John Bozzo

From:	John Bozzo
Sent:	April 17, 2017 3:25 PM
To:	Rosemarie Leclair
Cc:	Neil Brodie; Brian Hewson
Subject:	Re: Morning News Clippings - Monday, April 17, 2017

It was a story last week about TH charging fees for isolation services. Global is retweeting it.

Our response last week was last the OEB was looking into this.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 17, 2017, at 3:13 PM, Rosemarie Leclair <Rosemarie.Leclair@oeb.ca > wrote:

> What is all the tweeting about TORONTO hydro billing practices review about?
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** John Bozzo <John.Bozzo@oeb.ca>
> > **Date:** April 17, 2017 at 9:04:28 AM EDT
> > **To:** Brian Hewson <Brian.Hewson@oeb.ca>, Ceiran Bishop <Ceiran.Bishop@oeb.ca >, Christine Long <Christine.Long@oeb.ca >, Corinne Carvalho <Corinne.Carvalho@oeb.ca >, Debra Hazelton <Debra.Hazelton@oeb.ca>, Elisabeth DaSilva <Elisabeth.DaSilva@oeb.ca >, John Bozzo <John.Bozzo@oeb.ca>, Julie Mitchell <Julie.Mitchell@oeb.ca >, June Colman <June.Colman@oeb.ca>, Karen Nunno <Karen.Nunno@oeb.ca>, Ken Quesnelle <Ken.Quesnelle@oeb.ca >, Lynne Anderson <Lynne.Anderson@oeb.ca>, Martine Band <Martine.Band@oeb.ca>, Mary Anne Aldred <MaryAnne.Aldred@oeb.ca>, Nancy Mintz <Nancy.Mintz@oeb.ca>, Neil Brodie <Neil.Brodie@oeb.ca>, Rosemarie Leclair <Rosemarie.Leclair@oeb.ca >, Sarah Branco <Sarah.Branco@oeb.ca>, Veronica Mendes <Veronica.Mendes@oeb.ca >
> > **Subject: FW: Morning News Clippings - Monday, April 17, 2017**
> >
> > Good morning,
> >
> > Here is the OEB morning media summary for Monday, April 17.
> >
> > **Overview**
> >
> > Coverage includes continued critiques of Ontario Energy policy by both NDP and Conservative critics and one local media article referencing the transfer of utility operations in Dubreuilville to Algoma Power.
> >
> > Wawa News Algoma Power to meet Dubreuilville Power Needs
> > Local news article on the transfer of hydro operations to Algoma Power for the town of Dubreuilville. Article references OEB decision to license Algoma Power Inc. as the temporary operator of the town's utility formerly operated by Dubreuil Lumber Inc.
> >
> > CTV News Windsor Essex museum facing closure due to rising hydro bills
> > News report on the notice by Essex NDP Member Taras Natyshak that staff at the Canadian Transportation Museum in the town have indicated that the facility may soon need to close due to rising hydro rates. NDP MPP blames Ontario Liberal Energy policy and the plans to privatize Hydro One. Similar report from CBC Windsor.
> >
> > Windsor Square Government To Cover Hydro Rate Increases
> > News article quotes Ministry of Energy spokesperson, Colin Nekolaichuk that the Ontario government will not interfere with the rate application of ELK Power that is currently before the OEB. Nekolaichuk goes on to note that increases in

rates will be offset by the inclusion of ELK Power in the Rural and Remote Rate Protection plan.. Nekolaichuk specifically is quoted as saying "… of these utilities will see their distribution rates brought in line with others across the province, leading to reductions of even greater than 25 per cent. Rate increases for these utilities, if approved by the OEB, will not be passed on to the customer."

Toronto Sun Industrial hydro plan leaves some companies out: Tories

News article reports on opposition PC critique of Liberal's fair hydro plan noting that it leaves out a significant number of business and manufacturers who will continue to be negatively affected by high hydro rates. Energy Ministry spokesperson contests this assertion noting that many small business and farms will receive large reductions as a result of the plan and that the government is currently working with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Associations to see that there is broad awareness of energy conservation plans and options to get rate relief for business.

Flagged for Discussion

NA

Tweets

Reminder: Hydro Bill Support Program talk by @OntEnergyBoard at @OshawaLibraries McLaughlin Branch tonight 6:30pm
https://twitter.com/oshawacity/status/852582590620086272

Toronto Hydro billing practice being reviewed by Ontario Energy Board
https://twitter.com/globalnewsto/status/852472104138280960

This can't be legal - @TorontoHydro billing practice being reviewed by Ontario Energy Board
https://twitter.com/FletJan/status/852454255696982016

OEB reviewing new fee for maintenance disconnections Toronto Hydro may already be charging ratepayers for http://globalnews.ca/news/3375878/toronto-hydro-billing-practice-being-reviewed-by-ontario-energy-board/ … #TOpoli
https://twitter.com/bowker_john/status/852520511640915968

Hi, the Time-of-use Holiday Schedule for Off-Peak Pricing is set by the Ontario Energy Board.
http://ow.ly/7I0m30aPzVV
https://twitter.com/HydroOne/status/852512564600872961

Brett Wilson: Alberta can't look at Ontario's 'stupid' green energy model
https://twitter.com/Franktmcveety/status/852328994758418432

But we are modelling our energy after Ontario's titanic fail.
https://twitter.com/annmcc123/status/852397154249224192

Coming to Ontario under a brutal Green Energy act & carbon tax, who taxes a life giving gas anyway, oh right a Liberal
https://twitter.com/seawaysailor/status/852493176569024512

Ontario Cap-And-Trade Update: Auction, Decision And Proposal http://j.mp/2nIBoAF By @McCarthy_ca
https://twitter.com/MondaqEnergyLaw/status/852520360453042176

Still better than the ON govt's last Tim Horton's tie-in
https://twitter.com/bowker_john/status/852541695958888450

Ontario Publishes Proposed Technical Changes To Cap And Trade Regulations For Comment
http://j.mp/2nICz33 By @airdberlis
https://twitter.com/MondaqEnergyLaw/status/852521623047503872

Lars Hansen
Media Relations Specialist

O: 416-440-7741
C: 647-460-3062

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge Street, 27th Flr.
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

E: lars.hansen@oeb.ca
w. www.oeb.ca

From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: April-17-17 7:36 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Monday, April 17, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

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

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 23 Results

Algoma Power to meet Dubreuilville Power Needs – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Algoma Power Inc. (Algoma Power) is pleased to announce that the Ontario Energy Board has named it as the interim operator of the electricity distribution system for the Township of Dubreuilville for the next six months per OEB order EB-2017-0153.

'Fair'Plan Not So Fair; PC critic slams Wynne scheme to slash hydro

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value:$5,819
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

Some businesses win under the new Ontario Fair **Hydro** Plan announced by Premier Kathleen Wynne to reduce **electricity** costs. But Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith brought forward examples this week of businesses that don't ...

Smoke and mirrors to fix hydro

THE EXPOSITOR

Brantford Expositor - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Purkiss

Ad Value:$230
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A4

If you asked your bank to lower your mortgage payments by changing the amortization to 25 years from 10, they'd probably do it. But you couldn't find a financial adviser to recommend such a move. Yet, that's the best the Wynne government can come ...

