John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: August 15, 2017 9:36 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Fwd: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Good morning,

Here is the OEB morning media summary for Tuesday, August 15th.

Overview
News coverage today includes an item on a billboard campaign by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, a news item on the Ontario Environment Commissioners report on energy conservation and a report from the CD Howe Institute that analyzes the cost/benefit of Ontario's energy policies since 2009.

CTV News Kitchener Billboard takes aim at high energy bills
News item on Billboard campaign opposing Ontario's cap and trade program launched by Ontario chapter of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. Report highlights billboard in London, Ontario that calls on Ontario Deputy Premier, Deb Matthews to repeal the tax. Includes references to the increased hydro costs borne by hospitals in the London, Woodstock and Stratford areas.

The Energy Mix Conservation Continues as Ontario's Most Cost Effective Energy Option
Article on report from the Environment Commissioner of Ontario that highlights the cost effective benefits of energy conservation. Every Joule Counts, the commissioner's Annual Energy Conservation Progress Report, notes that electricity conservation came in at a price of 3.5¢ per kilowatt-hour in 2015, compared to higher price ranges for renewables, hydro generation, nuclear, and natural gas. Similar article in Construction Links.

Kingston Whig Standard High costs plague energy consumers in Ontario
Letter to the editor that criticizes Ontario energy policies. Commentary notes breakdown of energy supply mix and criticizes the cost benefit of renewables in Ontario relative to their level of contribution to the overall power needs of the province. Includes references to figures noting decline in electricity consumption in various parts of the province contrast with an oversupply of

generated power.

National Post Can Canada kill the lights in Trump Tower? Unfortunately, it's not that easy
News article that analyzes statements from Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, Chrystia Freeland that Trump Tower in Manhattan is powered by Hydro Quebec. Article goes on to note the level of electricity and energy exports from Canada to the US and the pattern that illustrates more north south energy links from Canada to the US than within Canada.

QP Briefing Green energy policies cost Ontarians cash (full article below)
The province's green energy policies have zapped ratepayers where it hurts: their wallets. That's according to a forthcoming report from the C.D. Howe Institute, provided exclusively to QP Briefing. The independent think tank says fixed-priced contracts with wind and solar generators and the cancellation of coal-fired plants are behind soaring electricity prices, with a "likely negative" impact on jobs and a "very limited" upside for Mother Earth.

"In short, the current Ontario green energy policies have run up against Pielke's iron law of climate change: when citizens are faced with a major trade-off between the economy and the environment, the former will almost always prevail," report author Michael Trebilcock wrote.

Electricity prices — at both off-peak and peak times — rose about 10 per cent annually between 2009 and 2016, according to figures from the Ontario Energy Board. In 2006, Ontario's hydro rates were 40 per cent cheaper than those in western New York, but by 2015, the province's prices topped that region's by five per cent, the report found. The think tank traces the rise in rates back to 2009, when the province unrolled its Green Energy Act. The legislation established feed-in tariffs under fixed-price contracts for renewable energy generators in order to encourage development of clean power in Ontario.
A feed-in tariff is the price paid to operators of renewable power plants — primarily wind and solar — when they feed that power into the provincial grid. The price, set in cents per kilowatt-hour and reduced every two years, is shared among all ratepayers. Initially, the price for power from wind turbines was set at 13.5 cents per kWh and 80 cents per kWh for solar power, according to the Independent Electricity System Operator. Those numbers soared above the average wholesale cost of electricity of six cents per kWh.

The report points out that even after downward adjustments in 2014, prices under the fixed-price renewable program were double the prevailing rates elsewhere for wind and three-and-a-half times the prevailing rates for solar energy, according to the auditor general's annual report in 2015. Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault's office responded that closing the coal plants "remains the biggest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America." It pointed to a Toronto Vital Signs report showing that deaths and hospitalizations stemming from air pollution having dropped by 23 per cent and 41 per cent respectively since 2004, saving billions in health care costs.

