John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: November 20, 2017 9:18 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning News Summary - Monday, November 20, 2017

Good morning,

Here's the summary of today's news clippings:

Main highlight:

Toronto Sun: Hydro One cash ask a bad sign for customers: opposition (note OEB mentions)

- Progressive Conservative energy critic says Hydro One's application for a rate hike (transmission) is a sure sign that customers' bills will rise next year
- Quotes spokesman for energy minister saying the OEB has mandate to protect the interests of ratepayers, and in 2010, OEB reduced Hydro One's distribution rates by 9%
- Story also mentions Hydro One's application before OEB to increase distribution rates until 2022

Other news of note:

Waterloo Region Record: Ontario staying with renewable energy, but it's costly (note OEB mention)

- Column by the Fraser Institute about Ontario government's expansion of renewable energy resulting in higher electricity costs
- Says a report from the OEB in 2016 found that nuclear and hydroelectric generators, despite providing the majority of electricity output in Ontario, received much lower rates than wind, solar and biofuel generators.

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Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Monday, November 20, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 22 Results

Hydro One cash ask a bad sign for customers: opposition | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, November 18, 2017
OEB is mentioned.

An application by Hydro One for a nearly 5% rate increase next year is a sure sign to hydro customers that their bills are headed skyward, Progressive Conservative Energy Critic Todd Smith says.

Hospital coping with surging hydro rates; Bluewater Health projecting a $175,000 surplus

Sarnia Observer - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tyler Kula

Ad Value: $464
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A2

The rising cost of **electricity** in **Ontario** is having a substantial effect on hospital budgets. Documents obtained by the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation show **electricity** bills have been on the rise at ...

New coalition vows to pressure government on high hydro rates

windsorstar.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Dave Battagello, Windsor Star
Reach: 56100

A diverse assembly of 19 groups representing business, agriculture, manufacturing and other sectors from across **Ontario** have formed a coalition to pressure the provincial government over escalating **hydro** costs. The ...

Hiding hydro costs and kicking them down the road

The Sachem - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $64
Reach: 6967 **Page:** 1

Recently, I received a copy of a Caledonia **electricity** bill; and, to compare, a **Hydro** Quebec bill for a similar house. Even after Premier Wynne's touted lowering of **rates**, the **Hydro** Quebec bill was ...

Hydro Comes Begging

24 Hours Toronto - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,455
Reach: 262727 **Page:** A5

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BAD PLAN

Toronto Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: R. Garant

Ad Value: $942
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

I read with great disdain in the guest column how **Glenn Thibeault** is trying to sell us on how his Liberal cohorts are helping **Ontario** residents save all this money on their **hydro** bills ("NDP misses mark on ...

Thibeault ready for 'tough fight'

Sudbury Star - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Keith Dempsey

Ad Value: $966
Reach: 114934 **Page:** A1 / Front

Glenn Thibeault isn't too concerned about a recent phone survey conducted for The Star by Oraclepoll that shows Sudburians are split almost evenly between the NDP, Liberals and Progressive Conservatives. The NDP's Jamie ...

Canada robs itself of energy prosperity

Ottawa Sun - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $725
Reach: 36297 **Page:** A20

Canada is cutting its own economic throat by stifling its oil and **gas** sector, according to a new report by the International **Energy** Agency. The IEA says Canada is reducing itself to a bit player on global **energy** ...

Hydro comes begging; A sure sign that rates are going to go up, energy critic warns

Toronto Sun - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $3,408
Reach: 143813 **Page:** A7

One for a nearly 5% **rate** increase next year is a sure sign to **hydro** customers that their bills are headed skyward, Progressive Conservative **Energy** Critic Todd Smith says. "**Rates** are going to up - you can ...

Why is Ontario addicted to wind power?; Our government's decisions make no sense and it isn't answering squestions

Toronto Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
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Ad Value: $3,292
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

Every time I am interviewed by the media, or speak at a **public** meeting, I am asked: Why is **Ontario** continuing to push ahead with its program of industrial-scale **wind** turbines and **wind** **power**, ...

It costs more, but Ontario stays with renewable energy

Waterloo Region Record - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Elmira Aliakbari and Ashley Stedman

Ad Value: $2,400
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A6

The **Ontario** government's rigorous pursuit of renewables has increased **electricity** costs far more than necessary. The government recently released an update to its long-term **energy** **plan**, projecting that ...

CTV QP: 'We need to move past coal': McKenna | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

'Most people don't understand how bad it is': Arctic climate change affecting the south

thespec.com - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral **Reach:** 90600

An international summary of five year's worth of research on Arctic **climate** **change** concludes the top of the world is getting warmer faster than anyone thought. And if it all sounds interesting but a little far removed from ...

Time for Ontario's Conservatives to spell out where they stand: Editorial

thestar.com - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Star Editorial Board
Reach: 999000

Finally, **Ontario** voters have a glimmer of what the province's Progressive Conservatives would do if they win the next election set for June 7. Last week the PCs took a stand: if they do take over at Queen's Park in just over six months' ...

Grits headed for a fall; Small business not fooled by Liberals

Ottawa Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,227
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A4

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa must feel like Rodney Dangerfield's "I don't get no respect" line. And rightfully so. Sousa delivered a shameful, electioneering fall economic statement last week in which he threw half a billion ...

