



LAU needs to target high electricity costs



Wind turbines located north of Goderich on the shore of Lake Huron. (Postmedia Network)

So far, Doug Ford has spent his time as Ontario premier busily curtailing the damage of some of the worst Liberal policies.

For example, the cap-and-trade carbon tax was quickly cancelled, saving taxpayers billions of dollars, and much of the associated green corporate welfare – including costly electric car subsidies – has been slashed along with it.

Ontario is also scrapping Drive Clean, the car emissions testing program originally introduced by a previous Progressive Conservative government in 1999 and which the Liberals kept around long after the program outlived its usefulness. Ending this program means taxpayers will save tens of millions of dollars annually, and drivers won't have to waste time having their cars tested.

In addition, Ford's government has rightfully announced a repeal of parts of Bill 148, the Liberal labour reform bill that piled regulations onto workers. It was not a moment too soon — the bill had already eliminated jobs for many of the most vulnerable members of the

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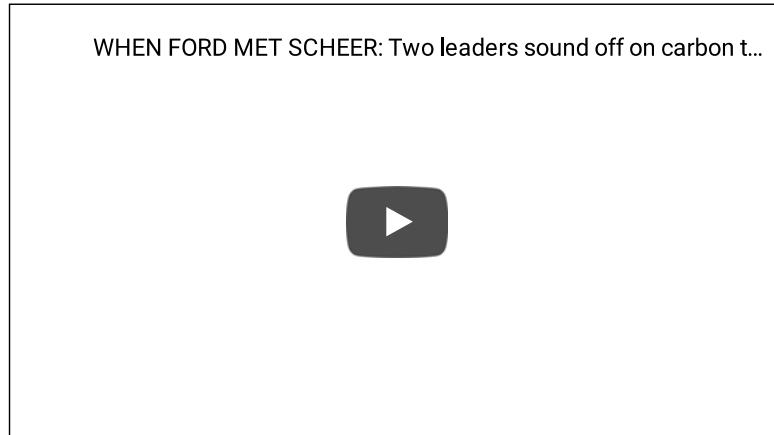


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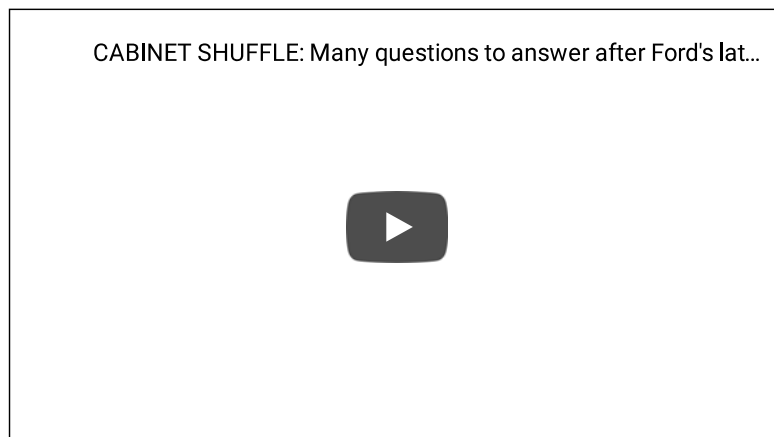
province's labour force, including intellectually disabled workers and low-wage part-time employees.



If Ford wants to keep this positive momentum going and continue axing bad Liberal policies, the next one on his list ought to be unnecessarily high electricity costs. Many astute Ontarians will recall the province's Auditor General reporting three years ago that global adjustment fees – the cost Ontarians pay above the market price for electricity – cost consumers \$37-billion from 2006 to 2014 and would cost another \$133-billion from 2015 to 2032.

On the electricity file, the Ontario PC's have made some positive first steps in cancelling early-stage renewal energy projects and scrapping the Green Energy Act. However, as a recent Fraser Institute study notes, while these moves will prevent some future electricity price increases, they would not actually undo the past price increases.

"The next logical step," write the Fraser economists, "would therefore be to use legislative measures to cancel Ontario's funding commitments to renewable energy sources under the FIT [Feed-in-Tariff] contracts" in order to reduce the global adjustment "by almost 40%, resulting in an approximately 24% reduction in residential electricity prices."