Essex museum facing closure due to rising hydro bills | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village in Essex says it's facing closure as a result of soaring hydro bills.

Skyrocketing hydro bills threaten Essex County museum - Windsor - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Staff at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village are struggling to keep the lights on and fear they may have to cease operations because of skyrocketing hydro bills.

West End councils differ on NEMI Hydro One motion

www.manitoulin.ca - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

While Gore Bay council is in support of a resolution passed by council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) asking that the province waives Ontario Hydro delivery fees for all Ontario residents (as it has done for those who ...

Liberals love their alternative facts; Nothing but lies on Hydro One

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value:$3,968
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A7

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet ministers excel at alternative facts and fake news. The latest example was Finance Minister Charles Sousa's speech Thursday to The Empire Club, part of which boasted about how the Liberals saved ...

Will condo unit owners get a slice of the hydro rebate?

thestar.com - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gerry Hyman
Reach: 999000

We've seen an announcement that condominiums will be eligible for a proposed **hydro rebate**. Will our corporation be obligated to pass the **rebate** to the unit owners or can they place it in the operating fund? You are ...

Ontario must privatize power sector

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ajit Singh,

Ad Value:$3,896
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

Ontario has failed to make **power** cheaper. Its plan to reduce **hydro rates** by 25 per cent by refinancing the **contract** cost over a longer time is not capable of keeping **hydro rates** ...

It's time to take powerful action

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe Lafontaine Sr.,

Ad Value:$1,605
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

It is time the Ontario government does something to come to grips with the runaway cost of **power**. I see two options to get us out of this mess. The first is to have **Hydro One** declare bankruptcy and shed some of its ...

Government To Cover Hydro Rate Increases – The Square

www.windsorsquare.ca - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

The Ontario government will not contest hydro price increases which, as The Square has reported, are now being sought by a number of electrical distribution companies across the province. A variety of distributors, including ELK Energy, which serves ...

Sousa to balance Ontario's books; Finance minister announces campaign-friendly measures ahead of budget on April 27

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value:$26,275
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

Finance Minister Charles Sousa will balance the province's books for the first time in almost a decade with an April 27 budget. Sousa revealed the date Thursday in a speech to the Empire Club at Arcadian Court where he promised the next two weeks ...

Sousa's smoke and mirrors

The Sault Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$590
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A9

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa seems like a pleasant person, but he reminds us of a used car salesman whenever he's selling his upcoming budget. One who doesn't want you looking under the hood too closely while he's making his sales pitch. ...

No Tax

Ottawa Sun - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Stephen Flanagan

Ad Value:$195
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A20

This is no time for a **cap and trade** tax levied at Ontario. Actually no time is a good time, but with the American economy rebounding and the world getting the jitters because of President Donald Trump's actions in ...

Better solution for nuclear waste?

Kingston Whig-Standard - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Roger Short

Ad Value:$237
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

Re: "A lot more to be answered," March 25. Professor Erika Simpson's column makes compelling reasoning on the real risks associated with handling, transporting and storing nuclear waste. Beyond that, there is evidence to show that no such "storage ...

Readers write

The Hamilton Spectator - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$4,840
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A13

Shaking my head over self-centred driving RE: Ignorance in driving Recently, I witnessed something in the parking lot of the Ancaster Costco store that left me shaking my head and wondering if this driver was stupid or self-centred. A person was ...

The populist versus the wonk in a tale of two premiers: Cohn

thestar.com - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn
Reach: 999000

Two Liberal governments, in Ontario and B.C., have held **power** virtually since the turn of the millennium. Two female premiers, in each of these provinces, were once seen as change agents, but now risk appearing like more of the same. ...

A guaranteed basic income? Humbug!: Salutin

thestar.com - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rick Salutin
Reach: 999000

Something about the Guaranteed Basic Income program being readied for an Ontario test run - names vary but it means automatic minimum support for the needy and eventually everyone - irritates me. And yes, that makes me feel Dickensian: Humbug! Let ...

Transparency questioned; Local MPP questions why execs evading 'Sunshine List'

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value:$189
Reach: 2981 **Page:** A1 / Front

Provincial NDP Finance critic and Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof is calling on the Liberals to reveal how many highly paid executives being paid with public dollars are hiding their salaries from disclosure on the sunshine list. Vanthof ...

Healthcare, university administrators top sunshine list for Kingston

Kingston Heritage - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Hollie Pratt-Campbell

Ad Value:$345
Reach: 43588 **Page:** A3

The most recent version of the Public Sector Salary Disclosure list, also known as the "Sunshine List", was released on March 31, disclosing the salaries of all Ontario provincial government employees who were paid $100,000 or more in 2016. ...

Pronvice throws $28M into the wind

Ottawa Sun - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$738
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A16

The Ontario government says it has paid a $28-million award that a NAFTA tribunal ruled was owed to a **wind power** company over a provincial offshore **wind** moratorium. Windstream **Energy** had a 300-megawatt ...

The other side of turbines; Amherst Island farmer says that, along with vocal protesters, there is 'a group that is highly in favour'of wind project

Kingston Whig-Standard - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Elliot Ferguson

Ad Value:$1,433
Reach: 24008 **Page:** A1 / Front

If anyone can speak with authority about the future of Amherst Island, it would be Wayne and Karen Fleming. The fifth-generation beef farmers, whose house on their home farm sits atop one of the island's modest high points along the Stella 40 Foot ...

Province pays $28M penalty to turbine firm; Award shows 'everyone else in Ontario' paying for Liberals' mistakes, says PC party leader

London Free Press - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Allison Jones

Ad Value:$2,437
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A8

The Ontario government says it has paid a $28-million award that a NAFTA tribunal ruled was owed to a **wind power** company over a provincial offshore **wind** moratorium. Windstream **Energy** had a 300-megawatt ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Algoma Power to meet Dubreuilville Power Needs – Wawa-news.com

wawa-news.com - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral

Algoma Power Inc. (Algoma Power) is pleased to announce that the Ontario Energy Board has named it as the interim operator of the electricity distribution system for the Township of Dubreuilville for the next six months per OEB order EB-2017-0153.

Back to Top

'Fair'Plan Not So Fair; PC critic slams Wynne scheme to slash hydro

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value:$5,819
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A4

Some businesses win under the new Ontario Fair **Hydro** Plan announced by Premier Kathleen Wynne to reduce **electricity** costs.

But Progressive Conservative MPP Todd Smith brought forward examples this week of businesses that don't qualify for Wynne's plan, and are calling for an across-theboard industrial **hydro rate** that helps all companies.

"There are far too many small and medium-sized manufacturers that fall between the cracks in the current government's **energy** scheme they put out there," Smith said. "It's not very fair for small and medium-sized, manufacturers, in particular, that don't qualify so they continue to get hammered as a result."

Kisko Freezies, which manufacturers the childhood summer treat, saw its **hydro** bill go up $100,000 last year but told Smith it does not meet the usage threshold under the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI).

The government's plan is designed to reduce the **electricity** bills imposed on large users by one-third.

More than 200 employees work at that Toronto business, Smith said.

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for **Ontario Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault, said Ontario's Fair **Hydro** Plan will provide an average of 25% relief on **electricity** bills to as many as 500,000 small businesses and farms.