Carr stands behind Trans Mountain project; 'An approved pipeline and we want it built'

National Post - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $12,873
Reach: 185480 **Page:** FP4

The federal government unequivocally wants the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion built, is committed to increasing regulatory certainty through major reforms that will be announced in the coming months and will keep the headquarters of the National ...

[Canada needs to keep up with oil production - Quesnel Cariboo Observer]

www.quesnelobserver.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, November 18, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

As Canada, along with Mexico and the United States, negotiate a revised North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the future of our major industries – forestry and fisheries in British Columbia, potash in Saskatchewan, oil and natural gas in ...

NDP leader will run in Saint John Harbour riding in upcoming election - New Brunswick - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Saturday, November 18, 2017
Energy East is mentioned.

New Brunswick NDP Leader Jennifer McKenzie will try to reclaim the Saint John Harbour riding for the NDP in next year's provincial election in September 2018.

Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil in South Dakota

gearsofbiz.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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TransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

Carr stands behind Trans Mountain: 'This is an approved pipeline and we want it built' | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

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The federal government unequivocally wants the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion built, is committed to increasing regulatory certainty through major reforms that will be announced in the coming months and will keep the headquarters of the National ...

[TransCanada says clean up work underway after Keystone pipeline leak in South Dakota | Toronto Star]

www.thestar.com - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

TransCanada Corp. said Friday that work is well underway to clean up a sizable oil leak at its Keystone pipeline in South Dakota that occurred days before a vote on the fate of the company's flagship pipeline proposal.

TransCanada's Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

TransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Hydro One cash ask a bad sign for customers: opposition | Toronto Sun

torontosun.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral

An application by Hydro One for a nearly 5% rate increase next year is a sure sign to hydro customers that their bills are headed skyward, Progressive Conservative Energy Critic Todd Smith says.

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Hospital coping with surging hydro rates ; Bluewater Health projecting a $175,000 surplus

Sarnia Observer - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Tyler Kula

Ad Value: $464
Reach: 12173 **Page:** A2

The rising cost of **electricity** in **Ontario** is having a substantial effect on hospital budgets.

Documents obtained by the **Canadian** Taxpayers Federation show **electricity** bills have been on the rise at hospitals across **Ontario** over the last five years, most increasing 20-50 per cent in that time.

In Sarnia-Lambton, **Bluewater** Health's bill is up just over 40 per cent between 2012 and 2016, jumping $850,000 over that span to just under $3 million per year.

"How is **Bluewater** Health expected to manage their budget when **electricity** bills are rising by hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Christine Van Geyn, the federation's **Ontario** director in a press release.

"The more the hospital has to spend keeping their lights on, the fewer resources they have for patients."

The outliers include one hospital that saw its expense rise 125 per cent, and another that saw a 3.7-per-cent reduction, Van Geyn said in an email, noting she's not sure the reasons why.

The federation is pushing for structural changes to the **electricity** sector in **Ontario**, including an end to pricey **solar** and **wind** contracts, and improved oversight for nuclear projects, Meanwhile, **Bluewater** Health has been making **energy** efficiency upgrades - including automated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment; and investing in new boilers, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting and heat wheels to recirculate air, said Samer Abou-Sweid, vice-president of operations with the hospital group.

Some of those projects have been ongoing for years, he said.

"We continue to look at more and more opportunities ... you never stop," he said.

"I think once you stop you start falling behind."

Bluewater Health is projecting a $175,000 surplus by its yearend in March, which is essentially balanced considering its about $180-million total budget, Abou-Sweid said.

A $4.1-million provincial cash injection in March helped boost the amount of some procedures available, and offset some inflation.

"We knew about the increase in **hydro** **rates** so we budgeted for that and identified different ways across the hospital to try to still manage the budget despite the increase," Abou-Sweid said.

Other pressures on it and other **Ontario** hospitals include aging populations and more people seeking help for mental health, he said.

"I think all hospitals are feeling the pressure and they're working with the Ministry of Health on getting some support."

Earlier this year, Premier Kathleen Wynne rolled back the cost of **electricity** temporarily for residential **ratepayers**, ultimately increasing the long-term cost for short-term relief.

Rates for hospitals and other institutions were unaffected.
tkula@postmedia.com

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New coalition vows to pressure government on high hydro rates

windsorstar.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Dave Battagello, Windsor Star
Reach: 56100

A diverse assembly of 19 groups representing business, agriculture, manufacturing and other sectors from across **Ontario** have formed a coalition to pressure the provincial government over escalating **hydro** costs.

The **Ontario** **Electricity** Stakeholders Alliance is also demanding more transparency on government decisions on **electricity** and seeking the introduction of more competition and calling for "smart **electricity** decisions" through "rigorous cost-benefit analysis."

The Windsor-**Essex** **Regional** Chamber of Commerce is among the groups which have joined the coalition, which also includes **Canadian** Manufacturers and Exporters, **Ontario** Greenhouse Vegetable Growers and **Ontario** Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association.

The rising cost of **electricity** - "up to 400 per cent in the past number of years" - has made it the No. 1 issue for business across **Ontario**, said Matt Marchand, CEO of the local chamber of commerce.

"We are a very diverse group," he said. "We are not blaming anyone, but (government) needs to do a better job on **energy** costs in **Ontario** - this government, the next one and the one after that. There have been many government decisions in the past that led us to where we are today.

"We need a transparent **plan** on how to move forward on **electricity**, so everyone can understand where prices are going. We want them to come down through cost-effective decisions."

