by the provincial Liberal government.

Now that Premier Kathleen Wynne has found out that her lame attempt to win back voters with cutting **hydro** isn't working she's now dumped the "drive clean" scam fee in hopes that will help her pitiful support numbers.

Maybe Ontarians have finally woken up to the behaviour the Liberals are so famous for.

SANDY JOHNSTON GREELY

(We'll take anything that eases the burden on taxpayers, desperation or not.)

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Too little, too late

National Post · Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Renae Jarrett

Ad Value: $2,071
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A10

Re: What witchcraft has gripped Ontario? Rex Murphy, April 1
Our soon-to-be-former Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals should know Ontarians cannot be bought. They can make the Drive Clean test free and reduce **hydro rates**, but it's too little, too late. Our province will no longer foot the bill on their debt. They may have sold their souls, but for those of us

that still have ours, we're done. This isn't about being partisan; any fool could see that we have been run into the ground. Through their mismanagement, the writing is on the wall.

So unions, do not side with her in the midnight hour and sustain what little life is left. Other party leaders, get your act to together and outwit this thing for God's sake and the sake of Ontarians. Ms. Wynne, you need to take a page out of Dalton McGuinty's book with his resignation. If you can honestly say that you are the best person to lead your party and our province right now, you are lying to yourself.

Renae Jarrett

Ajax, Ont.

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Poll numbers are no laughing matter; Premier makes light of standing

Ottawa Sun · Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Shawn Jeffords

Ad Value: $527
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A14

If Kathleen Wynne could change one thing about her job, what would it be? The premier was asked that question while participating in a "fireside chat" with the Long Term Care Association members Tuesday. It didn't take her long to think of something.

"You want the first thing that comes to my mind - the polls," Wynne said, laughing. "Just sayin'."

The **crowd** at the conference, and the premier, got a good laugh from her candour, but the polls haven't been all that funny in recent weeks. A string of them have indicated bad news could be ahead for the Wynne Liberals in the 2018 election.

A Forum poll last week concluded the Grits would face a humiliating defeat - losing official party status - if an election were held now. The Liberals are sitting at 19% support, polling third behind the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats in the 416 area, and trending to win only seven of 122 seats.

An Angus Reid poll released on March 24 put Wynne's personal approval rating at 12%. The poll also found a majority of Ontarians find their **hydro** bills "very unreasonable" and fear selling off **Hydro** One will only force **electricity** prices higher, explaining the reason why the premier's approvals have sunk from a high of 41% in September 2014.

A Forum poll from March 17 shows that the Progressive Conservatives lead in Toronto over the Liberals has jumped four percentage points in the last month - with 36% of those polled saying they'd vote Tory in the 2018 election, compared to 31% for the Grits.

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Toronto-area Freezie company not eligible for hydro relief - Toronto | Globalnews.ca

globalnews.ca - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Toronto-area company that makes the Freezie, a traditional summer frozen treat, won't get any piece of the Ontario Liberal government's recently-announced electricity rate relief plan.

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How Ontario can end government meddling in electricity markets

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: GEORGE VEGH

Ad Value: $15,843
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

Head of McCarthy Tetrault's Toronto **energy**-regulation practice and teaches **energy** regulation at the University of Toronto. He is the former general counsel of the **Ontario Energy Board** and the author of the C.D. Howe Institute study Learning from Mistakes: Improving Governance in the Ontario **Electricity** Sector.

Every 10 years or so, the Government of Ontario finds it necessary to freeze or cut **electricity** prices because the costs of an ambitious **energy** policy prove to be politically unacceptable. This leaves every generation of **electricity** customers paying for the cost of a failed experiment from a previous generation. We should learn from this experience and implement a governance model for the sector that reviews and mitigates costs before a policy is adopted, not after.

In 1993, the government froze prices because the costs of Ontario **Hydro**'s massive nuclear expansion were leading to double-digit **rate** increases. In 2002, the government froze prices because the opening of the **electricity** market resulted in higher and more volatile prices. In 2017, the government cut prices because of the cost of the green **energy** and economy ambitions of Dalton McGuinty and George Smitherman. In each case, the underlying cost pressures of the policy were obvious and the resulting escalation of prices was entirely predictable. The consequences of the price interventions were also predictable: future generations were made financially responsible for their parents' policy choices.

Why is Ontario prone to these cycles and what can be done to stop repeating them?

The best explanation for this is the weakness in the governance structure of our **electricity** system. The government of the day faces virtually no restrictions on its ability to develop ambitious and costly experiments. The costs of these initiatives are outside of the tax base and are realized years after the plans are launched. So the government is virtually always in the position of developing ambitious plans with costs for which they are unaccountable.