An energy spokesperson pointed out that Ontario electricity prices are "middle of the pack" compared against other provinces, citing the province's financial accountability officer. Industrial electricity prices of 8.35 cents per kWh in 2015 came up lower than those in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and the U.S. industrial average — 8.71 per kWh.
"What’s important about these comparisons is that even though these jurisdictions continue to rely heavily on dirty fossil fuels, our electricity rates are still cheaper. The good news is that Ontario is in this position even after doing the heavy lifting in terms of rebuilding aging infrastructure and transitioning off of coal," said spokesperson Colin Nekolaichuk.

The C.D. Howe Institute also dug into the Liberal government over linking Ontario into a cap-and-trade system shared between Quebec and California. The Ministry of Finance has projected the cost of the carbon market at $285 per household in 2019. The author's criticism runs counter to one of his counterparts at the think tank, Vincent Thivierge, who wrote in June that “Quebec and Ontario citizens and businesses should be pleased with the availability of lower-cost emissions allowances from California.”

The recent 25-per-cent drop on average to ratepayers' hydro bills found no support among the think-tank researchers, with the long-term cost to Ontarians sitting at $21 billion over three decades, according to auditor general Bonnie Lysyk. "In a succession of reports dating back to 2011, the Ontario auditor general found that almost none of these policy initiatives had been subjected to a rigorous cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness plan where costs were estimated relative to environmental benefits and employment effects or compared to alternative policy options," the report added.

The think tank didn't contest the point that more clean power in Ontario equals fewer greenhouse gasses pumped out. But it noted power generation overall comprised less than 10 per cent of total emissions in the province in 2012, meaning "the focus on electricity is out of proportion with the areas of the economy," Trebilcock wrote. The transportation and industrial sectors, in contrast, were responsible for about one-third and 30 per cent of emissions, respectively. The report also questioned claims from former energy minister George Smitherman that the Long-Term Energy Plan, unrolled in 2010, would create 50,000 green jobs. It cited the auditor general's 2011 estimate that 75 per cent of these jobs would be in construction, last three years or less, and come in lockstep with job loss in other sectors due to higher hydro rates.

The energy minister's office responded that Ontarians "now have the fastest growing clean tech sector in Canada," with innovation and education evident in institutions such as Fanshawe College, St. Lawrence College and St. Clair College, which train wind power technicians and other renewables experts. The report referenced "senior Republican officials" and economists to support a carbon tax, "rather than attempting to pick winners through subsidy policies."

Trebilcock backs a national carbon tax scheme, unveiled in May by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, that would promote "economy-wide cost-effective emission reductions, with revenues rebated to the provinces . . . In contrast, Ontario appears to be in the process of piling a cap-and-trade regime on top of subsidy policies." Trebilcock seemed to suggest that U.S. President Donald Trump's climate change skepticism is grounds for reining in clean energy action.

"Aggressive abatement policies adopted by any single jurisdiction risk being negated by the migration of emissions, investments, and jobs to more permissive jurisdictions — an environmentally, economically, and politically disastrous policy outcome," he wrote. "Canada is at high risk in adopting costly abatement policies just as the US government proceeds with proposed plans to scale back its clean energy policies."

A new Climate Change Adaptation Plan is expected from the Environment Ministry by late fall 2017.

Flagged for Discussion

NA

Tweets

Hydro_Embrun: We have applied to the @OntEnergyBoard to increase our electricity distribution rates. Learn more. Have your say...hydroembrun.ca/en/news/notice…
https://twitter.com/Hydro_Embrun/status/897155614371086336

Hydro_Embrun:
https://twitter.com/Hydro_Embrun/status/897158122594349057

Hydro_Embrun: Nous avons demandé à @CommEnergieOnt d'augmenter nos tarifs de distribution de l'électricité. Soyez mieux renseigné. Donnez votre opinion.
https://twitter.com/Hydro_Embrun/status/897156955608936448

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https://twitter.com/Hydro_Embrun/status/897158183248068608

ecostrategy: Energy conservation: a wise investment in Ontario's future - Construction News | Construction Links | constructionlinks.ca/news/energy-co…
https://twitter.com/ecostrategy/status/897155293041315840

ecostrategy: September 22-24th Green Energy Doors Open #GEDO17 at Ontario location near you - it is easy to register your project huffstrategy.com/MediaManager/r…
https://twitter.com/ecostrategy/status/897152207749083136