By working together, the new alliance said it expects to carry more clout into discussions with all parties.

"We will tell them 'here are our concerns,' so lets start the process to get costs lower," Marchand said.

"We need accountability, we need competition and smart **electricity** decisions that ensure **Ontario** businesses and households are getting the best value."

Too many jobs and economic investment opportunities are being lost in **Ontario** as companies increasingly set up in Ohio or other midwestern states where **hydro** costs can be one-third of what they are in this province, he said.

"We see the impact of that right here in Windsor and **Essex** County," Marchand said. "The cost of **electricity** has skyrocketed and has been a disincentive for business to stay here."

dbattagello@postmedia.com(mailto:dbattagello@postmedia.com)

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Hiding hydro costs and kicking them down the road

The Sachem - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $64
Reach: 6967 **Page:** 1

Recently, I received a copy of a Caledonia **electricity** bill; and, to compare, a **Hydro** Quebec bill for a similar house.

Even after Premier Wynne's touted lowering of **rates**, the **Hydro** Quebec bill was half the cost - a bill for a family that heat and cook with **electricity**. There is not enough space in this column to begin to describe the mismanagement, the bad contracts, and the political motivation that has made **Ontario** the laughing stock of **electricity** policy in **North** America.

For example, the CEO of **Hydro** Quebec makes one-tenth the more than $4 million salary of the **Ontario** CEO of **Hydro** One. As for that heavily-advertised **rate** reduction - the television ads alone cost the people of **Ontario** $5.5 million - if the present government truly wanted to lower our **electricity** **rates**, those in charge would lower costs. They haven't. Instead, the government is borrowing money to subsidize today's bills - essentially pretending to bring in a 25 per cent reduction without cutting the costs - and kicking the cost to be paid down the road. Last month, **Ontario** Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk revealed the Wynne Liberals hid the true cost of this unfair **hydro plan**. Thanks to dubious accounting, Ontarians will be on the hook for $4 billion more than necessary as part of this **hydro** coverup. The extra $4 billion will be a result of shifting this borrowing over to **Ontario Power Generation**, a Crown **corporation** that has to pay a higher interest **rate** than does the **Ontario** government. It was two years ago, the auditor general said, that **ratepayers** had already forked out $37 billion more than necessary and will pay a whopping $133 billion by 2032. And now, according to **Ontario**'s Financial Accountability Officer, the latest borrowing will cost anywhere between $45 and $93 billion. With the Auditor General's explosive report last month, the government has taken it to a new low. Lysyk concluded that senior officials ignored the government's own policy for preparing financial statements. She said: "In essence, the government is making up its own accounting **rules**." Through the **Fair Hydro** Act, the government has created a needlessly complex accounting and financing structure for the **electricity rate** reduction in order to hide the deficit or increase in debt. Last May, the auditor general warned this practice would be unacceptable and would set a dangerous precedent.

She said: "This legislated accounting is not in accordance with **Canadian public**-sector accounting standards. These standards are there to ensure the financial reporting of government policy decisions reflects common sense: borrowings are debt; unearned revenue is not an asset today; and when your expenses exceed your revenues, you incur a deficit." As she said, this "would be unacceptable in the private sector, and we maintain that this is also unacceptable in the **public** sector." It's difficult to comprehend why government could be so insensitive to the plight of families who choose between paying their **hydro** bill, or putting food on the table. After 14 years, they've have lost the ability to distinguish between the **public** interest and their own interest. And they've failed miserably to get **electricity** costs under control. In case this isn't enough, a leaked Liberal cabinet document shows **hydro rates** will rise to the highest levels we've ever seen in **Ontario** after the next election.

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Hydro Comes Begging

24 Hours Toronto · Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $1,455
Reach: 262727 **Page:** A5

An **application** by **Hydro** One for a nearly 5% **rate** increase next year is a sure sign to **hydro** customers that their bills are headed skyward, Progressive Conservative **Energy** Critic Todd Smith says.

"**Rates** are going to up - you can guarantee it," Smith said Friday. "We all know that **rates** are going to skyrocket after the next election once the Liberals'unfair **hydro plan** ends."

The **Ontario Energy Board** (**OEB**) is currently mulling over a **distribution rate** increase requested by **Hydro** One that would increase bills by just over $140 a year by 2022.

Hydro One CEO Mayo Schmidt said in a speech this week that the **utility** needs an increase in its **transmission rates** to "keep the system stable and functioning" by replacing aging equipment.

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesperson for **Energy** Minister **Glenn Thibeault**, said the **OEB** has a mandate to protect the interest of **hydro ratepayers**, and in 2010 actually reduced **Hydro** One's **distribution rates** by 9%.

"Regardless of the outcome of any rate application before the OEB, electricity bills would not be impacted beyond the rate of inflation as per the Fair Hydro Plan," Nekolaichuk said in an email Friday.

The Kathleen Wynne gov-ernment's Fair Hydro Plan reduced the average electricity bill by 25% this year, and promised four years of inflation rate increases which would likely hover around 2%.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said the Wynne government's selling off of the majority of previously publiclyowned Hydro One has hurt customers.

"They only did this to cook the books here in Ontario - it's not about people, it's not about hydro bills," Horwath said. "And we are paying it already and we're going to continue to pay for it."

Hydro One's attempts to improve its bottom line will benefit its shareholders, not its customers, she said.