In most North American jurisdictions, there are constraints on governments' ability to do this. These constraints are found in the checks and balances provided by independent **energy** regulatory agencies that are required to approve expenditures of **ratepayer** money. These agencies take the form of public utility regulators that oversee generation procurements (whether by system operators or utilities). This review typically requires a demonstration that the procurements are needed and economically rational.

Equally important, they are conducted through a transparent and deliberative process that forms a check on the impulsive short-term tendencies of governments.

In Ontario, there is no such oversight. While the AuditorGeneral conducts value-formoney audits years after the commitments are made, there is no prospective review to catch these issues prior to launching into a new round of commitments.

Generation procurements are determined entirely by the government. The system operator - the Independent **Electricity** System Operator - implements government directives. Neither the **Ontario Energy Board** nor any other independent regulator reviews these procurements. There are no independent criteria, no cost-benefit analysis, no consideration of the need for the procurements and no review of alternatives. In short, there is virtually no check on the **power** to procure supply.

The consequence of this is entirely predictable: The government adopts expensive and politically attractive projects.

When the costs of those projects start to come in, the government intervenes and passes the costs to future customers. The cycle is then left to start over.

The most recent price cut does nothing to address this structural problem.

Nor is there any reason to expect this will change. To the contrary, in 2016, the government passed Bill 135 to make its agencies even more subordinate to government decision-making.

Far from providing checks and balances as they do in other jurisdictions, our **energy** agencies will be required to satisfy the government that they will, in fact, implement government directions.

Rather than being a constraint on government discretion as they are in other jurisdictions, our agencies provide the means through which the government exercises its absolute authority over **energy** procurements.

Without structural changes to Ontario's regulatory governance model, there is no reason to believe that the province's cycle of financially unsustainable **energy** policy initiatives will end.

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Will Brown 'Make Ontario Great Again'?

Waterloo Region Record - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn

Ad Value: $4,512
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

Here's a triumphal campaign slogan for the next provincial election:

"Make Ontario Great Again!"

Donald Trump did it with "Make America Great Again." Now the impulse is creeping into Ontario politics, finding an echo in PC Leader Patrick Brown.

Our premier-in-waiting hasn't adopted the slogan, but he's imitating it. He hearkens back to the manufacturing heartland that once was.

Bear in mind that Brown doesn't buy into the bigotry of the Trump campaign. Instead, he is clever enough to embrace Canada's new multiculturalism, while still clinging to the old economy.

Brown understands that the far-sighted politician of today looks backwards in time. While looking voters in the eye.

It's only natural for people to fear the change of the future (full disclosure - oh never mind, full confession: I'm among them). Nostalgia for the great old days - a past that never quite was - has eternal appeal.

By any measure, Ontario's strong recovery has pushed it to the top of the national economic sweepstakes. But personal uncertainty has never been higher.

Globalization and automation cause endless upheavals that cannot be denied, nor minimized, no matter how much one closes one's eyes to the causes and consequences. Ignoring these competitive pressures would lead us into an economic dead end.

Resistance isn't futile, it's political - as prescribed by protectionists of both the left and right. We see eternal opposition to change, be it environmental (**renewable energy** and global warming) or economic (innovation and disruption).

Trump's uplifting sloganeering helped him win **power**, but his subsequent actions have cast America on a downward path. By dismantling pollution controls on the burning of dirty coal, he fulfilled a pledge to return jobless miners to the steady jobs they long ago lost - except it won't work out that way.

Renewable energy has become more cost-competitive, while automation - strip mining - in coal country has eliminated many of the jobs that Trump voters had hoped to reclaim. Meanwhile, China is rushing into the **renewable energy** vacuum left by the Americans, gaining a competitive advantage in the sector.

Against that backdrop, Ontario's experiment with green **energy**, while more costly than it needed to be, will still pay dividends. The decision to phase out coal-fired **power** plants in Ontario pushed up **power** bills faster than anyone bargained for, but it was fully supported by voters (and all parties) at the time.

With all provinces now mandated by Ottawa to put a price on carbon, the elimination of dirty coal has given Ontario a massive head start. This year's decision to finally join other jurisdictions in lowering the overall cap for greenhouse **gas** emissions will position the province for the green economy of the future.

It's worth noting that Ontario's first auction for 2017 carbon "allowances" (traded by companies in the **cap and trade** system) was sold out. The results, announced Monday, showed that the polluter pay principle raised an impressive $472 million, while overall emissions are lowered.

The reaction from the opposition PCs could have come directly from Trump's talking points. Brown assailed the Liberal government for linking up with Quebec, California and other jurisdictions to stabilize and maximize the **cap and trade** market. Worse, he has recklessly promised that as premier he'd dismantle the complex system - doubtless faster than Trump has decimated the Environmental Protection Agency.

