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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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[Queen's Park adjourns for the summer; EDA analysis of the political landscape](#)

The legislature at Queen's Park adjourned for the summer on June 1. Members of Provincial

Parliament (MPPs) from all three parties will now spend the final summer ahead of next year's election meeting with constituents and will be pushing their key messages to voters across the province. The EDA is providing the following analysis on the current political environment in Ontario.

Since the session ended, media speculation has focused on whether the Premier will wait until June 7, 2018 before going to the polls, but most analysts believe there are pros and cons to each option. Premier Wynne, when pressed by the media, indicated that the intent is to stick to the original date.

The political landscape has not changed in any significant way since the beginning of the year. The governing Liberals remain behind in most opinion polls, but have announced numerous policy changes and legislation that they believe will resonate with the electorate and improve their standing. The message that they will advance over the summer includes a balanced budget, support for the Fair Hydro Plan rate reduction on electricity bills, pharmacare for children under 25 and a \$15-dollar minimum wage as part of a wide-reaching package of labour reforms.

The PC Party ended the session on a high note with a by-election win in the riding of Sault Ste. Marie, a former Liberal seat that has not voted for a PC MPP since 1981. It was also disclosed that the PCs raised more money than the Liberals in the last year. The PCs, who continue to lead in opinion polls, will spend the summer highlighting their perceived failings of the government, while raising the profile of their leader Patrick Brown across the province.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath will enter the summer season with more defined policies than her PC counterpart. The NDP put forward their own electricity platform in the last session calling for measures that, in their estimation, would have reduced bills by an average of 30 per cent. The NDP are also claiming credit for pushing the government to accept a \$15-dollar minimum wage policy. The primary focus of the NDP leader is to better define the party and her leadership to voters than has been done in the past.

In September, unless a snap election is called, LDC members can expect a louder and more combative session of the legislature as all three parties begin drawing their battle lines over both policy and personality. Although the election is one year away, it seems that the campaign has already begun.

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Derek Nardone](#), Government and Stakeholder Affairs Analyst at (905) 265-5348.

OEB staff release report on proposed cyber security framework

LDC members should have received a [RapidSource](#) last week regarding an OEB staff report on a proposed cyber security framework, which was released for comment. The EDA will engage members through its Operations and Engineering Council to provide feedback on the following items by the July 15 deadline:

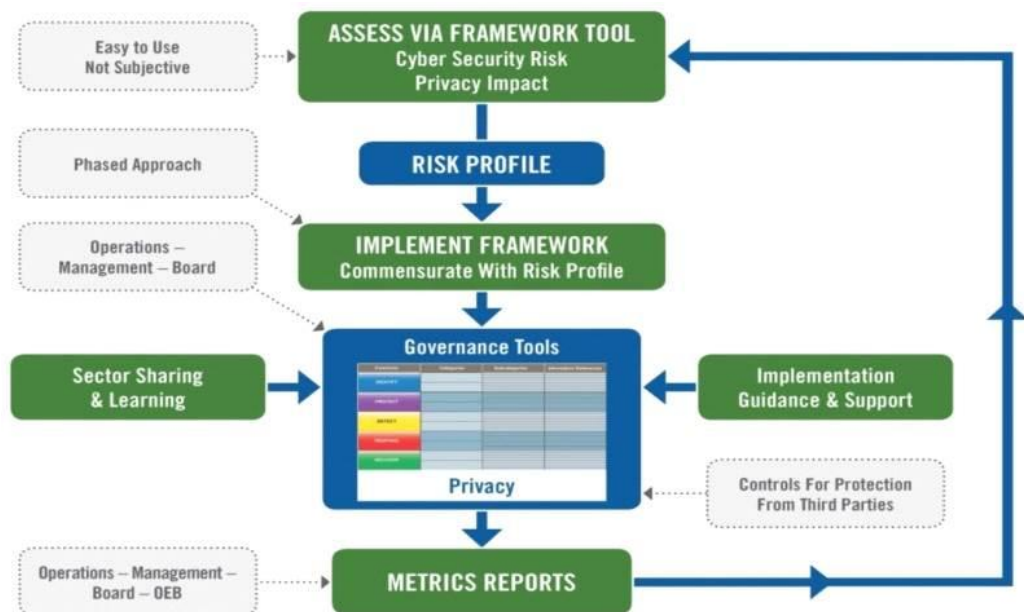
- Regulatory requirements and reporting;
- Additional implementation tools and guidance required;
- Adequate guidance with respect to integration of privacy requirements; and
- Other aspects to be incorporated.

The objectives of the OEB's proposed framework are to safeguard information, protect systems and operations and protect against risks using best practices. It is also meant to support electricity and natural gas distributors in assessing risk and controls, implementing appropriate governance and providing the OEB with assurances of achieving the appropriate level of cyber maturity.

Within three months of the adoption of the final framework, OEB staff propose that distributors

will file an interim report that assesses their cyber security and, thereafter, will report annually on their cyber security capability. In future, distributors are expected to participate in a mandatory Cyber Security Information Sharing Forum.