The Ontario government has blamed soaring hydro bills over the last decade on the need to fix the electricity system's aging infrastructure, so why is Hydro One asking for rate increases to do the same thing? "They haven't modernized the system," Smith said. "They've spent money rigging up these renewable energy projects and natural gas plants. They actually haven't improved the quality of the lines, the transmission lines, the distribution lines and the system infrastructure."

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BAD PLAN

Toronto Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: R. Garant

Ad Value: $942
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

I read with great disdain in the guest column how Glenn Thibeault is trying to sell us on how his Liberal cohorts are helping Ontario residents save all this money on their hydro bills ("NDP misses mark on Fair Hydro Plan," Nov. 17). Supposedly by implementing the Fair Hydro Plan and how this "plan" has expanded to another wonderful Liberal program, the Ontario Electricity Support program, to include low-income Ontarians, who are the most vulnerable.

He says the PCs have no plan to counter high-priced hydro rates and the NDP are so short-sighted that their plan was drawn up on the back of a napkin. Well, Mr. Thibeault, I wouldn't be bragging too loudly about how the Liberals have lowered the average residential bill (yes, I saw the advertising) by 25% and how your plan is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history. Sooner or later the people of Ontario must pay for these Liberal programs and at a much higher rate. If it wasn't for your Liberals completely destroying the electricity portfolio, we Ontarians wouldn't be in this mess in the first place.

R. GARANT

OAKVILLE (Oh sure, bring THAT up)

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Thibeault ready for 'tough fight'

Sudbury Star - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Keith Dempsey

Ad Value: $966
Reach: 114934 **Page:** A1 / Front

Glenn Thibeault isn't too concerned about a recent phone survey conducted for The Star by Oraclepoll that shows Sudburians are split almost evenly between the NDP, Liberals and Progressive Conservatives.

The NDP's Jamie **West** is out in front, but only by three percentage points. PC candidate Troy Crowder is at 31 per cent, according to the poll, while Liberal incumbent Thibeault is in third at 30 per cent.

"I've been in this now 10 years, and polls are always different," said Thibeault, the current MPP for **Sudbury**. "The one that is most important, obviously, is election day. I'll continue to work as hard as I can to earn people's trust, to make sure that when they go into the voting booth they're going to continue to choose me to be their representative."

The incumbent is not taking anything for granted, however.

"Is this going to be a tough fight? Of course it is," he said. "I'm not going into this with the blinders on. I recognize that every election is going to be a challenge."

Surrounded by local supporters at the Copper Cliff Curling Club on Sunday, Thibeault was nominated to run for re-election as the **Ontario** Liberal Party candidate in **Sudbury**.

Election day in **Ontario** is June 7, 2018.

When asked what his priorities are for the upcoming election, Thibeault didn't specify but said "there's lots of things that are left."

Asked if he was concerned the byelection scandal and lingering bitterness over high **hydro rates** might hurt him in the upcoming election, Thibeault said he's paying attention to all issues, while stressing the Liberals did take action to lower **electricity** bills.

"If you look at what we've done as a government, making sure that we rebuild the system, making sure the system is reliable and affordable, bringing forward the 25 per cent reduction, that's been helping a lot of families," Thibeault said. "That's one of the things we've been doing in the last little bit, knocking on doors, and I am hearing from many that the changes that we've made have been helping them, and that's important."

Thibeault, who previously represented **Sudbury** federally with the NDP, was elected to the **Ontario** legislature as a Liberal in the 2015 byelection.

He was appointed **Ontario**'s **energy** minister in June, 2016.

The riding has gone NDP orange in the past, most recently with the election of Joe Cimino in 2014. The Green Party, which has yet to nominate a candidate, was preferred by just five per cent of Sudburians sampled by Oraclepoll.

Twenty per cent of those polled said they were undecided. Twitter: @keith_dempsey

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Canada robs itself of energy prosperity

Ottawa Sun - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $725
Reach: 36297 **Page:** A20

Canada is cutting its own economic throat by stifling its oil and gas sector, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency.

The IEA says Canada is reducing itself to a bit player on global energy markets and walking away from up to $600 billion worth of job-creating international investments in the Canadian economy by 2040.

The three major reasons, according to the IEA's annual World Energy Outlook report are: Canada's onerous regulatory regime for getting oil and gas projects and pipelines approved, along with the imposition of carbon pricing. Our resulting inability to get our land-locked oil and gas resources in Western Canada to global markets.The American boom in oil and gas production using hydraulic fracturing, which is turning the U.S. into the world's top producer of oil and gas, for both domestic use and to sell on global markets, leaving Canada in its wake.

Contrary to the rhetoric of the Trudeau government that the age of fossil fuels is ending, the IEA predicts global energy demand by 2040 will increase by 30%, as large as the combined energy needs of China and India today.

While demand for fossil fuels will not grow as quickly as in the past because of a gradual rise in renewable energy, the IEA predicts global oil demand will still increase to 104 million barrels per day by 2040, compared to 94 million in 2016.

Canada will benefit to some extent from this increase, but not as much as it could have.

The irony is that on the one issue the Trudeau government always talks about - reducing industrial greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change - the U.S. has done a far better job than Canada over the past three decades.

This according to the Global Carbon Budget, an authoritative scientific study released at the United Nations'annual climate change meeting in Bonn.

The major reason is that the U.S. has replaced much of its coal power with cheaper natural gas - which burns at half the carbon intensity of coal - made available through the use of fracking technology.