No matter how much politicians pretend they can go back in time, or preserve the present for all time, economies - and environments - don't stand still. Canadians had a taste of that debate during the free trade election of 1988, when the Liberals and New Democrats opposed economic integration while the Tories of Brian Mulroney argued for stronger trade ties.

Now, the Trump administration is trying to renegotiate NAFTA to their own benefit - perhaps it wasn't such a bad deal for us - while New York state legislators are flirting with a Buy America plan to penalize Ontario producers. Beware trade wars that hurt both sides.

And be careful what you wish for. Protectionists of the right and left, who have railed against free trade all these years, will find the lucrative American market far less profitable when we're frozen out.

The new economy is a hard sell in tough times. Automation is a bogeyman and globalization is the enemy. Global warming raises the political temperature, and green **energy** makes people see red. Precarious work is scary.

Trump wants to bring back coal that's best left in the ground, while Brown

wants to **wind** down **cap and trade** before it even gets off the ground. Slogans that

try to revive the past only get you so

far, for the future cannot be forestalled forever.

The trouble with "Make Ontario Great Again" (or any variant from the Trump playbook) is that it almost certainly won't.

Martin Regg Cohn's political column appears in Torstar newspapers.

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Readers Write; RE: At least Wynne is getting is right (March 30)RE: Sammy and other pets get checkups (March 29)RE: Settlement reached over Channel 11 terminationsRE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)RE: Random acts of kindnessRE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tony Palango, Stoney Creek Helen Bradley, Stoney Creek Matt Hayes, Former CHCH employee, Hamilton Andrea Sinclair, Ward 15, Hamilton Ann Selemba, Hamilton Scott Forbes, Ancaster

Ad Value: $5,412
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A10

Enough with global warming junk science

RE: At least Wynne is getting is right (March 30)

Each morning I wake up and go to the mailbox for your fine newspaper hoping to find some positive news, something uplifting or even humorous. To my surprise I found the jackpot on a recent Thursday, here in the Readers Write section.

The headline which started the uncontrollable laughter was 'At least Wynne is getting it right'. The letter below was even more enlightening. The Arctic ice is disappearing and we are handing off these problems to our children. Or how about a "few" more dollars a month on your "green" **hydro** bills isn't a big deal. A few more dollars? My **hydro** bill has tripled in the last eight years.

As far as the Arctic ice goes we need only go back 10 or 20 thousand years to a time when the very spot we are living was covered in ice. The earth is an ever-changing beast and to think we can destroy it or save it is quite hilarious.

Wynne has sunk this once great province to depths that have never been seen. Billions wasted on junk science with no end in sight. At least Wynne got that right!

Tony Palango, Stoney Creek

Vet outreach program relies on donations

RE: Sammy and other pets get checkups (March 29)

Thank you for your good news article sharing how Hamilton PAWS and the Community Veterinary Outreach Program improve quality of life for vulnerable Hamilton residents and their animal companions.

To clarify, Hamilton PAWS is not funded by the City of Hamilton, and relies completely on volunteer efforts and donations to provide supports to community members like Lindsay Carey and Sammy. Donations can be made at their website, www.HamiltonPAWS.ca, with a charitable donation receipt issued. Donations can also be made at gofundme.com (no charitable donation receipt).

Helen Bradley, Stoney Creek

CHCH settlement nothing to celebrate

RE: Settlement reached over Channel 11 terminations

As a former employee of CHCH I would like to point out not everyone is celebrating the settlement over our terminations.

In my opinion nothing short of full severance was the goal, especially considering CHCH has made millions from the sale of the property and will now be further subsidized by a broadcast fund.

At a union meeting held last summer, we were told we would have the opportunity to vote on any offer. That never happened. Since that meeting, we were given very few updates from the union until the announcement of an agreement. I for one learned of the result by reading it in this paper. Maybe this is what passes for union protocol in 2017 but I expected more from Unifor.

I believe the ultimate goal was to re-establish the union inside CHCH with the current employees. But how will they be protected by the union? They continue to work for numbered companies that can be bankrupted without notice.

I have not watched the station since our termination. When I see the CHCH logo I am bitter and angry thinking of all the friends who lost their jobs that day. Some of them continue to struggle and this small settlement paid out over two years will be of marginal help.

CHCH prides itself as being the station of this community while it turned its back on their own. I look at CHCH as the station that despite the settlement just doesn't care. Pardon me if I don't crack open the champagne to celebrate.

Matt Hayes, Former CHCH employee, Hamilton

Partridge doesn't speak for this resident

RE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)

I have never ridden the HSR. That doesn't mean that I don't support public transit. I was not angry at the existence of a bus-only lane. In fact I preferred it when buses had a consistent spot that you could expect them to stay in and I was surprised when those lanes were so quickly dismantled.