Josealao_TO: Conservation Continues as Ontario's Most Cost-Effective Energy Option theenergymix.com/2017/08/14/con… via @TheEnergyMix
https://twitter.com/Josealao_TO/status/897128821916303364

MINnews: Union Gas Bringing Affordable Natural Gas to New Ontario Communities - minj.me/w1g #Ontario #Municipal #Energy
https://twitter.com/MINnews/status/897124409756004352

constructca: Report: Energy conservation: a wise investment in Ontario's future: ow.ly/v5eF30eovFv @Ont_ECO
https://twitter.com/constructca/status/897115186343149568

Lookingin7: Just so you know.... the billions spent on energy is at this moment producing ..... 0.5% of Ontario's needs. #ClimateAction #onpoli
https://twitter.com/Lookingin7/status/897106327281045504

better listen to the people of Ontario who have been bankrupted by Liberal Green policies!! Highest hydro rates in Canada!
https://twitter.com/emilia_suze/status/897130866048217088

This little truth telling about hydro in Ontario remains one of our mostly deeply read stories @TorontoStar #onpoli
https://twitter.com/IreneGentle/status/897126605696503809

How you feel about Hydro Rates in Ontario please speak out to @Kathleen_Wynne to help other Ontarian's
https://twitter.com/Shannon281975/status/897126078287839232

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From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: August-15-17 7:33 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Tuesday, August 15, 2017

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (**Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca**)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 9 Results

NP

Corporate welfare via conservation

National Post - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Brady Yauch

Ad Value: $10,822
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

Ontario **electricity** customers will fork over $100 million to pay a small group of large **energy** consumers for a conservation program that won't save any **energy**. Worse, the government agencies responsible for ...

Caledonia barricades are back; 'Too many wrong mistakes'make a return

National Post - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value:$13,063
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A4

There's a Yogi Berra quote for everything life can throw at you, and in Caledonia, Ont., at the moment, it might seem obvious which is the one. The barricade on Argyle Street, the town's main drag, is up again; it's even part of one of the original ...

High costs plague energy consumers in Ontario

Kingston Whig-Standard - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value:$495
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

How can the Liberals say they created reliable, competitive clean **energy** in Ontario when the data shows different. Based on several Independent **Electricity** System Operator data reports, **hydro** was produced by nuclear ...

How can Liberals keep getting away with making such claims?

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value:$441
Reach: 11123 **Page:** A6

To the editor: How can the Liberals say they created reliable, competitive clean **energy** in Ontario when the data shows differently? This is based on several **IESO** data reports that **Hydro** produced by nuclear (60%), ...

Billboard takes aim at high energy bills | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
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Wynne not 'philosophically opposed' to HSR operating, maintaining LRT

thespec.com - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline:npaddon@thespec.com
Reach: 90600

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is not "philosophically opposed" to the Hamilton Street Railway operating and maintaining the proposed $1-billion light rail transit line. "I think we need to be open to what makes sense in communities, so Metrolinx ...

Conservation Continues as Ontario's Most Cost-Effective Energy Option | The Energy Mix

theenergymix.com - Mon Aug 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Ontario is “roughly on track” to meet most of its energy conservation targets through 2030, but there’s a lot more the province can do to reduce its energy use, the province’s environment commissioner (ECO) reported late last week.

Energy conservation: a wise investment in Ontario’s future - Construction News | Construction Links | Get Found in Canada

constructionlinks.ca - Mon Aug 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

A new report by Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), shows that energy conservation continues to be a wise investment in Ontario’s future.

Hold the Date: September 22-24th for Green Energy Doors Open GEDO17 at a location near you - Environmental Communication Options/Huff Strategy

huffstrategy.com - Mon Aug 14 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Curious about green energy? Get a behind-the-scenes look at the green energy future of Ontario, that is already in place near you right now!