In other words, under the energy policies of the Trudeau government, Canadians are stuck with the worst of both worlds, in terms of our economy and the environment.

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Hydro comes begging; A sure sign that rates are going to go up, energy critic warns

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The Ontario government has blamed soaring hydro bills over the last decade on the need to fix the electricity system's aging infrastructure, so why is Hydro One asking for rate increases to do the same thing, Smith said.

"They haven't modernized the system," Smith said.

"They've spent money rigging up these renewable energy projects and natural gas plants. They actually haven't improved the quality of the lines, the transmission lines, the distribution lines and the system infrastructure."
aartuso@postmedia.com

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Why is Ontario addicted to wind power?; Our government's decisions make no sense and it isn't answering squestions

Toronto Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Jane Wilson

Ad Value: $3,292
Reach: 222184 **Page:** A19

Every time I am interviewed by the media, or speak at a public meeting, I am asked: Why is Ontario continuing to push ahead with its program of industrial-scale wind turbines and wind power, when all the facts seem to argue against it? I don't know. I don't understand why Ontario's Liberal government never did a cost-benefit analysis, or why it has ignored the admonitions of two auditors general about impacts and costs, or why it seems unable, or unwilling, to look at the real-world experience of its wind power experiment.

I don't know why the government signed contracts in 2016 for 600 megawatts of wind power when we already have a power surplus.

In 2016, Ontario paid $2.7 billion for generators of electricity from nuclear, gas and hydro not to produce power, because we were forced to accept wind power (when it shows up) to the grid.

In September, a new 100-megawatt **wind power** facility started commercial operation, but that same month, 42% of **wind power** in **Ontario**'s **west** region was curtailed (surplus, not added to the grid).

Ontario's **electricity** customers paid for that **power**, anyway.

I don't know why the government keeps adding more new **power**, which adds costs to people's **electricity** bills, so much so that "**energy** poverty" is a new, sad phrase in **Ontario**.

The government claims to have reduced **electricity** bills by 25%, but it has done nothing to cut costs by cancelling contracts for unneeded **power**.

I don't know why we are adding more "green" **power** when **Ontario** is already "green" by most standards.

Ontario's engineers point out that more intermittent **wind power** means more **natural gas** backup, which means more fossil fuel use, not less.

I don't know why the government persists in saying **wind power** is good for the environment when its effect on the natural environment and wildlife is well known.

Last month, **Ontario**'s environmental commissioner pointed out that no request to "kill, harm or harass" wildlife had been refused for four years - she cited **wind power** projects where development actually took precedence over environmental balance.

Finally, I don't know why the government is ignoring the thousands of reports of negative impacts from the huge, noise-producing turbines.

Between 2006 and 2014, the government received well over 3,100 formal reports of excessive noise and vibration, according to documents provided to **Wind** Concerns **Ontario**.

When the **Green Energy Act** was passed in 2009, the government already knew there were problems, but it pushed ahead anyway, going so far as to remove local land use planning **power** from municipalities seeking to protect their residents.

Of those thousands of reports, more than 50% received no response from the Ministry of the Environment and **Climate** Change.

Only 1% resulted in a priority response.

On the formal Pollution Incident Reports kept by the government, there is space to name the "client".

Pledge to protect Who might that be, for the ministry whose pledge it is to protect the environment and human health? Not the people of **Ontario**. On each report, the "client" listed is the **wind power** developer.

New noise protocols were released earlier this year but guess what? The newly contracted projects don't have to abide by the new **rules**.

There are concerns about the effect of the vibration from **wind turbine** construction and operation (picture a giant tuning fork stuck in the ground).

But the environment ministry appears to have abdicated its role as **regulator**, and relies instead on self-regulation by the multi-billion-dollar **wind power** industry.

What is the reason behind these social, economic and environment costs that so moves the Ontario government to keep pressing ahead with this problematic program? I don't know. The government is not answering.

Wilson is a Registered Nurse and health care writer; she is volunteer president of Wind Concerns Ontario, a coalition of 30 community groups and hundreds of Ontario citizens

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It costs more, but Ontario stays with renewable energy

Waterloo Region Record - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Elmira Aliakbari and Ashley Stedman

Ad Value: $2,400
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A6

The Ontario government's rigorous pursuit of renewables has increased electricity costs far more than necessary.

The government recently released an update to its long-term energy plan, projecting that the cost of electricity for homes and businesses will keep rising over the next 20 years.

For example, the average monthly electricity bills for residents and large industrial customers in northern Ontario will jump 52 per cent.

Ontario's electricity prices are already the highest in Canada and among the highest in North America.

But despite the high prices, the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne recently reaffirmed its commitment to costly solar and wind power, which is distorting market prices at the expense of Ontario's current and future ratepayers.

Ontario's electricity market is a stark example of what happens when government picks technology "winners" and "losers."

The government chose wind and solar power over cheaper alternatives such as nuclear, hydroelectric or clean coal power. In fact, as documented in our recent study, a report from the Ontario Energy Board in 2016 found that nuclear and hydroelectric generators, despite providing the majority of electricity output in Ontario, received much lower rates than wind, solar and biofuel generators. Ontarians, then, paid less for nuclear and hydroelectric power than the renewable sources.

Between November 2016 and October 2017, the rate paid to wind generators ($140 per megawatt hour or MWh, a common unit for measuring power) was more than double that of hydro and nuclear generators. In addition, the rate paid to solar generators ($480 per MWh) was more than seven times the rate paid to nuclear generators ($66 per MWh) and more

than eight times the rate paid

to hydroelectric generators ($58 per MWh).

