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Logic

By Joe Ingino b.a.
Editor/Publisher

"I live a dream in a nightmare world"

H1 IS A NATIONAL SCANDAL

Please someone explain this tome. I been told I am not the brightest star in the galaxy... but how can our elected officials let this out right rip-off go on.

This week Hyrdo One proudly boasted that on the first quarter it sported a 33 percent profit from last year.... PROOOOFFII-

ITT?

According to public record. Hydro One is owned: In January 2018 the Ontario government announced they had sold over 14 million shares of Hydro One to OFN Power Holdings, a partnership controlled by 129 First Nations around the province. The shares represent 2.4% of outstanding common shares, reducing the government's stake in the company to approximately 47.4%. Area served: Ontario. Owners: Government of Ontario (47.4%)

Total assets: CA\$ 25.701 Billion (2017)

Revenue: CA\$ 5.990 Billion (2017)

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is a Crown corporation wholly owned by the Government of Ontario. OPG is responsible for approximately half of the electricity generation in the Province of Ontario, Canada. Sources of electricity include nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, gas and biomass. Although Ontario has an open electricity market, the provincial government, as OPG's sole shareholder, regulates the price the company receives for its electricity to be less than the market average, in an attempt to stabilize prices. Since 1 April 2008, the company's rates have been regulated by the Ontario Energy Board.

OPG was established in April 1999 under the Ontario Progressive Conservative government of premier Mike Harris as a precursor to deregulation of the province's electricity market. As part of government plans to privatize the assets of Ontario Hydro, the utility was split into five separate corporations. OPG was created as the owner and operator of all of Ontario Hydro's electricity generating stations.

If this stand true... these so called profits. Where do they end up? How is the government not using these profits to lower the rates?

One would think that if the corporation is profiting that the rates may be to high. I know the corporation has investments. Either way. Why is the government not using those profits to lower the common consumers rates.

Instead they go up. On the same breath. The Chair of the corporation makes 6 million dollars a year. How can any elected official with any integrity allow this rip off to take place?

Are we to assume that these Hydro One executives are some sort of super humans? That they are worth 6 million a year.

Yet, if you look at your Hydro bill you are paying in many cases utilities retired debts... like really. How about using those millions in profits to forget outstanding debts by consumers. People that can't afford to pay their hydro.

No instead the board members give each other \$25,000 bonuses for their great work. I shame the conservatives that started this orgy of incorporating a public company. I shame the Liberals for not putting a stop to it. I shame the NDP for not picking up and making it a priority in the upcoming election. Then again. It is a legal way to extort money from the masses. YOU PAY OR WE CUT YOU OFF... this is nothing short of legal organized crime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The Editor

As President of the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) which represents over a million workers and advocates for every worker in Ontario, I'd like to highlight what's at stake in the June 7, 2018 provincial election.

The OFL has been at the forefront of the fight for decent work in Ontario. Just this past year, together with our community partners, we won improvements and positive change for working people in every corner of this province whether they are in a union or not. Those gains were a long time coming, and they are in jeopardy if Doug Ford or Kathleen Wynne become the next Premier. Both parties have shown that they will not respect the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act. Doug Ford has said he will cancel the raise to a \$15 minimum wage, and the Liberals have already back tracked on providing holiday pay for all workers.

We all deserve a government that is responsive to the needs of working people, a government that puts working people first, a government that will build a more caring, equal, and prosperous Ontario. When I talk to Ontarians about what they need from their government, here is what they tell me.

They need access to:

High-quality and affordable health, dental and pharma care.

Safe jobs with decent working conditions.

Protections for their pensions to ensure they can retire and live their golden years with dignity.

High-quality public services that are delivered by the government, owned and run by the people of this province.

Safe and affordable housing.

Universal, publicly funded, high-quality, fully inclusive, and affordable child care.

A high-quality and fully inclusive public education.

The people of Ontario need to feel accepted and respected. We all deserve to live in healthy communities, on a sustainable planet.

That's why people from all walks of life are joining with union members, concerned families, newcomers to Ontario, LGBTQ+, young people, seniors, and persons with disabilities in choosing to vote for change that works for Ontario. Together, we can build a province that delivers on the needs of working people.

Friends, we are three weeks away from electing the next government of Ontario. I've looked at the platforms and promises, I've heard the debates. Doug Ford and the Ontario PC's are light on details. They refuse to tell Ontarians which public services they will gut to give tax breaks to their wealthy friends, profitable multi-national corporations, and big businesses. Doug Ford says he's for the people of Ontario, but like regressive conservatives Tim Hudak and Mike Harris before him, Doug Ford can't be trusted.

One thing is for certain – only Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP can deliver change that works for the people of Ontario.

We can't keep electing the same old parties to government, expecting a different outcome. We can make a difference, and I encourage every Ontarian that is eligible to vote – to do just that, exercise your right to vote

Please join me and the millions of Ontarians who know that together we can win change for the better, on June 7, 2018 vote for Andrea Horwath and the Ontario NDP.