He called it the "single largest **rate** reduction in the province's history," adding that **rates** will also be held to inflation for the next four years.

"The minister has recently visited a number of Ontario businesses, including Dynaplas in Scarborough, Plascoat in Brampton, and BWXT in Cambridge, all of which will now or already qualify," Nekolaichuk said. "We are also partnering with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association to raise awareness of **energy** conservation and costsavings programs available to businesses in the province.

" THE TORONTO SUN ASKED SMITH WHY HE'S RECOM-MENDING A "COMPETITIVE" INDUSTRIAL **HYDRO RATE**:

"There needs to be some sympathy expressed and some plan for these employers (that don't qualify) because they are being lured away by other jurisdictions. There are other U.S. states and other provinces that are calling them on a weekly basis asking them if they would be interested in setting up in their low-cost jurisdiction for **energy**. And a number of them are seriously considering that. And, of course, a lot of them have already gone."

KISKO'S **HYDRO** BILL WENT UP $100,000 IN ONE YEAR?

"And that's in spite of the owners, the company, spending about $100,000 in conservation efforts, so LED lighting and those types of things to try to reduce their energy usage. They actually did use less energy but their electricity bill went up by that much. So that's not an unfamiliar refrain that I'm hearing from manufacturers across the province. They're doing what the government wants them to do, and conserving energy, but it seems as if they're being penalized for it in excess global adjustment increases."

IS THIS COMPANY CON-SIDERING RELOCATING?

"It's not something that (the owner) wants to consider. This is a company that's been in business here I believe for over 40 years … and their home is in Ontario. They don't want to go. And Jocelyn Bamford was with me as well. She's from the Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and she operates Automatic Coating which is in Scarborough. And they actually were being lured away by the United States as well. She doesn't want to do that."

BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN DOES PROVIDE SOME RELIEF TO MANU-FACTURERS, DOESN'T IT?

"It could provide a 2% to 4% reduction for these companies that don't qualify for the ICI. And basically what (company owners) said … was that works out to be essentially a rounding error on their electricity bills, considering the fact that all signs point to the fact that electricity prices are going to continue to rise, as well."

Back to Top

THE EXPOSITOR

Smoke and mirrors to fix hydro

Brantford Expositor - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: John Purkiss

Ad Value:$230
Reach: 29497 **Page:** A4

If you asked your bank to lower your mortgage payments by changing the amortization to 25 years from 10, they'd probably do it. But you couldn't find a financial adviser to recommend such a move.

Yet, that's the best the Wynne government can come up with after 12 years of messing around. There are only two ways to fix our electrical supply so that the province (outside the GTA) can start growing again: Fully privatize hydro to a group with a track record (such as Duke Energy, which operates Union Gas) or allow real competition.

Premier Wynne and her predecessor Dalton McGuinty shut down all coal plants and the results are underwhelming: no change in particulates in the air and we still need gas plants to kick in for solar and wind on a cloudy and still days.

Homeowners struggle to pay their hydro bills and industry is stampeding to other jurisdictions. Less than 10 per cent of your hydro bill is for the elecricity you need. The rest is "distribution," "supply" and stranded debt, which we have already paid for but was misspent on other schemes.

John Purkiss

St. George

Back to Top

Essex museum facing closure due to rising hydro bills | CTV Windsor News

windsor.ctvnews.ca - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Canadian Transportation Museum & Heritage Village in

Essex says it's facing closure as a result of soaring hydro bills.

Back to Top

Skyrocketing hydro bills threaten Essex County museum - Windsor - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral

Staff at the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village are struggling to keep the lights on and fear they may have to cease operations because of skyrocketing hydro bills.

Back to Top

West End councils differ on NEMI Hydro One motion

www.manitoulin.ca - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral

While Gore Bay council is in support of a resolution passed by council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) asking that the province waives Ontario Hydro delivery fees for all Ontario residents (as it has done for those who reside on First Nation reserves and settlements in Ontario), Billings Township council has voted unanimously in opposition to this resolution.

Back to Top

Liberals love their alternative facts; Nothing but lies on Hydro One

Toronto Sun - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value:$3,968
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A7

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet ministers excel at alternative facts and fake news.

The latest example was Finance Minister Charles Sousa's speech Thursday to The Empire Club, part of which boasted about how the Liberals saved Ontario's **electricity** system by doing the heavy lifting needed to improve it.

As a result, Sousa said, Ontario's **electricity** grid is now "the envy of North America" because the Liberals restored "integrity and reliability" to it, unlike neighbouring Canadian provinces and the rust belt states.

Simply put, what on Earth is Sousa talking about? **Hydro** One controls the transmission of **electricity** through 29,000 kilometres of **hydro** lines in Ontario and provides **electricity** to 1.3 million customers.

In her December, 2015 annual report, Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk said between 2010 and 2014, **Hydro** One customers experienced 24% more **power** outages, lasting 30% longer, while costs to run the system increased by 31%.

She described **Hydro** One as "consistently one of the least reliable among large Canadian **electricity** distributors."

She said its maintenance backlog increased by 47% and **power** outages by 7%, between 2012 and 2014.

Lysyk reported the risk of **power** failures was increasing because **Hydro** One hadn't replaced $4.5 billion in transmission assets, "that have exceeded their planned useful service life."

In 2014, former Ontario ombudsman Andre Marin reported that trying to get straight answers out of **Hydro** One on its horrendous customer billing practices, following complaints by 10,000 customers, was like, "wrestling with a slippery pig".

He said **Hydro** One had issued more than 100,000 incorrect bills, covering everything from unexplained billings, to "catch-up" bills, "estimated" bills, multiple bills and over-billing.

Wynne is now selling 60% of **Hydro** One to the private sector, putting it beyond the scrutiny of the auditor general and ombudsman.

Sousa said the government now realizes **electricity** **rates** are too high, which is why its cutting them by a total of 25% in June (and increasing the province's debt to subsidize them).

While Sousa didn't mention it, prior to this announcement, the Liberals claimed **electricity** pricing in Ontario was in the middle of the pack compared to Canada and the U.S.

Hydro Quebec does an annual comparison of **electricity** **rates** in major cities, standardized for a monthly consumption of 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh), with all prices in Canadian currency.

Its 2016 survey found **electricity** prices for residential customers in Toronto of 17.81 cents per kilowatt/hour and in Ottawa of 16.15 cents per kilowatt/hour.

That was higher than in Vancouver (10.70); Calgary (10.40); Edmonton (10.37); Regina (14.65); Winnipeg (8.43); Montreal (7.23); Halifax (15.88); Moncton (12.50); Charlottetown (16.02); St. John's (11.96); Seattle (13.62); Portland (13.94); Chicago (15.19); Nashville (14.28); Houston (11.25) and Miami (11.67).

The Toronto and Ottawa **rates** were lower than in San Francisco (31.05); Detroit (20.24); Boston (27.69) and New York (29.52).

Thus, according to **Hydro** Quebec's major cities'survey, Ontario's residential **electricity** **rates** are the highest in Canada and only in the mid-range when you add in American cities.

An accurate statement in Sousa's Empire Club speech regarding **hydro** was that the system needed upgrading when the Liberals came into **power** in 2003 because of past neglect by governments of all stripes, including Liberals.