I was also surprised to read my councillor's assessment of LRT. Yes, LRT will take resources. Everything involving people does.

But the councillor has benefited from the tsunami of construction within a ward that includes the once-upon-a-time

Victorian village of Waterdown, so her conservative view seems very inconsistent. In the near future, some of the children in those new houses may want to escape the suburbs and live downtown. They will need the LRT.

Andrea Sinclair, Ward 15, Hamilton

Dinner generosity remembered

RE: Random acts of kindness

I was dining alone at a Hamilton restaurant when a man nearby asked if I would like a glass of red wine from his bottle. I said yes.

The couple left a few minutes before me. When I asked the server for my bill, she told me that the couple had taken care of it.

They sure made my day. Unforgettable gesture. Thank you, whoever you are, for your generosity and kindness.

Ann Selemba, Hamilton

Partridge's LRT argument is sound

RE: It's time to find a better option than LRT (April 1)

Councillor Judi Partridge's thoughtful article in Saturday's paper was spot on. If City Council accepts the $1 billion that the province will have to borrow to build the LRT, Partridge will be seen to be correct. Future councils will have to scramble to find the money from us taxpayers to pay for the annual operating costs.

The LRT is old technology. Partridge's comments that the new technologies under development will make this LRT obsolete before it is built, are right on. This is a white elephant in the making and I for one pay enough taxes already.

Scott Forbes, Ancaster

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Cap and trade: A new Wynne blunder

Toronto Sun - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,837
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A16

As one of the few media outlets to accurately predict years ago that the Ontario Liberals'blunder into so-called "green **energy**" would end in skyrocketing **electricity** prices, we have another warning.

If Premier Kathleen Wynne's **cap and trade** plan is still in place a few years from now, Ontarians will be asking how the Liberals could possibly have blundered into another financial disaster on the **climate** change file.

Here's why. In any effective carbon pricing regime, the carbon price must be open and transparent and it must be 100%

revenue neutral.

Wynne's **cap and trade** scheme is neither. Unlike a carbon tax, which is visible, **cap and trade** hides the cost of carbon pricing in higher retail prices for almost all goods and services, since most consume fossil fuel **energy**.

Prices will rise as businesses pass along their increased costs from purchasing carbon credits from the government, to the public - an estimated $1.9 billion annually.

Since retail prices are influenced by many factors, it's impossible for Ontarians to determine how much of the increased costs are being caused by **cap and trade**.

Cap and trade also necessitates the creation of a new government bureaucracy to run the system, since it creates a new stock market trading in carbon permits, which the government sells to businesses four times a year.

Governments don't know how to create or run stock markets, as the financially disastrous, ineffective and corruptionprone example of Europe's 12-year-old **cap and trade** market, the Emissions Trading Scheme, has proven.

Wynne's system is as far away as a government can get from the most effective method of reducing emissions, carbon fee and dividend.

Under it, all monies raised through carbon pricing are returned to the public in the form of regular dividend cheques.

This helps the public cope with the higher cost of living caused by carbon pricing - $1.9 billion more a year, remember, according to Wynne's estimate.

It also creates a real world demand for lower carbon consuming, and thus less expensive, products.

The only goal of carbon fee and dividend is to lower emissions, not fatten government coffers.

Which is why the indebted, tax-and-spend Wynne Liberals aren't interested in it.

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Whitby-Oshawa residents working harder, paying more, getting less

Whitby This Week · Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Lorne Coe

Ad Value: $24
Reach: 79700

Every day I hear from families and businesses in Whitby and Oshawa that their **hydro rates** have reached crisis levels.

The Wynne Liberals have created a **hydro** crisis in Ontario which is driving families and seniors into **energy** poverty, and forcing many businesses to close their doors because they simply can't afford the skyrocketing **hydro rates**.

The end result: Ontarians are working harder, paying more, and getting less.

Ontario is home to some of the highest and fastest-increasing **electricity** prices in North America. I and my colleagues in the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party have been raising this issue to the government for years, but the Wynne Liberals only finally noticed when it started to affect their polling numbers and losses in recent by-election campaigns.

To help secure their re-election, the Wynne Liberals have launched a new **hydro** scheme that's going to increase taxes, debt, and raise **hydro rates** even more down the road by charging future generations billions in interest **rates** to pay for their "mistakes".

And the crux of the Wynne Liberals admitted "mistakes" is the **Green Energy Act** - which may as well be called the Bad Contracts Act. The Wynne Liberals signed massive contracts with Liberal donor **energy** companies, buying **power** that our province doesn't need. Instead of addressing these badly-negotiated contracts, the Wynne Liberals are moving forward with even more of them.