Clearly, there's a substantial price difference between the rates paid to wind, solar and biofuel generators, and the rates paid to other generators. The high cost for renewable sources is even more glaring when you consider that, in 2016, combined solar, wind and biomass generated less than seven per cent of electricity in Ontario.

And yet, between 2005 and 2015, the province increased its renewable capacity -

solar, wind and bioenergy - by 18 per cent.

But because the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow, the government also had to secure more natural gas capacity as a backup to renewable sources, increasing Ontario's gas capacity by nine per cent.

As a result, the province realized a 26 per cent increase in capacity from 2005 to 2015. Meanwhile, the demand for electricity declined, partly due to rising electricity costs. The increase in capacity coupled with lower electricity demand has resulted in significant oversupply, which must often be exported at prices below cost.

From 2008 to 2016, residential electricity prices in Ontario increased by 71 per cent - more than double the national average. To make matters worse, a recent study shows Ontario's skyrocketing electricity prices cost the province more than 74,000 manufacturing jobs between 2008 and 2015.

The government seems uninterested in meaningful policy reforms that would reduce electricity prices. Instead, with its so-called Fair Hydro Plan, the government hides the true costs of Ontario's energy policies by shifting some of the cost from electric bills onto current (and future) tax bills.

The unfortunate reality is Ontario residents and businesses will continue to see their electricity bills rise due to the government's poor policy decisions.

Kenneth P. Green is a senior director; Elmira Aliakbari and Ashley Stedman are analysts, at the Fraser Institute. Distributed by Troy Media

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CTV QP: 'We need to move past coal': McKenna | CTV News

www.ctvnews.ca - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Neutral

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'Most people don't understand how bad it is': Arctic climate change affecting the south

thespec.com - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Neutral **Reach:** 90600

An international summary of five year's worth of research on Arctic climate change concludes the top of the world is getting warmer faster than anyone thought.

And if it all sounds interesting but a little far removed from southern concerns, David Barber has news for you.

"There are very clear linkages there and they've been occurring consistently for the last 10, 15 years," said Barber, one of Canada's top ice scientists and a prominent contributor to the report.

"Most people don't understand how bad it is."

The report completed for the Arctic Council, the group of eight countries that ring the North Pole, was released last week. It represents the work of 90 scientists from around the world and summarizes the most recent research from 2010 to 2016.

"Cumulative global impacts related to Arctic change are expected to be large," the document said. "Adaptation costs and economic opportunities are estimated in the tens of trillions of U.S. dollars."

The report concludes the Arctic continues to warm at twice the pace of mid-latitudes and is likely to see warming of up to five degrees Celsius as early as 2040.

By then, the report says, summer sea ice is likely to be a thing of the past. Glaciers and ice caps will continue to melt and contribute to continually rising seas.

Melting permafrost will affect everything from resource development to freshwater flows to **climate** feedbacks from the release of stored carbon.

Then there's this: "There are emerging impacts of Arctic change on mid-latitude weather/**climate**."

Barber's already seeing it.

Last spring, he was on an Arctic voyage on the **Coast** Guard's research icebreaker, the Amundsen, when the trip had to be cancelled because the ship was pressed into weeks of search-and-rescue duty.

Massive chunks of sea ice up to eight metres thick - ice that had migrated all the way from the Lincoln Sea **north** of Ellesmere Island - were threatening the maritime crab-fishing fleet

"It should not have been there," Barber said. "It was sinking little fishing vessels. It was causing problems with tankers stuck in the ice."

Breakdowns in the normal weather patterns in the High Arctic were allowing heavy, dangerous ice to drift further south.

"We expect this to happen more often in the future."

Barber said at least 15 new academic papers add weight to the theory that the loss of sea ice is causing changes in the upper atmosphere that disrupt southern temperatures and rainfall.

Barber is already advising southern agencies on questions such as how future rainfall patterns might change how much **electricity** can be generated from **hydro** dams.

"I just came from a meeting with Manitoba **Hydro** where this was the main topic of discussion."

Global air currents are increasingly disrupted. At one point last winter, Barber said, the **North Pole** was 29 degrees warmer than average. Air from California was being drawn to the top of the world.

Climate change in the Arctic is well underway and can't be stopped. But the report says if nations meet their greenhouse **gas** reduction targets under the Paris agreement, changes in the Arctic will stabilize to a new normal some time around 2040.

"We should have started 20 years ago," Barber said, adding: "These things are costing us. And they're costing the stability of our planet."

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Time for Ontario's Conservatives to spell out where they stand: Editorial

thestar.com - Mon Nov 20 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Star Editorial Board
Reach: 999000

Finally, **Ontario** voters have a glimmer of what the province's Progressive Conservatives would do if they win the next election set for June 7.

Last week the PCs took a stand: if they do take over at Queen's Park in just over six months' time, they'll cancel the dollar-an-hour increase in the minimum wage (www.thestar.com) that's now scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1, 2019. Instead, they'll spread that out over four years, getting to the $15-an-hour level only in 2022.

Their position was notable not because of the substance of the issue; delaying any increase in the minimum wage is about what you'd expect from a Conservative party looking to bolster its support among business interests.

It stood out more because it's one of very few specific stands the PCs have taken under leader Patrick Brown, whose election strategy clearly amounts to staying as quiet as possible and encouraging voters to ponder all the things they don't like about Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government.