But much of it was firmly in the realm of alternative facts and fake news. lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

Back to Top

Will condo unit owners get a slice of the hydro rebate ?

thestar.com - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gerry Hyman
Reach: 999000

We've seen an announcement that condominiums will be eligible for a proposed **hydro** **rebate**. Will our corporation be obligated to pass the **rebate** to the unit owners or can they place it in the operating fund?

You are correct that condominium corporations are eligible to receive the **rebate**. The **Electricity** Consumers Act 2016 states that the **rebate** is available to consumers who have an "eligible account," which is defined to include properties within the meaning of the Condominium Act. The **rebate** relates to **hydro** fees paid by the corporation, which will not transfer it to the individual unit owners.

The board of our condominium intends to carry out $400,000 underground garage repairs, as well as repairs to our rooftop terrace and continue with repairs to the women's change room. This seems to be too much expense for a seven-year old building. I have unsuccessfully written to the manager requesting engineering reports about the need for such repairs. What can I do?

If the repairs are necessary, the corporation is obligated to do them and you can do nothing. But you are entitled to examine the engineering reports you have requested. Should those reports not contain engineering opinions that the repairs are necessary, you could take the position that they constitute common element alterations, additions or improvements and that - under Section 97 of the Condominium Act - the work requires approval by an affirmative vote of the owners.

If the board does not relent, a court application could be made by an owner, pursuant to Section 134 of the act, requesting a judge's order that the corporation comply with Section 97.

Is an owner entitled to require an examination of emails between the property manager and the board about a common -element door to the owner's unit?

The owner is entitled to examine the emails which constitute a record of the corporation, provided that the emails refer only to the owner's unit and not to any other unit.

One of our owners, who applied for a city permit for renovations to his unit, was advised an existing window needed enlarging. The board advised it would consent if the owner agreed to enter into an agreement, under Section 98 of the Condominium Act, rendering the owner responsible for future maintenance and repairs of the alteration. The board also required an engineer's report confirming no negative future structural effects or water seepage. The owner objected. Are we, as a board, being unreasonable?

The board is not obligated to consent to an owner carrying out common -element alterations. The directors are required to act honestly and in good faith. The requirement for an agreement between the owner and the corporation is set out in Section 98 of the act, and the corporation may require the agreement to make the owner responsible for future maintenance and repairs to the common-element alteration.

If the owner is unable to provide a reasonable engineer's opinion or is unwilling to sign the Section 98 agreement, the board could refuse to approve the common-element alteration.

Lawyer Gerry Hyman is a former president of the Canadian Condominium Institute and author of Condominium Handbook. Send questions to gerry@gerryhyman.com (mailto:gerry@gerryhyman.com) or fax to his attention at 416-925-8492.

Back to Top

Ontario must privatize power sector

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ajit Singh,

Ad Value:$3,896
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

Ontario has failed to make **power** cheaper. Its plan to reduce **hydro rates** by 25 per cent by refinancing the **contract** cost over a longer time is not capable of keeping **hydro rates** normal. It is laden with a massive interest liability, the cumulative effect of which is severe on families.

The **power** generation system does not flow from the rule of supply and demand. Ontario's monopoly **power** restricts competition and does not help control **hydro rates**.

We feel Ontario has no solution to save us from the panic of escalating **hydro rates**. Whether the government believes that its problem is the provincial budget deficit and the ballooning provincial debt is not clear to us.

What is clear is the sea of red ink that has made it more difficult for the government to initiate new investment to address the problem of soaring **hydro rates**.

Given that, Ontario needs to privatize **power**, pluck out the weak link between the generation, transmission and distribution of **electricity**, and bring in multiple private distribution companies - creating competition to distribute **power** at cheaper **rates**.

Under this system, consumers would have the freedom to choose their service providers and switch if they are not satisfied. In London and other European countries, you can choose your service provider and even change as you wish. This generates competition.

If this is done with **electricity** in Ontario, both consumers and the service providers will be the winners. The consumer will be the king and the service provider will vie to be the best.

Ajit Singh,

Windsor

Back to Top

It's time to take powerful action

Windsor Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe Lafontaine Sr.,

Ad Value:$1,605
Reach: 58088 **Page:** A10

It is time the Ontario government does something to come to grips with the runaway cost of **power**.

I see two options to get us out of this mess.

The first is to have **Hydro** One declare bankruptcy and shed some of its financial burden, similar to what the City of Detroit did a few years ago.

The second is to have the **Electricity** Act of 2000 recalled or replaced, and bring back the local **hydro** distribution systems.

This would include bringing back the not-for-profit systems that existed before this legislation.

Our municipal governments, due to the **Electricity** Act, are part of the problem. They are contributing by keeping dividends and interest charges on our **hydro** bills.

If we are ever to get back to the basic operation of **Hydro** in this province that existed before the **Electricity** Act was forced down our throats by the Conservative government of former premier Mike Harris, then it is time to take drastic measures.

If governments keep their greedy hands out of the operation of **Hydro**, it will eventually get back to what we had before the **Electricity** Act, and hopefully make it easier for our children and grandchildren to pay their **electricity** bills.

Let's see some action by our provincial government.

Joe LaFontaine Sr.,

LaSalle

Back to Top

Government To Cover Hydro Rate Increases – The Square

www.windsorsquare.ca - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral

The Ontario government will not contest hydro price increases which, as The Square has reported, are now being sought by a number of electrical distribution companies across the province. A variety of distributors, including ELK Energy, which serves some residents in Essex County, have applied to the Ontario Energy Board for approval to increase what their customers pay for electricity.

Back to Top

Sousa to balance Ontario's books; Finance minister announces campaign-friendly measures ahead of budget on April 27

Toronto Star - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Robert Benzie Toronto Star

Ad Value:$26,275
Reach: 361323 **Page:** A8

Finance Minister Charles Sousa will balance the province's books for the first time in almost a decade with an April 27 budget.

Sousa revealed the date Thursday in a speech to the Empire Club at Arcadian Court where he promised the next two weeks would see "a series of important announcements to help you and your family" from a government flush with cash.

"Eliminating the deficit allows us to redouble our efforts to make lives a little more affordable. A balanced budget means there will be new investments, important investments," he said, mindful Ontario voters will head to the polls for a June 7, 2018 provincial election.

One such campaign-friendly measure will be a new public-transit tax credit for seniors "to make it more affordable for them to go to the gym, the library or to take their grandkids to a concert."

Details of that will be in the upcoming spending plan, but Sousa said everyone 65 and older would qualify regardless of income.

"In a sense, the 2017 budget represents the start of a new era. We're no longer working to eliminate the deficit," the treasurer said, noting the shortfalls that began in 2009 after the global financial crisis are ending thanks to a surging Ontario economy.

"Exports are up. We have seen gains in manufacturing, retail sales and financial services. Household incomes are up. Just this morning, we announced that real GDP increased by 2.7 per cent in 2016 - we beat private sector forecasts," Sousa said.

"That's twice the rate of growth for Canada. It's better than Germany's 1.9 per cent. It's better than the U.S. at 1.6 per cent. It's better than all the G7 countries," he said.

"I want to be clear: this is not just a Toronto economic recovery story; across Ontario, we are seeing more growth and more jobs."