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Additional reforms to the global adjustment, according to the Fraser economists, could increase the potential reduction of residential electricity prices to 27%. This would surely be welcome relief to Ontario residents given the 71% increase in electricity prices from 2008 to 2016. This was by far the largest increase of any province; for example, electricity prices increased only 10% in neighbouring Quebec and 31% in Manitoba.

Low-income Ontarians are the hardest hit by these ill-conceived Liberal policies that drove up electricity prices. In 2016, the annual Hunger Report from the Ontario Association of Food Banks included a special feature titled “Shedding Light on Ontario’s Energy Poverty.”

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Rising electricity costs, said the report, was “of particular concern for all Ontarians, and especially for low-income Ontarians ... food banks are seeing an increase in the number of clients who say that they simply cannot keep up with their rising hydro bills.”

Clearly the cancellation of these expensive contracts with wind and solar power providers should be a priority for Ford if he wants to continue repealing the impoverishing Liberal agenda that afflicted Ontarians for 15 years.

— *Lau is a contributing writer to Canadians for Affordable Energy*

twitter.com/matlau10

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Dingster Ding

Revisit Legal Aid...it encourages criminal activity.. it should be like California...3 strikes and you are out..ambulance chaser lawyers making a fortune from it by delay simple cases...countless remands where they get paid and then at the end of the day, accuse will plead guilty for a reduce sentence..A TOTAL JOKE...

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Chip Anderson



and that has to do with electricity how

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Brian King

I was suspicious of windmill farms so I did a map search for the locations of windmill farms and the political landscape of Ontario. I was right !! Every single windfarm Conservative jurisdiction. McGuinty and Wynne knew full well they would lose votes if they put them into Liberal voting areas and that's why they also passed a law locals could NOT even protest a windmill farm in their neighbourhood. The whole wind farm fiasco is nothing but corruption with their location and who was involved manufacture and distribution of them - all Liberal party connected - every single bit of the program, from the ground floor conception of the windmills, manufacture, distribution and installation, right up to the Premier's office. Corruption throughout the plan with Liberal bank accounts swelling with profits.

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Andrew Downes

First off that's not true although the vast majority were in non liberal ridings However liberals were mostly confined to urban, suburban areas in 2014. There's no conspiracy. Windmills require open spaces to run efficiently.

Like · Reply · 1 · 12h



Lucas Intoronto

Andrew Downes

You seem to forget the plan to put windmills in Lake Ontario off Scarborough which was cancelled by Liberals as their MPP's in Scarborough complained.

Like · Reply · 7 · 11h



Gerald Dwyer

There were many reports of green energy funds going to industry with connections to former Liberals? Any info on if that was true?

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Tasse Tessier

Doug Ford and his government for the people should also target all of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies that the previous liberal government who worked in tandem taking away Ombudsman oversight of C.A.S. plus encouraging, supporting and enabeling all of Ontario's Children's Aid Societies to continue their corruption, criminal and above the law actions and practises etc... against Ontario children, good parents and good families.

Like · Reply · 7 · 18h



Chris Davies

If youre a good parent, you should never hear from CAS. I never have.

Like · Reply · 6 · 16h



Tasse Tessier

Chris Davies Well count youself fortunate as there are many children good parents and good families that defenitly hear from C.A.S. and have to deal with corruption, criminal unlawfull and above the law actions and practices etc... My family and i battled tooth and claw for close to three years with these above t Societies and wone our case just like many of us we cannot go into detail about our caces. Perhaps you should go on google and informe yourself on Ontric Children's Aid Societies corruption.

Like · Reply · 4 · 15h



Chris Davies

If I do research about the corruption of the CAS, it will be references from people like yourself. The CAS does not get involved in a family for no reason. Yo definition of a good parent just might be different than mine.

Like · Reply · 1 · 15h

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Jeff Glover

Patience is needed.
There is no shovel big enough to move the Liberal shit pile in an expedited fashion.

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Satyam Gautam

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Ross Ayotte

A look back in the past in 2005 Premier McGuinty and his environment minister Laurel Broten stated that up to 90% of the air pollution in Ontario was caused by Air coal plants from the American Midwest - Ohio Valley and if you're wondering, our former Liberal Premier Katherine Wynne has been in cabinet since 2003.