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Corporate welfare via conservation

National Post - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
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Ad Value: $10,822
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP7

Ontario **electricity** customers will fork over $100 million to pay a small group of large **energy** consumers for a conservation program that won't save any **energy**. Worse, the government agencies responsible for overseeing the operation and management of the **electricity** grid already know the conservation program is unnecessary, but are moving ahead regardless.

The money relates to a two-year program overseen by the province's **electricity** system operator, the Independent **Electricity** System Operator (**IESO**). The program, known as Demand Response, allows companies and large **energy** consumers to auction off chunks of time - during periods of high demand - when they would be willing to cut back on their **power** consumption. These companies "bid" this capacity into an auction to determine how much the province's electricity customers would have to pay them for offering this service each year. The auction is supposed to act as a cheap alternative to new power plants that would otherwise need to be built, which would only be needed for a few hours each year.

Fortunately for these companies - and unfortunately for electricity consumers across the province who have to pay for this program - Ontario's massive surplus of power means that, in reality, there's little-to-no chance in the next few years that the province will find itself short on power generation. The companies "bidding" into this auction are getting paid to provide a service that they know they'll never have to provide.

The companies benefiting from the program aren't the only ones that know it's a waste of time and money.

A group of experts at the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) that investigates and reports on activities in the province's electricity market recently noted that this conservation program was "unnecessary and inefficient." The experts pointed to the province's own data showing that Ontario is "flush with supply," concluding that any capacity procured through the Demand Response auctions is simply "not needed."

Even IESO, the provincial agency that manages the electricity market and the Demand Response auctions, admits that the auctions are little more than a "learning opportunity." Yet this learning opportunity, as the experts at the OEB point out, "comes at a cost" to ratepayers of $100 million while providing "little benefit."

IESO's own electricity forecasts show that the need for the auctions is non-existent well into the next decade. The agency's most aggressive demand forecasts - which include a major uptake of electric vehicles and a switch from natural gas to electric heating - clearly show that existing generation assets in the province can meet summer and winter peak demand out to 2025 and 2023, respectively. A more realistic scenario, according to IESO, shows that existing generators can largely meet peak demand out to 2035, with just a very minor shortfall in one year (2025). IESO concluded that Ontario has "sufficient resources to meet demand requirements generally over the next decade across all outlooks."

Nonetheless, IESO is planning to actually increase the size of its auctions by nearly doubling it next year. The experts at the OEB say the only reason IESO is expanding the program is so it can hit "administratively determined" targets, not ones based on a "reasonable expectation" of needs. Put more simply: The program isn't needed and is simply a bureaucratic exercise aimed at hitting politically established conservation targets, rather than providing value to electricity customers or an environmental benefit.

Worse still for the province's residential customers and small business owners is that the cost of conservation programs is funded through a charge called the "global adjustment," which is applied each month to the generation portion of hydro bills. Due to a provincial policy introduced in 2011, small customers now pay a greater share of global adjustment costs than large consumers, meaning the cost of the auctions, among other conservation programs, is paid disproportionately by small customers, while large customers remain their biggest beneficiary.

Abandoning the Demand Response program would cut $100 million off electricity costs for the province, notably for the small businesses and households that will pay the majority of those costs, while having no negative environmental impact.

Brady Yauch is an economist and Executive Director of the Consumer Policy Institute (CPI).
bradyyauch@consumerpolicyinstitute.org

Back to Top

NP

Caledonia barricades are back; 'Too many wrong mistakes'make a return

National Post · Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Christie Blatchford

Ad Value: $13,063
Reach: 159480 **Page:** A4

There's a Yogi Berra quote for everything life can throw at you, and in Caledonia, Ont., at the moment, it might seem obvious which is the one.

The barricade on Argyle Street, the town's main drag, is up again; it's even part of one of the original **hydro** towers that were dragged down in the bad old days of 2006. Since last Thursday, people have had to either take the bypass or go around via the McKenzie Road.

And the Ontario Provincial Police are once again in position, there at the ready to direct traffic and not, heaven's no, remove the barricade. As Const. Rod LeClair put it recently, police ask everyone to "remain calm, patient, obey the law and respect the rights of others for the benefit of all."

It is indeed, as the late great New York Yankee legend inimitably put it, "déjà vu all over again."