But Sousa said he understands the boom is contributing to skyrocketing house prices in and around the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, so the government must act to keep homes affordable.

"On the one hand, strong housing is a reflection of Ontario's strong economy; people are moving to Ontario. But this hot market is making it difficult for many to buy their first home," he said.

"We all want families to be able to pursue their dreams of home ownership and to help those looking to rent a home."

To that end, Sousa will meet Tuesday with federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Toronto Mayor John Tory "because all levels of government need to work together to find remedies.

"We know for many, a house is their biggest asset. We need to protect that investment, so we need to take a thoughtful approach to avoid unintended consequences," he said.

"Having said that, I am concerned about speculators playing the market limiting supply - it's why I asked Minister Morneau to close the loophole on capital gains exemptions," Sousa said.

"There are those who go into new developments, buy up a slew of properties, and then flip them, while avoiding paying their fair share of taxes. I call them property 'scalpers' and … they're crowding out families who are trying to put down roots.

"We also hear concerns about vacant properties that sit empty and limit supply. It's unfair that deep pockets are driving up the cost of homes. (But) there is no silver bullet to solve this complex issue."

Sousa promised the government would unveil its plan "in the coming days."

Underscoring that Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals, who trail Patrick Brown's Progressive Conservatives in public-opinion polls, are tackling pocketbook issues, the treasurer reminded his audience that residential **electricity** bills are being slashed by 25 per cent this year.

"We heard loud and clear that **hydro rates** are too high. That's because for decades, successive governments, of all stripes, failed to make investments in the grid. We supported investments of $50 billion to build new **power** and 15,000 kilometres of new transmission," he said.

"But fixing all this ahead of the Rust Belt states and neighbouring provinces has come at a price. Although these are long-term capital assets, people are seeing more upfront costs on their bills today. So we're financing these assets over a longer period and cutting household **electricity** bills by 25 per cent."

He also promised "a booster shot for health care," but was vague about what that meant.

Brown, for his part, warned Ontarians to be wary about just how much good news is on offer in two weeks' time.

"They've ignored the affordability issue. Whether it was on **hydro** or it was on housing, they've been asleep at the switch on that front."

Back to Top

Sousa's smoke and mirrors

The Sault Star

The Sault Star - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$590
Reach: 14083 **Page:** A9

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa seems like a pleasant person, but he reminds us of a used car salesman whenever he's selling his upcoming budget.

One who doesn't want you looking under the hood too closely while he's making his sales pitch.

On Thursday, Sousa boasted to The Empire Club that his fifth budget on April 27 will demonstrate that, "Ontario is the leanest government with the lowest per capita spending of any province."

Um, that's been true for Ontario governments going back decades.

Since Ontario has the largest population of any province, it also has the advantage of economies of scale when delivering public services.

The Bill Davis Progressive Conservative government, for example, made exactly the same boast in 1981-82 that Sousa made Thursday.

When the Liberals are in **power**, they always boast about delivering services at the lowest per capita cost of any province.

When they're out of **power**, they always blame the party in **power** for not spending enough on government services. (In fairness, all parties do it.)

What Sousa didn't say is that the Liberals have more than doubled Ontario's debt to over $300 billion since coming to **power** in 2003, which has made Ontario the most indebted sub-sovereign (non-national) borrower in the world.

He didn't say the Auditor General and Ontario's Financial Accountability Office have warned the Liberals that they have plunged the province into precarious levels of debt.

Sousa claimed the Liberal scheme to borrow even more money from Ontario taxpayers to subsidize the **electricity** bills of **hydro ratepayers** - even though they're the same people - is "fairer because it doesn't ask today's generation alone to pay the entire freight."

That argument turns generations of fiscally prudent thinking - that you don't stick future generations with huge bills to pay for today's services - on its head.

Finally, Sousa repeated, for the umpteenth time, that this year's budget will be balanced, later adding along with "next year and the year after that."

Two problems. First, Sousa's promising to balance a budget that won't come down until after the next Ontario election in 2018.

Second, in 2003, then Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty promised before the election not to raise our taxes.

And we all remember what happened after he won.

Back to Top

No Tax

Ottawa Sun - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Stephen Flanagan

Ad Value: $195
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A20

This is no time for a **cap and trade** tax levied at Ontario. Actually no time is a good time, but with the American economy rebounding and the world getting the jitters because of President Donald Trump's actions in Syria and his sabre rattling at North Korea, consumers need a bit of a break.

High gas prices take their toll, the economy suffers, tourism suffers and commuters and tradespeople have a tougher time making ends meet. However, don't expect the lefties at Queen's Park to have a change of heart. They will squeeze us for all we've got.

STEPHEN FLANAGAN

OTTAWA (Well said.)

Back to Top

Better solution for nuclear waste?

Kingston Whig-Standard - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Roger Short

Ad Value: $237
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

Re: "A lot more to be answered," March 25. Professor Erika Simpson's column makes compelling reasoning on the real risks associated with handling, transporting and storing nuclear waste. Beyond that, there is evidence to show that no such "storage and forget projects" have ever been set up which have not leaked or been compromised in their relatively short life span. Hundreds if not thousands of years are the time scales for such storage. The forum for the next experiment, even more so when the location is next to a water body supplying millions of people, should not proceed until all uncertainties are removed. Within the last month a Japanese court has ruled that the utility (Tokyo Electric Power) and the government were aware of the shortcomings of Fukushima but didn't take appropriate measures. It strikes me that Ontario Power Generation and our government are well aware of the potential risks associated with Ontario's nuclear waste and all the potential problems arising. They should be aware that they could be held to account if they rush to a risky solution.

Roger Short Kimberley, Ont.

Back to Top

Readers write

The Hamilton Spectator - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $4,840
Reach: 103267 **Page:** A13

Shaking my head over self-centred driving

RE: Ignorance in driving

Recently, I witnessed something in the parking lot of the Ancaster Costco store that left me shaking my head and wondering if this driver was stupid or self-centred.

A person was lying on the ground being tended to by EMTs. The Costco staff had surrounded this person with bright orange pylons. The ambulance was stopped in the driveway.

Then along came a vehicle whose driver passed between the person on the ground and the EMTs and the ambulance and actually parked in a spot right next to where this emergency situation was taking place.

If this driver was so stupid that they didn't realize that they should have backed up and found another parking spot, then I am in fear for my life with people like this being allowed to drive. Or was the driver so self-centred that getting a parking spot was more important than caring about their fellow man who was receiving emergency medical care?

Either way, they endangered the person on the ground and the EMTs and I wish I had got their licence plate so I could report them to the police.

Caroline Monahan-Mamone, Ancaster

Trudeau talks a good game, but ...

RE: **Climate** change

It's a good thing that we have such a photogenic leader. It's comforting to see images of Trudeau strolling through the woods, pledging millions of dollars toward conservation initiatives. It makes us feel good, knowing that here in Canada we are safe from Donald Trump and his callous slashing of environmental funding. However, despite Trudeau's progressive appearance, he is anything but progressive when it comes to making substantial improvements toward **climate** change.

On the carbon front, he has adopted the previous Tory government's carbon emission targets, deemed inadequate by **climate** change experts. Even worse is that Canada is not projected to meet the targets we committed to in Paris based on a recent environment and **climate** change report. A large contributor to this failure is the approval of pipelines allowing the expansion of oil and **gas** at a time when countries like Denmark and Sweden are focusing on renewable sources of **energy**.