Life is harder in Ontario, and it's apparent the Liberals are too out of touch to even care.

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THE DAILY PRESS

Liberals say one thing, and then do another

The Timmins Daily Press - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value: $337
Reach: 9196 **Page:** A4

The Ontario liberals must be held accountable for their broken promises and scandals: 1. "We will hold the line on taxes" - We have gotten higher taxes and fees and the Liberals have invented new taxes and new fees; 2. "We will not raise the debt" - In 2003, our provincial debt was roughly $138 billion. By 2020, it was predicted to be $370 billion before Premier Wynne decided to add a billion dollars a year to the debt by rebating us 8% **HST** on **hydro** then adding a further $25 billion or so by bribing us with further **hydro** discounts due to liberal mismanagement; 3.

"We will make sure the debt goes in only one direction, down" -The Liberals need a new calculator; 4. "We will stop the waste of taxpayers'dollars" - I see a lot of waste green **energy** contracts - E-Health, Ornge - paying unions costs to negotiate contracts; 5. "We will respect your hard-earned tax dollars" - What a joke; 6. We will balance the budget -even with higher and new taxes & higher & new fees and selling off Ontario assets the liberals have more than double our provincial debt; 7. "We will live by the balanced budget law" - The data above says otherwise; 8. "We will measure every investment against results" - I would like to see how they would grade the **Hydro** crisis, E-Health, Ornge, etc.; 9.

"We will make sure your health-care dollars are invested wisely" - See E-Health, Ornge, cancer care - billions wasted; 10. "We will bring peace and stability to our schools" - They may be shutting down up to 300 schools by not controlling teacher salaries; 11. "We will bring clean, **renewable energy** to Ontario" - Look at the disastrous results of their **hydro** plan by refusing to buy cheap **hydro** from Quebec for pennies a kWh in 2010 only to pay up to 80 cents a kWh for **solar power** and 40 cents a kWh for **wind power**. Remember promise No. 8? "We will measure every investment against results"; 12. "We will bring stability to Ontario's **electricity** market" - The Liberals must have meant instability because that's what we got; 13. The Ontario Liberals are under five OPP investigations and Premier Wynne wants us to trust her? No thanks. We suffered enough under the Liberals.

Ross Ayotte

Smiths Falls, Ont.

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The unashamed arrogance of the Ontario Liberals

Ajax News Advertiser - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $471
Reach: 51400

To the editor:

Re: 'RE: MPP defends government actions on reducing **hydro** bills', column, March 29

Having read Brad Duguid's article defending the Liberal plan to reduce **hydro** bills he completely ignored one major fact. It was the Ontario Liberal Party that implemented the **Green Energy Act** in 2009, which was the start of the escalating **hydro** bills. Ontario **hydro rates** have increased by 150 per cent, from 3.5 to 8.7 KWH.

There has been an endless bureaucratic mess which has spawned feeding at the taxpayers trough by corporations urging green **energy**. Hundreds of millions of dollars wasted on the failed **Smart Meter** program. Exorbitant salaries, benefits and perks to **Hydro** executives. The five-member executive team of **Hydro** One shared $11 million (taxpayers) in bonuses. CEO Mayo Schmidt receives $4.84 million in cash and incentives.

The 2009 **GEA** has produced minimal results (as per Fraser Institute's report 'Environmental and Economic Consequences of Ontario's **Green Energy Act**'). **Wind** and **solar energy** has produced 4 per cent of the total Ontario **electricity**, but accounts for 20 per cent of the commodity cost.

Ontario is losing manufacturing jobs and not attracting new investments. Amazon decided to locate and build in Quebec because Ontario's **hydro rates** are too high. So Mr. Duguid, if the Liberals had not been pushed and embarrassed by polls, and with an election on the horizon, how likely would the Ontario Liberals have taken action against the **hydro** bills?

Frank Gallucci

Ajax

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Green energy is not to blame for high electricity bills

Oshawa This Week - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,272
Reach: 111985

It is not difficult to find examples of news or political commentators blaming **solar** and **wind energy** for skyrocketing **hydro** bills in Ontario. It is both irresponsible and deceitful, however, to place the blame entirely at the feet of green **power**, or even the Liberal government.

The roots of high **power** prices in Ontario are deep, and they run through long seams of mismanagement from both Liberal and Conservative governments since the 1980s. Only the NDP government under Bob Rae managed to temporarily abate the problem by initiating 10 years of price controls in the 1990s. In the end, it is the high cost of nuclear **power**, the relative inefficiency of **natural gas**, a misguided multi-party government addiction to **Ontario energy** sovereignty, and just good old inflation that are to blame for your high **energy** bill - not green **energy**.