But that's not the Berra saying that really fits. What is, from the Ontario government's point of view, is "We made too many wrong mistakes" back in 2006 and by God, we're going to make them again.

Eleven years ago, this gorgeous little town south of Hamilton was the site of another protest, a long, drawn out, bitter, often violent occupation by native protesters over a residential subdivision called Douglas Creek Estates that was then under construction.

It began on Feb. 28, and over the months and years that followed, the rule of law was completely flouted, residents terrorized, millions of public money spent, two-tier policing entrenched (one rule for non-natives who broke the law and another for natives who did the same) and the town and its people wholly abandoned by their government.

I'd say that no one should ever forget what happened in Caledonia, but in truth, two levels of government (in Ottawa, the Stephen Harper Conservatives; at Queen's Park, the Dalton McGuinty Liberals) did their best to ensure that no one outside of the town knew or really cared about what happened.

(Full disclosure: I wrote a book, published in 2010, about this disgrace, called Helpless: Caledonia's Nightmare of Fear and Anarchy and How the Law Failed All of Us.)

In fairness, the current dispute appears very much different from the old one.

Where the former had the formal blessing of neither group and was more of an informal collective (in the end, with native supporters from far-flung reserves, Mohawk Warriors, unions and even the Niagara Palestinian Association), this one appears an internal issue, between the traditional government at Six Nations, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council, or HCCC, and the Six Nations Elected Council.

But it has its roots in the events of 2006.

Back then, one of the province's many appointed mediators was former Liberal premier David Peterson.

One of the most amusing anecdotes in my book came from Don Henning, one of the developers of Douglas Creek Estates.

It was the spring of 2006, shortly after Peterson was appointed. He asked to meet Henning and his brother John somewhere secluded and private - then promptly suggested Tim Hortons, only the busiest place in town.

Peterson arrived in a bright yellow fleece in a Mercedes convertible, with, of course, an entourage of henchmen.

They ended up moving the meeting.

In any case, Peterson managed to get the protesters to agree to take down the barricades on Highway 6, and the way he did it was by offering up the so-called Burtch lands.

In fact, the Ontario government also had put much of the rest of the land the province owned in the area on the table for consideration - with none of the locals being informed, of course.

The 380 acres of the Burtch lands had been used in the past for a prison and former airfield for Second World War pilots-in-training.

Now, these negotiations, as with much else, were done in secrecy, so it's not clear to whom Peterson promised the lands.

But the Haudenosaunee says it was them, and they did have the native lead in negotiations for about three years.

At the end of March this year, the Ontario government transferred the land, not to the HCCC, but to the Six Nations council.

So this is an internecine fight, with the town and townspeople having no dog in the race.

But it was born in 2006, in the desperation of the Mc-Guinty government to make the mess go away without offending the Indigenous community and at whatever cost to the public.

And so was the OPP style of policing, wherein the rank and file were under marching orders to turn a blind eye to native law-breaking and who treated townspeople who objected as the problem.

The outrageous low was a month-long period when on one side of the occupied site, on the Sixth Line where policing was virtually nonexistent, residents actually had to show native-issued "passports" even to get to their homes.

In the intervening years, some Caledonia residents have died, or moved, or moved on. Those left have no heart for another fight.

As Toby Barrett, the local Conservative MPP who was so magnificent during the original crisis, put it Monday in a phone interview from Ottawa, where he's at a conference, "Eleven years, the precedents are set. How can you put that back in the box?" You see: The government made too many wrong mistakes.

Back to Top

High costs plague energy consumers in Ontario

Kingston Whig-Standard - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value: $495
Reach: 21850 **Page:** A4

How can the Liberals say they created reliable, competitive clean **energy** in Ontario when the data shows different. Based on several Independent **Electricity** System Operator data reports, **hydro** was produced by nuclear (60 per cent), hydroelectric (24 per cent), **natural gas** (10 per cent), **wind** (six per cent), and **solar** and biomass (less than one per cent).