At this point, though, that's getting to be a pretty tired approach. And it will get harder to sustain as of next weekend, when the PCs gather for what they're billing as an "election readiness and policy convention."

The most notable thing about the so-called policy convention is the almost total lack of meaningful policies that are likely to be discussed. Brown himself has talked more about what won't be on the agenda - social conservative initiatives are "off-limits, period," he says - than what will be.

And most of the proposals submitted in advance are full of generalities about streamlining government services, "making life more affordable," and so on. Voters are unlikely to have any better idea of what the PCs would actually do in government after the Nov. 25 meeting than they do now.

As an election strategy, this may well make sense. The Liberals will have been in **power** for 15 years by next June, and by now are being held responsible for every sparrow that falls from the sky. After so long in office they've made lots of mistakes and accumulated plenty of enemies, and voters may conclude that it's simply time for a change.

But six months out from the election, the PCs are doing voters a disservice by dodging almost all the big issues. They haven't said whether they will support the government's plans to distribute marijuana once it is legalized next summer. Nor do they **plan** to debate other key Liberal policies, such as making prescription drugs free for young people, broadening rent control, or bringing in free tuition for lower-income **students**.

For democracy to work properly, voters need an alternative. But so far Brown's PCs are offering mostly a big question mark for anyone looking around for a change in government.

The Liberals, to their credit, are offering a lot. They can be accused of many things, but unlike many governments that have been in **power** for a long time they can't be faulted for taking no risks or simply running out of steam.

In the past year or so they have brought in a series of progressive measures that will have long-term effects on the province.

They include the substantial increase in the minimum wage (it jumps from

$11.60 to $14 on Jan. 1); the "OHIP+" plan that will provide free prescription drugs for anyone under 25; more daycare spaces and full-day kindergarten; relief on hydro bills; free post-secondary tuition for students from modest backgrounds; and enhanced public pensions (which started as an Ontario-only initiative but became national).

Taken together, all this amounts to what Susan Delacourt, writing in iPolitics this past week (ipolitics.ca) , calls "a large-scale experiment in progressive governance - in finding policies to fight the politics of grievance, populism and polarization." Whether it adds up to a successful strategy for re-election remains to be seen. But regardless of that, these measures at least address the inequities that plague all modern societies - including Ontario.

Against this agenda, Brown's PCs (and the New Democrats as well) should be spelling out an alternative approach so voters can make an informed decision next June.

Ducking the hard issues and simply hoping Ontarians are in the mood for a change at the top may make sense in the political backrooms. But it doesn't do justice to the electorate, and the PCs should do better starting next weekend.

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Grits headed for a fall; Small business not fooled by Liberals

Ottawa Sun - Sun Nov 19 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $2,227
Reach: 38456 **Page:** A4

Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa must feel like Rodney Dangerfield's "I don't get no respect" line.

And rightfully so. Sousa delivered a shameful, electioneering fall economic statement last week in which he threw half a billion dollars to buy the votes of small -business owners by reducing their corporate tax rate one percentage point.

They didn't buy it. Small-business owners gave him a big thumbs down.

An owner of a downtown Toronto restaurant smacked down Sousa, saying: "I think it shows a total lack of understanding and ignorance about small business.

"Don't reduce my taxes," but improve the "business environment." Bingo. Other small -business owners also weighed-in, complaining of endless red tape programs of questionable value, skyhigh hydro rates and a weak provincial rental protection system.

Small-business owners hit the nail on the head and won't be fooled by Premier Kathleen Wynne's vote-buying schemes, basically telling her to take her money, or rather, our money, and shove it.

You have to wonder what else Wynne can dole out to salvage her damaged reputation between now and the June 7 election.

Already we have free education, discounted hydro, free drugs, a huge increase in the minimum wage and all kinds of other costly gimmicks to get your mind off 14 years of Liberal government incompetence and maladministration.

I wouldn't underestimate Wynne's ability to squander our money even more.

While Wynne tells us we're out of the red and let the good times roll, Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk doesn't mince words.

She accuses the government of playing with the numbers to camouflage the provincial deficit, denouncing the government of "improperly" accounting for $26 billion to make it vanish from the province's books.

"The government created a needlessly complex accounting/financing structure for the **electricity rate** reduction in order to avoid showing a deficit or an increase in net debt," she says.

Because Wynne stubbornly disagrees with the person we count on to keep the government's finances in check, last year she simply ignored the auditor general's **review** and for the first time in **Ontario** history simply released the province's financial statements without the audit opinion - just like a tin-pot dictator.

Who needs that pesky thing called accountability after all? Wynne's popularity has hovered for many months between 12% and 17%, a feat never achieved by any provincial premier.

According to the latest Forum Poll, the Progressive Conservatives are riding high at 45%, while the Liberals and the New Democratic Party are statistically tied at 24% and 22% respectively.

It's **fair** to say that bribing of the electorate is not working.

It's no wonder we've seen a massive exodus from Liberal MPPs.

From cabinet ministers to backbenchers, the ever-growing list of departures past and future continues to swell. Deb Matthews, Liz Sandals, Brad Duguid, Dave Levac, Monte Kwinter, Madeleine Meilleur and Glen Murray. They'll all have you believe it's to "spend more time with loved ones," or some other corny line.