Sincerely,
Chris Buckley

President
Ontario Federation of Labour

There have been attempts by many in the media to stop the spread of 'fake news' in order to improve the quality of news reporting. There is another frustrating, although minor, trend appearing more often in some papers - the inclusion of irrelevant information, perhaps as padding in or to draw reader attention to stories. A recent article in a newspaper included 'A morbidly obese Melbourne man...jailed...for importing machine guns...' (The Australian, May 10) - machine guns are illegal in Australia and should be in all countries. The rest of the article was a standard crime report but the superfluous part is the reference to the obesity. There are concerns with obesity as a health issue but surely none that relate to criminal activities. It's not really the size of the person behind the gun that is the issue but what comes out the front. Another common reference that is irrelevant in most cases is a person's career especially if it is not current or family members with mentions such as 'The defendant, a retired football player, ...' or '...the brother of ...'

There is so much in newspapers that needs to be read and discussed that articles need to be precise and accurate so that people will read the whole article.

To paraphrase, 'The story must be the facts, the whole facts, and nothing but the facts'.

Regards,
Dennis Fitzgerald
Melbourne, Australia

Dear Editor,

Justin Trudeau is failing to protect Canada's immigration system.

While thousands of people follow the rules and wait in the proper lines, sometimes for a very long time, to come to Canada legally and join our Canadian family, Justin Trudeau is letting others skip the line and put themselves first. Since the beginning of 2018, more than 6,300 people have crossed our border illegally. In fact, there are even more people seeking asylum illegally than those seeking it legally. Instead of making sure everyone follows the same rules, Justin Trudeau is encouraging people to break our laws and undermine our immigration system. Conservatives welcome new Canadians. We want people from around the world, from all backgrounds to be able to join our Canadian family. But the rules have to apply to everyone. That's only fair.

Sincerely,
Bob Saroya, MP
Associate Shadow Cabinet Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Some Questions from the Edge of Immortality

Nectome, a startup headed by two former artificial intelligence researchers, is serious about immortality. They're touting a process for preserving the human brain at the point of death (by killing the patient with the preservative), with the next (unfortunately still notional) step being to "re-start" that brain as computer software.

The quest for immortality is as old as humankind, and we've publicly agonized over its implications since at least as far back as the publication of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein 200 years ago. As science seemingly moves us closer to the goal, especially if the finish line consists of transplanting brain functions from the body to a computer-generated reality, the questions become more important.

What or who is a "person" -- a human being whom we recognize as having rights that ought not to be violated?

Is a physical body a necessary component of "personhood," or would a mind running on a computer likewise enjoy the right to not be robbed or killed, the right to own property, to vote, etc.?

If so, are those rights contingent upon the mind being the transplanted brain schematic of a former physical human, or would artificial intelligences qualify?

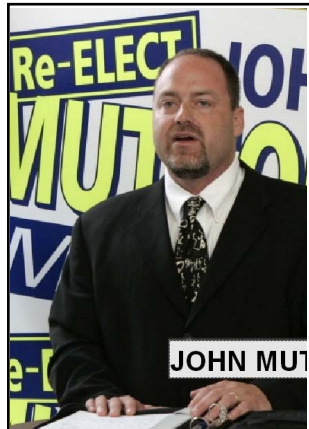
Would the transplanted mind of a former physical human be the same person as that human, or a different entity altogether? And what if it becomes possible for a human to "upload" his or her mind to a computer without dying? Is that second mind the first person's property, or a new "person" in its own right?

If the process is cheap, might the state ask -- or even require -- retirees to "upload" and live forever like kings, at far lower cost to taxpayers than the existing Social Security system? Or might private sector actors offer that option in return for the signing over of government or private retirement benefits? Might life insurance companies offer policies that pay for uploaded immortality instead of paying out death claims to one's survivors?

If the rent isn't paid on server space, electricity and computing power for your brain, can you be evicted -- and thereby, in effect, killed? Or will there be the equivalent of "low-income housing" for indigent minds, running on slower servers and without as much resource-hogging cool stuff built into the living environment?

What is this possible future, really? Utopia or dystopia? Freedom or slavery? Reality or self-deception? Whatever it is, it's coming. Time to put on our thinking caps.

by Thomas L. Knapp



Regional Talk

By John Mutton

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As the Provincial election gets into its final weeks, it seems to get more interesting daily. More than ever, I think the public will be voting candidate based in the respective ridings.

The unpopularity of Wynne, the internal turmoil in the PCs and the rise in polling of the NDP says a 1990 NDP rise to power could happen again.

Patrick Brown's Peoples Guarantee had the PC's taking the centre right with the public appeal that would have created a possible dynasty in Ontario, not so much now since the internal coup.

In our Region that has five ridings the latest polls I have seen is PC's winning in Durham Riding, Ajax and Pickering and the NDP winning huge in Oshawa and pulling out a win in Whitby. Whether this holds true is totally up to the leaders, party position and the sincerity and credibility of the candidates.

Let's remember that anything can happen over the final weeks and anything and everything likely will happen.

With the municipal election on the heels of the provincial election, we will have confusion and a long drawn out process. Don't be afraid to ask the candidate's candidates daily.

Till Next Week



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