We know **wind** and **solar power** are very unreliable sources of **energy** that has to be backed up by **gas** or nuclear **power**, which causes us to overproduce **hydro**. Then there is the problem of producing **power** when it is not needed, so how is this cost effective. Green **energy** makes up a large portion of our **hydro** bill, next to the delivery charge, while creating less than eight per cent of our **energy**.

Perhaps **Energy** Minister Glenn Thibeault can explain how producing less than eight per cent of our **hydro** by **wind**, **solar** and biomass in an uncontrollable manner is cost effective when you can't manage how much of it is being produced to control the grid in a reliable, costeffective manner.

On Dec. 2, 2013, the Financial Post reported that Ontario lost $1.2 billion exporting excess **hydro**. The trend continues, as in 2016 Ontario lost $1 billion exporting excess **hydro**. So Minister Thibeault can see how overpaying for **wind**, **solar** and biomass **power** and losing a billion dollars a year exporting excess **hydro** and sticking us to pay a global adjustment fee on **hydro** produced has created an **energy** crisis, and all of your rebates just prolong the problem.

Can the Liberals not see that Ontario is overproducing **hydro** although the demand has dropped? Toronto **Hydro** reports a 25 per cent drop in usage in the past 10 years, according to a CBC report. Another reporter at Global News cited that all across Ontario the average household has been using 25 per cent less **power** since 2006. So why do the Liberals continue to overproduce **hydro** at any cost. Is it the Liberal Kool-Aid? Every time the Wynne Liberals invest in this unreliable source of **energy**, it means our **hydro** bills will continue to be No. 1 in North America. That is an accomplishment only Minister Thibeault and Premier Wynne can be proud of.

Come election day, don't be fooled by Wynne's election bribes that will take more money out of your pockets in the future and increase's our provincial debt, which is already out of control. Ross Ayotte Smiths Falls

Back to Top

How can Liberals keep getting away with making such claims?

The Brockville Recorder & Times - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Ross Ayotte

Ad Value: $441
Reach: 11123 **Page:** A6

To the editor: How can the Liberals say they created reliable, competitive clean **energy** in Ontario when the data shows differently? This is based on several **IESO** data reports that **Hydro** produced by nuclear (60%), hydroelectric (24%), **natural gas** (10%), **wind** (6%), **solar** and biomass (both less than 1%).

We know **wind** and **solar power** are very unreliable sources of **energy** which has to be back up by **gas** or nuclear **power**, which causes us to over produce **hydro**.

Then there is the problem of producing **power** when it is not needed. So how is this cost effective? Green **energy** makes up a large portion of our **hydro** bill next to the delivery charge while creating less than 8% of our **energy**.

Glenn Thibeault, can you explain how producing less than 8% of our **hydro** by **wind**, **solar**, and biomass in an uncontrollable manner is cost effective when you can't manage how much of it is being produced to control the grid in a reliable cost effective manner? On Dec 2, 2013, the Financial Posts reported Ontario lost $1.2 billion exporting excess **hydro**.

The trend continues as in 2016 Ontario lost $1 billion exporting excess **hydro**. So, Glenn, you can see how by overpaying for **wind**, **solar** and biomass **power** and losing a billion dollars a year exporting excess **hydro** and sticking us to pay a global adjustment fee on **hydro** produced that the Liberals created an **energy** crisis, and all your rebates just prolong the problem.

Can the Liberals not see that Ontario is over-producing **hydro** and the demand has dropped? Toronto **Hydro** reports a 25% in usage in the last 10 years in a CBC article July 8, 2016; then there is a report on Sept 8, 2016, by Global News that all across Ontario the average household has been using 25% less **power** since 2006. So why do the Liberals continue to over-produce **hydro** and at any cost? Is it the Liberal Kool-Aid? Every time the Wynne Liberals invest in this unreliable source of **energy** means our **Hydro** bills will continue to be first in North America.

Is being the highest costing only an accomplishment, Glenn Thibeault and Premier Wynne can be proud of? Come election day don't be fooled by Wynne's election bribes that will take more money out of your pockets in the future and increase our provincial debt, which is already out of control.