It would be perfectly acceptable to pay more money for green **power** if that were the case. Low **hydro** prices for most of the 20th century were achieved at the expense of the environment. The ensuing pollution, according to most published studies, is now having an overall negative impact on health, food production, economic performance, and is requiring us to use more **energy** for heating and cooling our homes. The last issue is contributing to a **power** price inflation. The demographic that will suffer the most is our children's generation. Environmental economists now admit that baby boomers simply did not pay the true cost for **power** in the 20th century and these costs are now being off-loaded onto current and future generations.

It would be expected that clean **power** will cost consumers a bit more money. However, clean **power** is not to blame for Ontario's current **hydro** prices. According to a recent study by the organization Environmental Defence, **wind** and **solar** combine for only 12 per cent of the average Ontario household's **power** bill. The largest cost in your bill is actually for the delivery of **electricity**, not its production. But as far as **electricity** production is concerned, nuclear is the largest cost and **natural gas** is second. The legacy of cost over-runs for construction of nuclear plants and now their refurbishment are the main culprits.

Certainly, **Feed-in Tariff** (FIT) contracts with green **energy** producers do commit the government to pay more for **wind** and **solar** than the market **rate**, but this investment has created lopsided benefits compared with its impact on **power** bills. Another Environmental Defence study estimates about 180,000 direct and indirect jobs were created by the sector.

Other forms of power generation, such as nuclear, do of course create jobs as well, but at a relatively higher price going into the future. Largely due to innovation stimulated by FIT programs, solar is projected to be the lowest cost method of energy production within 10 years. Meanwhile, Liberal and Conservative government persistence in building and refurbishing nuclear generation saddles bill-payers with unnecessarily high rates. All this while very cheap hydroelectricity is available for Ontario to purchase from just across the Quebec border, and cheap FIT-free solar will be readily available in the very near future.

- Dr. Timothy MacNeill is with the political science program in the faculty of social science and humanities at UOIT

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Ontario's NDP Leader Andrea Horwath lights fire under Liberals' hydro plan | HamiltonNews.com

www.hamiltonnews.com - Tue Apr 4 2017
Tone: Neutral

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath was at Southern Smoke Barbecue House to light a fire for her party's proposed hydro rate cut of nearly 30 per cent.

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New electricity plant ready for operation; Natural gas-fired plant in St. Clair Township able to deliver power to the grid

Sarnia Observer - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Paul Morden

Ad Value: $740
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A1 / Front

A controversial natural gas-fired plant in St. Clair Township is now able to generate electricity for the Ontario power market.

On March 21, the Greenfield South Power Corporation generating facility on Oil Springs Line completed its market registration requirements, said Chuck Farmer, director of stakeholder and public affairs with Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO.)

"What that means is it basically met all the requirements to produce electricity in the Ontario electricity market," Farmer said.

It will be able to operate under the company's 20-year contract to supply electricity to the Independent Electricity System Operator once it meets commercial operations requirements, Farmer said.

Until then, it can operate as a "merchant plant," offering energy into the market, Farmer said.

The Greenfield South station was "dispatched" to deliver electricity into the grid briefly on March 27, according to the IESO.

It said the facility is one of 30 natural gas generating stations in the province.

"The gas fleet in Ontario provides a very important function," Farmer said.

"They're generally quite flexible and they can adjust their output quite quickly, in response to signals from the grid."

Natural gas makes up about 25 per cent of the installed electricity generation capacity in Ontario, Farmer said.

Construction of the $360-million 289-MW Greenfield South Power plant began in 2013.

Toronto-based Eastern Power was allowed to build in St. Clair Township after the Ontario Government called a halt in 2011 to construction of a gas plant the company had initially been contracted to build in Mississauga.

Pressure from voters in Mississauga and Oakville led to the cancelling of natural gas plant projects in those communities at a cost to the province of as much as $1.1 billion, according to Ontario's auditor general.

The Mississauga project continued to attract controversy after it moved to St. Clair Township when picket lines were set up by unionized construction workers complaining about safety on the job site.

After a picket line in August 2015, opposition parties raised the issue in the Ontario Legislature, and the Ministry of Labour appointed a mediator to improve labour relations at the site.

The ministry also laid charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act against Greenfield South Power Corporation. A trial began this week in Sarnia court, and is scheduled to continue next week. pmorden@postmedia.com

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Noseworthy tops Sunshine List for health unit

Northumberland Today.com · Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Valerie Macdonald

Ad Value: $481
Reach: 23714 **Page:** A2

As the media picks up on the legislated release of governmentand -related employees earning $100,000 and more, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Howarth is pointing to the high salary of Hydro's top employee.

That position is now over 500% more than it paid before under privatization, she stated in a media release.