The reality is that Canada, much like our southern neighbour, leads the world in per capita carbon emissions. It is time for us to focus our efforts on the real **climate** change culprit, the fossil fuel industry. We must acknowledge that although our leader's failures are not as overt as Trump's, they are present all the same.

Victoria Birnie, Hamilton

There's nothing good about embracing coal

RE: Trump tosses "clean" **energy** plan, embraces coal (March 28)

The executive order signed by President Donald Trump marks a step backward. Nothing about embracing coal marks "the start of a new era" in **energy** production. Fossil fuel **energy** is not a new development that should be celebrated and embraced; rather it is a mistake of the past that must be corrected today. To do this we need to strengthen, not eliminate, environmental regulations.

The "war on coal" is fuelled by clean and **renewable energy**. The loss of jobs in the coal mining industry is coupled with rises in employment in the sustainable **energy** industry. Powered by coal, **climate** change is altering the patterns of life across the planet and is contributing to widespread species extinction at unprecedented **rates**.

Coal is not the way of the future but the **energy** of the past. Its terrible effects on our planet will be experienced for years to come. This is not just about now and it is not just about humans. Future generations of all species deserve better than this.

Daniella M. Giardetti, Hamilton

A textbook on how not to govern

RE: Political leadership

In regard to the scenario of our grandkids paying for today's **hydro** fiasco, here's hoping our grandkids are smart enough to elect someone who actually knows how to be a leader in government and can do what needs to be done for the people. I would hope there will be individuals running for election more qualified than the ones we have now.

I'm sure the Americans feel the same. What Premier Kathleen Wynne has done should be in a textbook somewhere for the next generation to study entitled " How Not To Govern ..."

Rusty Escott, Dunnville

Burlington traffic is not going away

RE: Joan Little's Burlington commentary

I am a big fan of Spec columnist Joan Little who writes on Burlington issues. I do not know Joan, but she seems like the only one with common sense and a clear view of the City of Burlington's misguided path to increased frustration of the motoring public. For some reason the city is missing the big picture that arterial roads should be to facilitate the movement of car traffic, not impede the flow. The single lane Lakeshore Road corridor past Brant Street, reduced traffic lanes on Walker's Line, Appleby Line and New Street, and the ill-advised trial of allowing curb lane parking on Fairview between Walker's Line and Appleby Line are some of the questionable planning that has taken over in Burlington. The City of Burlington cannot ignore the fact that they control the east-west arterials that are the only car traffic options if there are serious problems on the QEW and 407. Municipal pavement construction is expensive and to remove pavement traffic lanes that have already been in place and use them as bicycle lanes is foolhardy.

I don't know who is "driving" the road diet planning in Burlington, but people have to get the message back to the city planners that car traffic is not going away and if they open their eyes they will also see that the incredible boom in building development also means more traffic across Burlington.

Paul Anderson, Burlington

Back to Top

The populist versus the wonk in a tale of two premiers: Cohn

thestar.com - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Martin Regg Cohn
Reach: 999000

Two Liberal governments, in Ontario and B.C., have held **power** virtually since the turn of the millennium.

Two female premiers, in each of these provinces, were once seen as change agents, but now risk appearing like more of the same.

The provinces - and premiers - of Ontario and British Columbia couldn't be more different. But their political timelines - and personal storylines - bear uncanny resemblances as the change train gathers steam.

B.C.'s campaign kicked off (www.thestar.com) this week, and Ontario's pre-election jockeying is already underway (a provincial vote looms next year). What happens out west will be closely watched inside Queen's Park.

It is a tale of two premiers who are polar opposites in style and substance:

B.C.'s Christy Clark campaigns from right of centre, straddling a de facto Liberal-Tory coalition united against a perceived socialist peril. Wynne typically campaigns from left of centre, and would not be out of place helming B.C.'s New Democrats.

Clark tries to talk her way out of political troubles, compounding them by stonewalling (notably on campaign finance reform, where her province still defends the indefensible). Wynne tends to dive into the weeds, at the risk of choking off her roots as a retail politician (she grappled, belatedly, with new election contribution reforms at some cost to her party).

Put another way: Clark is a populist, while Wynne is a policy wonk.

Both are ferociously competitive campaigners. Each has defied the doubters throughout their careers, culminating in their last campaigns.

Clark is the single mother who fell out with her predecessor and made a dramatic comeback to win the party leadership, followed by a majority government triumph that pollsters deemed impossible. Wynne is the erstwhile protester who persuaded the governing party to overcome its doubts about winning with a lesbian grandmother, then regained the majority government that her predecessor had given up.

Both their provinces have been leading the country in economic growth and employment. Yet the two premiers have been tumbling in the polls as voters consider changing the mix.

That's where the narratives take a different turn. Clark is behind but still competitive, whereas Wynne is down in the dumps and wondering if she has reached the point of no return.

Embattled on the eve of the 2013 election, Clark stared down her own caucus by daring the doubters to out themselves if they wanted to oust her. They stayed silent.

Beleaguered ahead of the 2018 campaign, Wynne took the opposite approach. She made a tearful appeal to MPPs for help and advice, and has so far avoided any deep fissures in caucus - healing divisions by heeding dissenters.

Clark has been able to cast herself as the incarnation of job creation, by virtue of donning a hard hat in the last campaign. Wynne has so far been unable to wear the mantle of prudent economic steward, despite Ontario finally balancing its budget in the coming fiscal year, and pushing down unemployment with massive infrastructure spending.

Despite the public antipathy to Wynne, manifested in polls and expressed online, she has yet to be vilified in person when on the road meeting voters. Like Clark in 2013, she has the advantage of being the best on offer in her caucus, there being no obvious successor. Her battle plan is to bulk up her coming spring budget with substantive policies (www.thestar.com) to deal with education, housing and the workplace, after having lowered the temperature on rising **hydro rates**.

It will be instructive to see how the B.C. campaign unfolds, and what lessons Ontario Liberals learn from it (not least the possibility of an NDP revival at long last).

Clark has a track record of upsetting assumptions and disproving predictions. Wynne can only wonder why her counterpart's numbers are so much better, given they are both burdened by excess baggage.

As a former open line radio host, Clark is a superior communicator. She also knows how to play the populist card, which may be the best way for a politician to resist the winds of change.

Wynne hopes to win back voters by demonstrating she is a premier hefty on policy, empathy and affordability. But for better or for worse, the politician who gets too far down in the weeds risks becoming tumbleweed in a political environment more turbulent than ever.

Martin Regg Cohn's political column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. mcohn@thestar.ca (mailto:mcohn@thestar.ca), Twitter: @reggcohn

Back to Top

A guaranteed basic income? Humbug!: Salutin

thestar.com - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rick Salutin
Reach: 999000

Something about the Guaranteed Basic Income program being readied for an Ontario test run - names vary but it means automatic minimum support for the needy and eventually everyone - irritates me. And yes, that makes me feel Dickensian: Humbug!

Let me, without much justification, start somewhere else: sexual abuse at universities. In her book, Unwanted Advances: Sexual Paranoia Comes to Campus, U.S. academic Laura Kipnis acknowledges the problem - the plague really - but deplores the perils of a bureaucratic, judicialized response.

