



EDITOR'S POINT OF VIEW

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When is enough enough!

Mismanagement is the first word that came to mind when I opened up my hydro bill. I certainly hope that people will come to realize that we are being taken for a ride as we timidly stand by.

This isn't new. There is a price to pay for stupidity. The former CEO of Ontario Hydro Eleanor Clitheroe was fired in 2002 for lavish spending on top of her \$2.2 million annual pay package and she launched a \$30 million lawsuit against the province that is still before the courts. She was booted out with a \$6 million dollar severance contract.

Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One have 11,376 employees on the sunshine list which is the list of public sector workers making more than \$100,000.00.

Tom Mitchell, president and CEO of Ontario Power Genera-

tion, was once again the highest paid at \$1.7 million in 2012 and was followed by now resigned Hydro One CEO Laura Formosa at \$1.04 million.

In the words of auditor general Bonnie Lysyk : **“Hydro bills are skyrocketing in part because Ontario Power Generation is “top-heavy” with managers, rife with nepotism, and paying out far more than necessary in wages and benefits”.**

My hydro bill was \$977.24 the highest in 27 years of which \$241.69 was for **“Delivery”**, \$46.80 for **“Debt retirement”**, \$40.14 for **“regulatory charges”**. To add insult to injury, I'm expected to save electricity during peak hours when the outside temperature is -40 C. I was charged \$143.09 for using on peak KWH and \$111.91 for using mid peak KWH and \$118.45 HST. Had I

been charged for the KWH used at mid peak rate my bill would have been \$582.53 + HST.

Hard working Ontarians are being penalized with idiotic billing methods to recover funds lost in past blunders and to pay top wages for run-of-the-mill CEO's and government official. The so-called excess “saved power” is rerouted and sold at a loss exceeding 5 cents a KWH. Ratepayers in the province of Ontario subsidized the sale of excess power to neighbouring jurisdictions at a cost of \$1 billion in 2013 according to the New Democrats. With all of this excess power, one would think that some of their light bulbs would have lit up by now!

Our government needs to step in expediently to stop this ongoing hemorrhage. Heating fuel, gasoline prices and electricity

prices have to be regulated, lowered and or frozen. The economic benefits would be instantaneous. As we like to see additional lines on our hydro bills maybe specific rates for Northern Ontario residents that use electric heat would be appropriate to compensate for winter weather.

As ratepayers, we should not be responsible for debts incurred by inept individuals. In my books, inept individuals are fired and not given \$6 million dollars. The ever diminishing middle class is bound to burst at the seams. Consumer debt in Canada is up to 1.4 billion dollars. Not surprising! Another burnt light bulb?

As a society, we need to be protected by these unfair practices committed by our own government or its agencies. This is abuse of citizens by their own government. The reality is that our own government, thru its inefficiencies is inflicting monetary hardships to Ontario families, young and old. How long can people put up with such actions? Complaints, have once again, fallen

on deaf ears. Electricity rates in Ontario have driven multinational companies out of the province and are preventing others from entering. Energy in one form or another is the heartbeat of our economy. When will these clueless individuals realize that? High energy costs adversely affects our economy. The following have already closed or will close in the near future: H.J. Heinz Co., Leamington, 740 jobs; CCL industries in Penetanguishene, 170 jobs; Faurecia SA, Bradford, 550 jobs; Kellogg Co., London, 550 jobs; Novartis AG, Mississauga, 300 jobs and the list goes on. You can rest assured that electricity costs was a factor in their decision to close the plants. Still wonder why electricity rates are expected to rise by 46%? A shocker?

A former Hydro One employee said that he was upset because he wanted to work but neither the union nor management desired his keen approach. “I worked for Hydro One for six years and I could have done that work in a year and a half,” said the disgruntled employee. This

employee was shunned because of his outspoken opinion and for the fact that he wanted to work. He said he doesn't like to see highly-paid staff snoozing on the job or even comically changing the logo on a truck from “Hydro One” to “Hydro No.” “Slacking off,” is how the former employee described it. “Some guys make \$60,000 a year, some make near \$100,000 but we would only work eight months a year — plus room and board, tax free.”

We are at the mercy of bad, ineffective well paid management. Unfortunately this goes on in other sections of the government. Municipalities are continuously being bombarded by additional costs passed down by the province, and again the hard working Ontarians take up the majority of the slack with higher municipal taxes.

In the near future, we may all be sitting in a prospector's tent. I would suggest you buy shares in “Coleman Co. Inc” as they may be selling a lot of lanterns. Debt retirement for one will become retirement debt for the other.