"Premier Kathleen Wynne excluded Hydro One from the socalled sunshine list - an annual publication of the names and salaries of all public employees earning more than $100,000 - before she sold off the first 30 per cent of the profitable **electricity** company.

Now, Ontario families struggling to keep up with rapidly sky-rocketing **hydro** bills won't know just how many wellpositioned people are taking home untold billions from **Hydro** One," an NDP media release also states.

In a series of stories,

Northumberland Today will provide year-over-year comparisons (rounding off the figures) into what is happening with the socalled "Sunshine List" in some of Northumberland County's organizations, starting with the local health unit.

There were 10 on the List in 2016 ranging from a high of $296,000 for Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, medical officer of health for the Halliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit - down about $3,000 from the year before, to a low of $102,000 paid to Public Health Inspector Tom Reddering who was not on the list in 2015.

There were 10 on the health unit list both years.

The others are the director of communicable disease control, epidemiology and interim director environmental health, Anne Marie Holt, who earned $119,000, up from $114,000 the year before; environmental health manager Johnston Deborah earning $101,000 in 2016 but not on the list the year before; Family health director Fiona Kelly earning $118,000 who earned in 2016 and $116,000 in 2015; Corporate services director Mary Catherine Masciangelo who earned $117,000 in 2016 but wasn't on the list in 2015; Human resources director Colleen McBride also earned $117,000 last year and $109,000 the year before; chronic disease, injury prevention and interim oral health director, Leslie Orpana who earned $122,000, up from $116,000 in 2015; environmental health manager Richard Ovcharovich earned $105,000 last year and in 2015; and clinical services manager Shawn Woods at $104,000, down about $2,000 from the previous year. vmacdonald@postmedia.com Twitter.com/NT_vmacdonald

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List shines light on growing problem

The Intelligencer

The Belleville Intelligencer - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Larry Comeau

Ad Value: $204
Reach: 9723 **Page:** B2

(Re: Health care execs bask in Sunshine List, March 31) Every time the annual Sunshine List arrives, it drives home the fact that while many of Ontario senior public servants are raking in huge salaries, the place they are managing is lacking in service delivery.

Health care certainly is a prime example, with many unable to get a family doctor, waiting months to see a specialist or get an MRI or other needed tests and waiting years for a knee or hip replacement, yet the executives running our health care services are laughing all the way to the bank.

Many agencies are 'top heavy'and this leads to eating up scare funds needed elsewhere in the service. It is not only health care that demonstrates this, but those delivering other services from education, to policing, to running our municipalities. And then there's the fat-cats in **Hydro** One raking in millions, while we are paying through the teeth.

Larry Comeau

Ottawa

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Sunshine List: Hydro's good if you work in it; bad if you don't

Pickering News Advertiser - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $795
Reach: 51400

The bloat that is the provincial public service bureaucracy just got a lot more bloated in time for 2017 and, by the looks of things, isn't about to abate any time soon, certainly not in the realm of **hydro** generation.

Yes, it's that special time of year when the provincial government drops its annual Sunshine List of its public-sector salaries of $100,000 or above. And, in 2016, the government set a record, albeit a dubious one, by having 123,410 reach those magical paydays. That's up from 115,431 last year. And, when you add that to the benefit packages, it's nearly $16 billion in salaries paid out of the public purse.

If you're a private-sector worker, your head must be spinning at this snapshot of who's earning what within the public-sector ranks. And, when you look at the sheer numbers of those making well above that $100,000 benchmark, the mind truly boggles.

The usual suspects are out in front of the salary parade, with Jeff Lyash, CEO of **Ontario Power Generation** (**OPG**), hauling in $1,155,900 in pay and $9,800 in taxable benefits. That pay packet wouldn't look so lavish if it was comparable to the **hydro** CEOs of other jurisdictions. But, the fact is CEOs of **Hydro**-Quebec and BC **Hydro** earn less than half that much in yearly stipend, making Lyash's compensation, well, bloated.

And, to add insult to injury, if the **OPG** board of directors has its way, Lyash could be making in the neighbourhood of $1.5 million next year. It's truly lavish compensation, especially when viewed through the crucible of the runaway train that is **hydro rates** in Ontario.

Moreover, plenty of others within the ranks of **OPG** are doing well, with 7,732 making at or above the Sunshine List's $100,000 benchmark. That figure represents the most from any one organization on the provincial Sunshine List.

Want even more salt in those wounds? Mayo Schmidt, the CEO of **Hydro** One, is paid $4.5 million by the province, but his salary is not recorded on the Sunshine List this year, as the government is in the process of selling off Hydro One and is no longer obligated to disclose the salary.

With hydro rates spiking, one would think the provincial government would be willing and able to rein in salaries from within OPG to give beleaguered hydro ratepayers an even bigger break than the 25 per cent promised reduction.