She documents much abuse in the name of dealing with abuse. Yet what most worries her is what a reviewer called a "crisis of agency" among young women. If they leave their protection to recently minted campus officials and offices - after registering their complaints - it may reduce them to passive victimhood, awaiting outside rescuers: "There's an excess of masculine **power** in the world, and women have to be educated to contest it in real time ..."

Now agency is agency and passivity is passivity, though they come in many guises. When I organized with a textile union in the 1970s, another organizer reported a young worker's experience of sexual innuendo being spread about her by company stooges. The organizer wanted to go to Ontario's Human Rights Commission. The union leader, a veteran of 1930s vintage, scoffed. He'd seen it often. My fellow organizer felt rebuffed but his point was: workers are going to encounter much worse and must learn to deal with these attacks themselves, to build their strength.

The way that working people - by which I mean those who depend on jobs to support themselves, versus living off investments, interest, rent etc. - the way workers found to protect their interests over a period of about 150 years, was by uniting in what were called unions to assert their rights. This was agency.

The counterattack by the owning class in recent decades has been targeted at undermining those unions. It's been the most significant effect of free trade deals. By moving jobs to cheaper markets, such as Mexico or China, employers pressured unions to ratchet down demands and concede gains they'd made. Eventually workers ask, "What do we need these unions for if all they do is cave?" Then along comes Universal B.I., Guaranteed B.I., or some cognate.

The very governments and sectors that imposed and insisted on those debilitating trade deals, now rise up and say: Worry not, we will restore your declining security, which threatens to plunge you into need and onto welfare, with a guaranteed basic income. The one thing you won't get back, it's true, is your sense of agency and **power**, which you'd achieved to some extent through your unions. But your "basics" will now, through our benevolence, be covered.

The problem with this isn't only the absence of agency and dignity but, as Kipnis says about the abuse of young women:

they can't just wait around "for men to reach some new stage of heightened consciousness" because that day may never come.

And what if the owning and renting classes simply view a BI as another source to be scarfed up through higher rents, charges, privatized highways etc., so it ends up merely expanding the gulf between the rich and the rest? (I'm indebted for this argument to economist Michael Hudson.)

Take Kathleen Wynne's privatization of **Hydro**. Of course **electricity** costs will rise once the financiers take over, why else would they buy it except to profit as much as they can? So the GBI just gets recycled back up to those who made it necessary in the first place. The inequality gulf worsens and is financed largely by taxes from people who can't ever get ahead of it. Arrggh!

What's the alternative? Not necessarily unions, but agency in some form. Take control of your destiny - both because it's more fun than the alternative and because you can't trust anyone else to. Organize somehow - unions, political parties, whatever - to get a seat at the same table as those guys with the investments and returns have done forever. Charity is always a way to confirm who's on top and who's stuck below - and a guaranteed BI is essentially charity.

Would I vote for it? Maybe, as a desperate stopgap measure. People have to survive. But I wouldn't stop skulking around, conniving and contriving a way to contest **power**, not just gratefully accept its ambiguous droppings.

Rick Salutin's column appears every Friday.

Back to Top

Northern Daily News

Transparency questioned; Local MPP questions why execs evading 'Sunshine List'

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Mon Apr 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Brad Sherratt

Ad Value:$189
Reach: 2981 **Page:** A1 / Front

Provincial NDP Finance critic and Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof is calling on the Liberals to reveal how many highly paid executives being paid with public dollars are hiding their salaries from disclosure on the sunshine list. Vanthof raised the topic during a recent session of question period.

"Transparency is vital to good government. Ontarians need to be able to trust that the sunshine list is true and comprehensive," said Vanthof during Question Period.

Ontarians learned that the vicepresident of the Canadian Hearing Society received a massive raise that was hidden from disclosure on the sunshine list because he opted to be paid as a "consultant."

Can the acting premier tell us, how many more 'consultants'are being paid high salaries with public money while keeping themselves off the sunshine list?" asked Vanthof.

The Ontario NDP has been critical of massive executive salaries, particularly at **Hydro** One - including a $4.5 million payday for the CEO, a 500 per cent increase since Wynne started privatizing the company - while everyday families struggle to pay their **hydro** bills. But Wynne has kept that salary and others off the sunshine list - leaving Ontarians to wonder how many more million-dollar executives are taking public money without public disclosure.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Treasury Board

President, Hon. Liz Sandals stated "First of all, let me say that the individual's salary has been given to any member of the opposition and any member of the media who has asked for it.

With respect to the sunshine list, when you're dealing with tens of thousands of records, every year there will be a few that are missed. Sometimes it's a clerical error. Sometimes when we track it down, we've got an agency that actually didn't submit the records on time to be included in the list. But what we always do in a circumstance like that, as we did in this circumstance, is make the information available to anyone who asks and then we publish an addendum, which has all the information that was missed. We will do that again this year. It will be printed in the addendum."

Vanthof responded by saying Ontarians need to be able to trust things such as the sunshine list and wonder ed aloud how many more salaries over the years have not been published.

Back to Top

Healthcare, university administrators top sunshine list for Kingston

Kingston Heritage - Thu Apr 13 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Hollie Pratt-Campbell

Ad Value: $345
Reach: 43588 **Page:** A3

The most recent version of the Public Sector Salary Disclosure list, also known as the "Sunshine List", was released on March 31, disclosing the salaries of all Ontario provincial government employees who were paid $100,000 or more in 2016.

Locally, the highest earners are health care administrators and workers, as well as university officials. Here's a closer look at a few of the highlights: President and CEO Jim Flett was the highest earner at Kingston General Hospital, making $466,963.85; Dr. David Zelt, executive vice president and chief of staff, was the secondhighest at $340,629.98. A total of four KGH employees made over $300,000 last year. M. Catherine Szabo, president and chief executive of Providence Care, earned $336,770.31, while the chief executive officer at Hotel Dieu Hospital, Dr. David Pichora, made $257,373.02. Dr. Ian Gemmill, medical officer of health and CEO of KFL & A Public Health, made $289,739.80.

Hundreds of other local hospital employees, mostly doctors, are also on the list.

The City of Kingston also has hundreds of employees making over $100,000 per year, including police officers, firefighters and administrators. The top earner was the city's chief administrative officer, Gerard Hunt, who made $222,081.48. Police Chief Gilles Larochelle was the second-highest city earner at $209,709.87.

Queen's principal Daniel Woolf took home $360,000 last year, but five Queen's employees actually earned more, including Health Sciences dean Richard Reznik, who topped the list at $422,403.32.

President and CEO of St. Lawrence College, Glenn Vollebregt, made $263,619.98 in 2016.

Director of education with the Limestone District School Board, Debra Rantz, made $208,000 last year and her counterpart over at the Algonquin Lakeshore District School Board, Jody Dirocco, made $204,150.30.

Jeff Lyash, CEO of **Ontario Power Generation**, tops the sunshine list after earning nearly $1.2 million last year, including $1,155,900 in pay and $9,800 in taxable benefits.

The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, which states that provincial employees making over $100,000 annually must have their salaries made public, was passed in 1996 by the Mike Harris government.