The framework – a visual summary



Source: Ontario Energy Board

The OEB staff report and related documents are available [here](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Kathi Farmer](#), Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor at (905) 265-5333.

LDCs encouraged to complete OEB survey on incentive rate-setting mechanism

The survey is open until June 19.

LDCs should have received a letter from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) earlier this week about its annual survey on Price Cap Incentive Rate (IR) and Annual IR applications. The letter specifically requests LDCs to identify the rate-setting approach and the elements they will include in their applications, such as:

- Z Factor claim
- Incremental Capital Module claim
- Lost Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("LRAM") Variance account disposition
- Rate Harmonization pursuant to a prior OEB decision
- Renewable Generation and/or Smart Grid Adder request
- Multiple service areas with different rates
- Migration of customers into or out of Class A (Global Adjustment and CBR)
- Other

According to the OEB's Handbook for Utility Rate Applications, IR methodologies were developed to move towards an outcomes-based approach to rate-setting and give utilities the necessary tools to develop business plans that meet their needs. This specific survey is intended to support the processing of LDCs' IR applications, which is why the EDA encourages members to complete the survey.

The survey and other details are available [here](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Kathi Farmer](#), Senior Regulatory Affairs Advisor at (905) 265-5333.

Artwork for new Ontario Fair Hydro Plan bill inserts now available

LDC members should have received a RapidSource earlier this week regarding the new, mandatory bill insert for Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan (FHP). With the passing of *Ontario's Fair Hydro Act, 2017*, the Ministry of Energy is sharing the artwork with LDC members to help them raise awareness of the FHP.

Under the [proposed regulation](#), LDCs are required to issue this bill insert on a quarterly basis, beginning with the first bill on or after July 1, 2017. **As the regulation is not yet final, members are reminded that the text in the insert is subject to change** and printing and distribution processes should be planned accordingly.

LDC members can download the inserts by accessing the [RapidSource](#) on the EDA website.

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Jana Manolakos](#), Director, Corporate Affairs and Communications at (905) 265-5337.

REMINDER: Comments on proposed Fair Hydro Plan regulations due June 10

The EDA would like to remind members that the Ministry of Energy has issued several regulatory postings for comment to support the implementation of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. **Comments are due by June 10.**

The EDA has engaged its Regulatory Council on the proposed regulations and will continue to participate on the ministry's Fair Hydro Plan Working Group to address implementation and communications issues for the plan.

A summary of the postings can be found below:

[Bill presentment](#)

The Ministry of Energy is proposing amendments that would remove outdated messages from invoices, introduce new messages related to the *Ontario Fair Hydro Plan Act* (OFHPA) and inform customers about bill impacts. The proposed regulation outlines the required language for invoices and bill inserts.

[Re-financing the Global Adjustment \(GA\)](#)

The proposed regulatory amendments concern the re-financing of a portion of the GA as contemplated in the OFHPA, and provide the IESO and LDCs the necessary authority related to their OFHPA activities.

[Social programs](#)

This posting proposes new regulations under the *Ontario Energy Board Act* (OEBA) to provide the framework for the delivery of broadened distribution rate protection, First Nations Delivery Credit and a streamlined application process for the Ontario Electricity Support Program.

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Joyce Mankarios](#), Policy Advisor at (905) 265-5334.

Fair Hydro Plan, customer engagement and merger communications addressed by Communicators Council

LDC communicators and customer service professionals from across Ontario met last week to address the province's Fair Hydro Plan, customer engagement and merger communications.

The Ministry of Energy provided an overview of its communications strategy for the Fair Hydro Plan, on which members provided feedback. The ministry noted that materials, including new bill inserts, would be distributed to LDCs through the EDA in the coming weeks.

BEworks held a workshop on customer engagement, showcasing examples of successful initiatives such as bill re-design that leveraged principles of behavioural science.

Members also received a presentation from Alectra Utilities, which offered insight into the complexities of merger communications and branding.

A full meeting summary and presentation materials are available to LDC members on the [EDA website](#).

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Andrea Coelho](#), Coordinator, Corporate Affairs and Communications at (905) 265-5323.

Federal government to develop a zero-emissions vehicle strategy by 2018

The Government of Canada recently announced that it will work with provincial, territorial and industry partners to develop a national strategy to increase the number of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) on Canadian roads by 2018 – an initiative that affects the LDC sector in Ontario.

A national Advisory Group has been established to help develop options for addressing barriers to deploying ZEVs (electric, plug-in hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles), with a focus on the following issues:

- Vehicle supply
- Cost and benefits of ownership
- Infrastructure readiness
- Public awareness
- Clean growth and clean jobs

This announcement comes on the heels of federal budget announcements of \$62.5 million in 2016 and an additional \$120 million through Budget 2017 to support electric vehicle charging and refueling stations as well as technology demonstration programs.