But, as you can see by the continued generosity directed toward OPG on this year's Sunshine List, there's no appetite for that.

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A low-carbon Canadian economy: How to get there

The Globe and Mail - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: GLEN HODGSON

Ad Value: $16,531
Reach: 309154 **Page:** B4

The worldwide transition toward a low-carbon economy is well under way. Ambitious international targets are in place and policies are being actively debated, developed and implemented step by step to make the transition. Many businesses and institutions - notably in Europe, China and North America - are reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint.

The more innovative firms and governments are exploring new growth opportunities in this lower-carbon world. Yet, progress is uneven across sectors, regions and governments, and the 180-degree turn in U.S. climate policy under Donald Trump risks slippage from the steps already taken.

In Canada, too, progress has been made, but it remains uneven. Initial steps have been taken, including the signing of a pan-Canadian framework that the federal and most provincial governments are now working to implement. But overarching policy is still a work in progress. I recently authored a study for the Conference Board of Canada, titled Shaping the Canadian Low-Carbon Economy, which develops an overall framework for defining the low-carbon economy and understanding the policies required to make material progress.

We identify four cornerstones of the low-carbon economy and the policies and practices needed to achieve it. The first two cornerstones are energy consumption and its complement, energy efficiency. The third cornerstone is the supply of energy and related technology, goods and services, and the fourth is the low-carbon business opportunity.

If Canada is to constrain and then reduce its GHG emissions, Canadians will need to change how and why we use energy in vehicles, public transportation, buildings and infrastructure. Energy consumption will need to shift progressively toward electricity in many areas, even though new, low-carbon electricity may not be cheap and would require greater reliance on renewable sources.

Energy production plays a fundamental and central role in the growth of Canada's economy and will do so for decades to come. Global demand for oil and gas is still on the rise; it would be foolish to neglect the energy production sector and its many supporting sectors such as energy distribution and construction.

Yet, with the reality of climate change, transforming how Canada produces energy must be an essential part of a lowcarbon strategy. Doing so in the smartest way possible presents a formidable technical, business and policy challenge, but also an enormous opportunity. For example, greening Canadian electricity production and adding supply to electrify the economy will require huge investment in electro-technologies. The business dimension is equally crucial. Firms will adopt a mix of strategies to reduce carbon emissions across their value chains, but some will also seize business opportunities from engaging in the clean-technology value chain for innovative low-carbon goods and services.

An array of policy tools will need to be developed and enhanced to help guide the low-carbon transition.

Carbon pricing: A carbon price is an anchor policy. It creates incentives for consumers and businesses to reduce the consumption and production of hydrocarbons and GHG emissions, with a lower impact on economic output than relying solely on regulations. In addition to developing effective carbon-pricing policies, revenue will need to be used wisely to sustain public support and offset negative economic impacts.

Standards and regulations: Regulations and standards are a complement to carbon pricing. For example, best-in-class building codes, construction methods, urban design and emissions standards for vehicles can be more effective in achieving lower future GHG emissions than relying on carbon pricing alone.

Public spending and investment: Government spending touches all four low-carbon cornerstones. Seeking ways to reduce GHG emissions should be a mandatory criterion when creating strategies and evaluating proposals for government spending. Governments can also play a central role in making green financing available to firms and for infrastructure investment, to encourage the development and adoption of low-carbon technologies and methods.

Low-carbon government procurement: Governments are significant purchasers of goods and services. Procurement policies and practices should include criteria aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

Carbon credits and other policy tools: To hit emission targets, Canada and its provinces could purchase carbon credits from other jurisdictions (such as California) that have made greater advancement in building a low-carbon policy framework.

A successful strategy would articulate how the Canadian economy will transform toward low carbon while sustaining sufficient economic growth, with broad buy-in by consumers and businesses.

In short, the advancing low-carbon agenda will be complex, demanding, risky, and create opportunities for societal and business transformation - all at once.

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Stop making nuclear waste

THE SUN TIMES

Owen Sound Sun Times - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Linda Murphy

Ad Value: $51
Reach: 13178 **Page:** A5

"Canada needs a neutral agency that helps citizens both in Canada and the U.S., to analyse the **OPG** plan."

Erika Simpson understands the seriousness of the issue. We should stop producing the nuclear waste until there is a solution.

Linda Murphy

Saskatoon

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NEB to review Energy East and Eastern Mainline together | World Pipelines

www.worldpipelines.com - Wed Apr 5 2017
Tone: Neutral

A National Energy Board (NEB) Hearing Panel will review the Energy East and Eastern Mainline pipeline projects concurrently. After reviewing comments from 11 groups and individuals, the Hearing Panel said that the two project applications are closely interrelated and would be most efficiently assessed through a co-ordinated approach.

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