The full list is available at (www.ontario.ca)

Back to Top

Pronvice throws $28M into the wind

Ottawa Sun - Fri Apr 14 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value:$738
Reach: 45442 **Page:** A16

The Ontario government says it has paid a $28-million award that a NAFTA tribunal ruled was owed to a **wind power** company over a provincial offshore **wind** moratorium.

Windstream **Energy** had a 300-megawatt project planned in eastern Ontario when the provincial government abruptly enacted the moratorium in February 2011.

The company took its complaint to a NAFTA tribunal that partially ruled in Windstream's favour, awarding it $25 million in damages for unfair and inequitable treatment, as well as $3 million in legal fees.

A spokesman for **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault says the award was paid with about $95,000 in interest.

Back to Top

The other side of turbines; Amherst Island farmer says that, along with vocal protesters, there is 'a group that is highly in favour'of wind project

Kingston Whig-Standard - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Elliot Ferguson

Ad Value:$1,433
Reach: 24008 **Page:** A1 / Front

If anyone can speak with authority about the future of Amherst Island, it would be Wayne and Karen Fleming.

The fifth-generation beef farmers, whose house on their home farm sits atop one of the island's modest high points along the Stella 40 Foot Road, were among landowners who first sat down 13 years ago at a kitchen table meeting to hear about an idea to build **wind** turbines on the island.

The couple's decision to lease some of the 400 acres of property on the island to the company building the 27-**turbine** has put them on one side of a fight that has split much of the island's population into two camps.

"We're accused of ruining the landscape," Wayne Fleming said. "But we've been working on the landscape for five or six generations to keep the farms going."

It wasn't a decision rushed into.

The couple talked to landowners on Wolfe Island while its **wind** farm was being developed. They also travelled to the Tug Hill in Lewis County in upstate New York to talk to people about their experiences with the 195-**turbine** Maple Ridge **Wind** Farm.

"We've done a fair amount of homework on it and we're comfortable with it," Wayne Fleming said.

"I don't think any farmer or landowner is going to get rich from the turbines," Karen Fleming added.

But what the small amount of money the couple expects to get for hosting a **wind turbine** could do is create enough of a financial incentive for the next generation to take over the farm and keep it going.

Opposing the company building the project, Algonquin **Power**'s subsidiary Windlectric Inc., is the Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI), which has fought the project every step of the way.

The project, and the fight against it, has turned the pastoral island into a battleground.

"There's no doubt about it, there's a lot of upheaval with it," Wayne Fleming said. "It's two camps. The group that is against it, APAI, it's them against the landowners.

"There is a vocal group that opposes it, but there is also a group that is highly in favour of it."

The Flemings estimate between 120 and 150 islanders support the project.

"Toxic" is how the Flemings describe the atmosphere on Amherst Island now, and they blame APAI for much of it.

When the Wolfe Island project was built, businesses there thrived as they served the workers. The Flemings said the same may not happen on Amherst Island.

"APAI have made it such a toxic atmosphere. So much hostility. So much verbal abuse directed toward the workers," Karen Fleming said.

"The **turbine** company has tried its best to work with the people over here," she added. "Everything they do, they think, 'OK this will help, this will show our good faith.'It's never enough."

In May 2015, the company announced it would scale back the project from 36 to 27 turbines. Among the turbines cut from the project were two of the three the Flemings had agreed to host.

APAI continued to criticize the company and the move to reduce the size of the project.

"I guess when you want death, wounding is not enough," Karen Fleming said.

But with the initial building phase underway, the construction of the **wind energy** project is going to happen, and while they do stand to benefit financially from the project, the Flemings said in the long run it will be good for the whole island.

Or, at least, it will be better than the status quo.

"Do we want this island to grow?" Karen Fleming added. "You are either growing or you are dying. What are we doing? "There was a time when there were restaurants, there were **gas** stations, there were stores, there were barbers, there were hair dressers," she said. "There was a lot of activity over here. Today, we don't even have a post office."

Revenue from the Wolfe Island project has helped Frontenac Islands Township improve the services and amenities on the island. Since Amherst Island is part of a larger mainland municipality, the Flemings both said they are skeptical of whether Loyalist Township will invest much of the revenue it receives from the **wind energy** project back on the island.

"There is nothing here to keep the young people here," Wayne Fleming said.

"Everything comes with a leap of faith," he added, noting that the average age on the island is 56.

"Because the island is becoming more and more a retirement community, you get people who have made their **carbon footprint** somewhere else," Karen Fleming said. "They have come to the island, bought their waterfront property, put up their nice home and to them it is a mini Muskoka now.

"For the landowners, this is our home. This is where we grew up. This is our roots."

Karen Fleming also said she sees a certain hypocrisy when members of APAI, as many opponents of specific **renewable energy** projects do, argue that they support green **energy** but oppose the Amherst project.

"How do we feel about the tarsands?" she asked. "We despise those. We don't want pipelines. We don't want coal. We have not yet figured out how to deal with nuclear waste.

"We hate green **energy** but yet we love our **electricity**; we love our warm homes and our modes of transportation.

"Eventually, it has to start somewhere."

Back to Top

Province pays $28M penalty to turbine firm; Award shows 'everyone else in Ontario' paying for Liberals' mistakes, says PC party leader

London Free Press - Sat Apr 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Allison Jones

Ad Value:$2,437
Reach: 77670 **Page:** A8

The Ontario government says it has paid a $28-million award that a NAFTA tribunal ruled was owed to a **wind power** company over a provincial offshore **wind** moratorium.

Windstream **Energy** had a 300-megawatt project planned in eastern Ontario when the provincial government abruptly enacted the moratorium in February 2011.

The company took its complaint to a NAFTA tribunal that partly ruled in Windstream's favour, awarding it about $25 million in damages for unfair and inequitable treatment as well as about $3 million in legal fees.

Payment was due within 30 days of the Sept. 30 ruling and Windstream went to court in February to ask it to enforce the award.

Windstream also was seeking the interest it was awarded - 2.7 per cent, compounded annually, from Nov. 1, 2016 until the date of payment.

The total paid was $28,095,332, which includes about $240,000 in interest, according to a spokesperson for **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault.

Thibeault defended the moratorium despite that cost.

"Part of that is making sure that we get things right and that's why we're asking the (Ministry of the Environment) to further study some implications that are relating to offshore **wind**," he said. "We don't want to have (offshore **wind** turbines) up and then realize that there's something that we would have to do to take these down that has even bigger complications." Five government-commissioned studies have been completed since 2011 on impacts on fish, other environmental impacts, sound and decommissioning requirements. The Liberal government is now looking to an Ohio-based offshore **wind** project in the Great Lakes for more data.

Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown said he's concerned taxpayers are footing the bill for government errors.

"If you look at all the staff time, legal costs that went into this, the bill could be much larger, so it's just another example of a government that has their mistakes, their miscalculations - everyone else in Ontario is paying for it," he said.

NDP deputy leader Jagmeet Singh said provinces should, in general, have the autonomy to make policy decisions, but this one could have been handled better.

"With this government we've seen opportunities where the government could have saved taxpayers from spending enormous amounts of money like the **gas** plant scandals," he said.

The government's decision to cancel two **gas** plants prior to the 2011 election came at a cost of as much as $1.1 billion.

Back to Top