The EDA will monitor the developments of the Advisory Group and what this strategy will mean for the adoption and integration of ZEVs in Ontario.

For more information, please contact the EDA's [Joyce Mankarios](#), Policy Advisor at (905) 265-5334.

EDA EVENTS

Register today for the EDA Forum: *A Practical Review of EVs in Ontario*

Explore the future of electric vehicle charging stations with the EDA at the Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre on June 15.

Last year, the Ontario government announced that it would build 500 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 250 locations across the province. This initiative is part of the Climate Change Action Plan which sets out to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Government rules around EV stations present LDCs with the opportunity to play an integral part

in the deployment of EV charging locations across the province.

As the province prepares for this shift towards more sustainable transportation options, the EDA is hosting a member-only forum that will explore the implications and opportunities for the electricity sector to champion this initiative.

The forum will provide attendees with practical information and the latest updates on electric vehicle deployment and will equip you with the tools needed to prepare your business for this exciting time in the sector.

Discussion topics include:

- Ministry of Transportation discussion on EVs, the Climate Change Action Plan, budget and more
- Perspectives from the IESO on EV planning and impacts to distribution systems
- The emerging business model of EV charging stations in multi-residential buildings
- EV charging installations
- Challenges and opportunities for LDCs with EVs

To see the full agenda, please [click here](#).

What: Forum - A Practical Review of EVs in Ontario

When: Thursday, June 15, 2017

Time: 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: [Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel & Conference Centre](#)

How Much: \$425

To register for the Forum, please [click here](#).

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to gain insights into the future of sustainable vehicle options.

For more information on EDA forums, contact [Marica Macura](#), Director, Member Relations and Events at (905) 265-5346.

EDA hosts another successful Directors Summit



Board directors and other industry leaders from across Ontario joined the EDA at the Holiday Inn Toronto International Airport on June 1, 2017 for the third annual Directors Summit.

Themed “Evolving Trends in Governance”, the well-attended event engaged delegates in strategic and informative discussions on key issues such as climate change, cyber security, enterprise risk, information disclosure and best practices in governance. Delegates also

benefited from the networking opportunities provided throughout the day to connect with industry peers and thought leaders.

To check out the presentations and photos from this year's Directors Summit, please [click here](#).

Join the EDA for the first EBIC Conference on October 25 and 26

It is difficult to talk about energy without mentioning innovation. But what characterizes innovation in the energy sector? And how is innovation transforming the energy sector?

As part of our commitment to continuously showcase sector innovation and to answer these



questions, the EDA will host the first [Energy Business Innovation Conference](#) (EBIC).

EBIC will be held on **October 25 and 26 at the Hilton Meadowvale Hotel in Mississauga**. It will pave the way for new technology and other

advances in the sector, helping you to stay ahead of the curve and gain a competitive advantage. This event is relevant to everyone in your company as it will address the latest in management, communications, human resources, customer service, finance and regulation.

Check the website often to stay up-to-date as we gear up for this exciting new event.

You can also join our EBIC email list by [clicking here](#).

We look forward to seeing everyone there in October!

Save the dates for 2018 EDA CON:NECT events

The EDA is pleased to announce the confirmed dates and locations for some of our 2018 CON:NECT events.

Make sure to mark your calendar with these important dates and stay tuned for more information on the events and 2018 sponsorship opportunities.

EDIST 2018 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY January 17- 19, 2018 Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites	2018 EDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 25-26, 2018 Fairmont Royal York	2018 EDA AWARDS GALA March 26, 2018 Fairmont Royal York	ENERCOM 2018 March 27-28, 2018 Fairmont Royal York
2018 WOMEN CONNECTED May 2018 OMNI King Edward Hotel	2018 EDA DIRECTORS SUMMIT TBD	CUEE 2018 Canadian Utility Equipment & Engineering Trade Show September 10-12, 2018 International Centre	2018 EBIC Energy Business Innovation Conference October 2018 Hilton Meadowvale

For more information on the CON:NECT Event Series, please contact [Marica Macura](#), Director, Member Relations and Events at (905) 265-5346.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Energy+ lights up county with \$212K incentive for LED streetlight conversion

Energy+ Inc. has presented the County of Brant with an incentive cheque through the Save On Energy Retrofit program to mark the conversion of 2,678 streetlights to energy efficient and cost saving Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology. For more information, read the [news release](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

Under its **Cap and Trade** Regulatory Framework, the **OEB** committed to provide a long-term (10-year) carbon price forecast, to be updated annually. The [2018-2028 Long Term Carbon Price Forecast](#) report prepared by ICF Consulting Canada Inc. is now available.

Updates from the **Independent Electricity System Operator** (IESO) include:

- OEB **Notice of Hearing** for IESO's 2017 Revenue Requirement Submission
- Upcoming **Local Advisory Committee** meetings: Barrie/Innisfil, Parry Sound/Muskoka, Toronto
- Launch of **Whole Home Pilot Program**

More information is available at: [IESO website](#).

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