Broten sent a letter to the US environmental agency stating this including where air pollution was the highest - Sarnia and Windsor up to 90%. Then David Miller for mayor of Toronto sent Broten a letter stating up to 90% of Toronto's air pollution came from the same source... See More

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Chip Anderson

our now premier wynne ????? step back from the pipe

Like · Reply · 3 · 17h



Cathy Bowslaugh

I remember that but when I tried to find the article I read that confirmed this, I couldn't find it. Would you have a link please? Thanks

Like · Reply · 13h



Narang Ayali

q

Like · Reply · 1h · Edited



Andrew Downes

a) if scraping payments to renewables accounts for 40% of the fee, nonrenewables receive a significant portion of the fee.

b) we are not necessarily paying more than market value rates, we're paying for capacity to meet peak usage, which we barely have enough of. Producers would not have new capacity without being subsidized.

c) it's unfair to single out renewables. They are required to be subsidized like no renewables.

d) retroactively changing existing contracts will scare away new producers.

e) if we can sell our over capacity to other markets during non peak usage why wouldn't we? Why would they pay rates reflecting our capacity? It's not their capacity... See More

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Parker Gallant

You appear to either have a vested interest in wind or solar generation OR you drank the kool-aid that McGuinty/Wynne and their supporters provided. As example wind generation in Ontario generates power at only 29/30% of its capacity and the power it generates only arrives on the grid 30% of the time it is needed. It and solar must be backed up with fossil fuels! Backing up wind and solar are the gas plants including the two planned for Mississauga and Oakville were moved to save some Liberal seats at a cost of \$1.1 billion. Renewables have also driven down the market price so we provide NY and Michigan with a rate of around 2 cents a kilowatt hour and Ontario ratepayers pick up the difference from the contracts awarded! Solar started at over 80 cents a kWh and wind is costing at least 13.5 cents a kWh. We are also dinged with the cost of those idling gas plants. Renewables are for OK but only for areas not on the

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John Prayers

Parker Gallant - those who married natural gas to electricity generation should be shot hung and pissed on.

Never have I heard of such a stupid move in business. We need the natural gas to fire up our furnaces and water heaters. Heating a home with natural gas cheaper than heating with electricity so why in the blue blazes f**k do we convert natural gas into electricity? Anyone who answers with, "But it is good for the environment," needs to be KILLED!

Like · Reply · 1 · 3h



Jeff Glover

Parker Gallant Kool Aid. He's another brain washed idiot.

Like · Reply · 1h

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Mark Black

These measures, if implemented, would bring lost businesses back, too

Like · Reply · 1 · 12h



John Prayers

Make Ontario Great Again!

Like · Reply · 3h



Narang Ayali

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Henry Lummel



The problem is more that the subsidized prices Wynne agreed to pay these windmill owners for the energy they produce is far far higher than the cost of production windmills. It leaves these owners getting quite rich. I guess they would say they needed to provide enough incentive for these to be built knowing the next governme likely slash their contracts. It is time for this government to do what is/was expected and cut back the profits. I don't say these producers need to lose money, I don't Windmills are bad, but these sky high profits are not warranted. They should set the price so owners of these windmills earn no more than a 4 percent return on the investment annually.

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Ross Ayotte

MINISTRY OF ENERGY HANDING OUT RENEWABLE CONTRACTS TO DONOR COMPANIES

Published on April 05, 2016

QUEEN'S PARK – Ontario's archaic fundraising rules have continued to make news due to the appearance that large-scale corporate donations are having impact on the business of the government. Today during Question Period, members of the Ontario PC Caucus highlighted a number of concerning donatio wind power companies, who in turn received government contracts.

"The Minister of Energy is a prolific fundraiser for the Liberal Party, because he needs to meet his cabinet seat quota. It is re... See More

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Harry Rosenthal

What happened to getting rid of the thieving practice of time of use pricing? If I remember correctly this was a campaign promise. Please get rid of time of use smart taxation immediately.

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Charles Steiner

let's not forget the insurance industry that forever keeps raising cost of insurance on all of us....their may be fraud in the system by some unscrupulous drives, but t also a wopping fraud on the part of the insurance industry: they are running a govt backed monopoly, collecting billions and then paying out claims like scrooge and raising rates again for those filing claims..or better still cancelling policies.

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