They may not have been the brightest of lights at the best of times, but they're smart enough to read the tea leaves. Watch for more to flee the sinking ship as the Liberals feel the pressure of a looming election catastrophe.

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NP

Carr stands behind Trans Mountain project; 'An approved pipeline and we want it built'

National Post - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: $12,873
Reach: 185480 **Page:** FP4

The federal government unequivocally wants the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion built, is committed to increasing regulatory certainty through major reforms that will be announced in the coming months and will keep the headquarters of the National **Energy** Board (NEB) in Calgary.

Those were some of the reassuring messages delivered by Jim Carr, Canada's natural resources minister, in an interview Friday with the Financial Post in Calgary. Carr was in the heart of Canada's oilpatch for private meetings with corporate leaders, amid continuing worry about lack of progress on proposed oilsands export pipelines.

TransCanada Corp. cancelled its $15.7-billion **Energy** East pipeline project last month after the NEB broadened its **review** to include **climate**-change impacts, and the federally approved $7.4-billion Trans Mountain expansion proposed by Kinder Morgan Canada continues to struggle with legal and regulatory hurdles because of opposition in British Columbia. Meanwhile, Nebraska regulators are expected to rule next week on the proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline, one of the last hurdles before TransCanada proceeds with a final investment decision after a decade of regulatory and political scrutiny.

"From the perspective of the government of Canada, this is an approved pipeline and we want it built," Carr said about Trans Mountain, which is headed back to the National Energy Board in December despite receiving Ottawa's approval last year after four years of regulatory review.

Kinder Morgan Canada has asked the regulator to establish a process to resolve conflicts with other levels of government that don't want the controversial project, which would expand the capacity of the Albertato-Burnaby line, and are delaying necessary permits. The City of Burnaby has yet to issue any, and the B.C. government has promised to use every tool at its disposal to make it fail.

Carr said Ottawa is not participating in the hearings because it's unusual for the government of Canada to intervene in a quasiindependent, arm's-length agency. But he said its arguments would be made by other interveners, particularly the governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which support the expansion, and by the company.

Kinder Morgan Canada president Ian Anderson said in an affidavit to the NEB that continuing delays, particularly by the City of Burnaby, mean the in-service date will likely have to be pushed back to September, 2020, from the end of 2019 previously anticipated.

"There is pressing need for regulatory certainty in Canada," Anderson said in the document. The firm has spent $800 million on the project so far and "if faced with unreasonable regulatory risks to secure necessary permits, authorizations or waivers, it may become untenable for TM's shareholders and lenders to proceed."

Carr said regulatory certainty will increase when the federal government announces reforms in the coming months to the NEB and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Those reforms are in the legislative drafting stage.

They aim to deliver clear and predictable timelines for energy project reviews and will spell out how to conduct appropriate Indigenous consultation and accommodation, Carr said.

"We want to rebuild confidence among Canadians for the regulatory process," he said. "We believe that what will emerge from this will inspire more confidence and that good projects should be dealt with in a timely way."

Carr said the reforms would also include climatechange impacts because projects bear directly on Canada's international responsibilities to meet greenhouse -gas reduction targets.

However, he said there will still be room for oil pipelines because Alberta has been taking steps to reduce its emissions, including the adoption of a 100-megatonne cap for the oilsands industry.

Carr confirmed that the NEB's headquarters would stay in Calgary. Critics argued that its offices should be moved because staff were too close to the oil-and-gas sector to make unbiased decisions.

"The NEB will have plenty to do and will have plenty to do in Calgary," Carr said, though some offices may be located elsewhere.

Carr said major energy infrastructure projects are controversial and promote divisions of opinion.

They are also complicated by timing - decisions have to be made at a particular political and economic point, while consequences last for generations.

"You have to have the vision to know that your grandchildren will need this **energy**, but it's going to be very tough for us as politicians to make the decisions today," he said. "Well, the courageous leaders make the decisions and make the arguments to bring the people with them."

ccattaneo@nationalpost.com

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Canada needs to keep up with oil production - Quesnel Cariboo Observer

www.quesnelobserver.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral

As Canada, along with Mexico and the United States, negotiate a revised North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the future of our major industries – forestry and fisheries in British Columbia, potash in Saskatchewan, oil and natural gas in Alberta and B.C., among others – remain at risk.

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NDP leader will run in Saint John Harbour riding in upcoming election - New Brunswick - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral

New Brunswick NDP Leader Jennifer McKenzie will try to reclaim the Saint John Harbour riding for the NDP in next year's provincial election in September 2018.

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Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil in South Dakota

gearsofbiz.com - Sat Nov 18 2017
Tone: Neutral

TransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

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Carr stands behind Trans Mountain: ‘This is an approved pipeline and we want it built’ | Financial Post

business.financialpost.com - Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

The federal government unequivocally wants the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion built, is committed to increasing regulatory certainty through major reforms that will be announced in the coming months and will keep the headquarters of the National Energy Board (NEB) in Calgary.

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TransCanada says clean up work underway after Keystone pipeline leak in South Dakota | Toronto Star

www.thestar.com · Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

TransCanada Corp. said Friday that work is well underway to clean up a sizable oil leak at its Keystone pipeline in South Dakota that occurred days before a vote on the fate of the company's flagship pipeline proposal.

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TransCanada's Keystone pipeline leaks 795,000 litres of crude oil | Calgary Herald

calgaryherald.com · Fri Nov 17 2017
Tone: Neutral

TransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D. just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

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