Ross Ayotte

Smiths Falls

Back to Top

Billboard takes aim at high energy bills | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Neutral

Back to Top

Wynne not 'philosophically opposed' to HSR operating, maintaining LRT

thespec.com - Tue Aug 15 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: npaddon@thespec.com
Reach: 90600

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is not "philosophically opposed" to the Hamilton Street Railway operating and maintaining the proposed $1-billion light rail transit line.

"I think we need to be open to what makes sense in communities, so Metrolinx will look at that and have that conversation," she told a Spectator editorial board meeting Monday, where she touched on issues including health care and traffic.

Wynne later added: "Obviously we want these infrastructure capital dollars to go as far as possible, and we want to be able to build as much as we can, so anything that's going to undermine that is going to be a challenge."

Last week, city councillors supported a motion from Coun. Matthew Green to back HSR transit workers in their push to operate and maintain the LRT. Councillors voted to ask Metrolinx to put the HSR in charge of those two jobs instead of selecting a third party to do so.

The vote goes to council for ratification Friday.

Local Liberal MPP Ted McMeekin, who was also at Monday's meeting, raised concerns about re-opening the conversation at this point.

"I was intrigued that city council in their infinite wisdom or folly didn't choose to raise that … before they voted on the approval," he said.

He questioned whether this move could come at a "new cost" to the city, and how that might "change the dynamic" around the project.

Traffic

The premier was asked about the province's position on taking over the Red Hill Valley Parkway and the Lincoln Alexander Parkway or allowing the city to implement tolls on those roads.

She said she has not seen proposals from the city on these issues, which have been raised in the past by Coun. Sam Merulla.

"I don't have any idea whether council is thinking about that or whether a proposal has come to the Ministry of Transportation," she said.

She later added: "Fundamentally, I'm open to and we're open to looking at options to find ways of helping people move around."

She was also asked if the government has a plan to deal with weekend congestion on the Queen Elizabeth Way between Oakville and Niagara.

"Building transit and increasing GO service has been a real focus of our government, and that requires, it requires a culture change," she said. "It does mean we're saying there's a different way to get around the GTHA and that will only happen … when it's more convenient to take a train than it is to drive."

She said the province has extended GO service to Niagara, but noted managing traffic flow on the weekend will only work once service is "all day and goes both ways."

As for when all-day GO service will come to Hamilton, Wynne said there is not a "firm date," but train service will see incremental increases over the next five years.

The province has to negotiate with CN Rail, as they do in other municipalities, and determine whether they need to build new track or find a way to share the existing ones, she said.

Health care

The province has been putting more resources into home care, but needs to build more hospices.

These are a couple of the strategies Wynne highlighted to help the province better deal with the number of people waiting for long-term care beds.

The province has already launched a pilot project to work with retirement homes by putting a subsidy in place to allow some of their space to be used for long-term care; and it is funding "collective care" in settings like small apartments buildings where a concentrated number of seniors live.

When asked whether these changes will put a "dent" in the current health care situation two years from now, the premier said she hopes the system will at least be easier to navigate because of changes made through the Patients First plan.

Popularity

What does the premier make of where she and the Liberal party rank in polls, which have shown them trailing behind the Progressive Conservatives?

"Whether people like me today or don't like me today is actually beside the point," Wynne said. "It's more about whether their kid's going to be able to go to school, whether they're going to be able to get the health care they need as we were just talking about, whether their community is going to get the infrastructure that they need."

Asked what she would do differently looking back, she said she tries to look at the evidence at every juncture.

She pointed to the Liberal government's controversial decision to sell off part of public utility **Hydro** One, calling it a "politically costly decision."

"The **Hydro** One decision was a very hard decision … but I had promised that we were going to make major investments in infrastructure across this province and we needed to realize some cash to do that," she said.

Liberal nominations

Ted McMeekin and Judi Partridge were acclaimed as local provincial Liberal candidates at a joint nomination meeting Monday night.

McMeekin, a Liberal MPP, will run in a new Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas riding created to mirror federal election borders.

City Ward 15 Coun. Partridge will be the Liberal candidate in the new riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook.

Premier Kathleen Wynne attended the meeting at Dundas Town Hall.

Back to Top

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Back to Top