




The Board of Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro does not endorse any particular candidate or political party and realizes votes take into account more than Ontario's electricity situation. However, the Board wishes to provide information on the issues it feels needs attention with respect to electricity policy in Ontario and its impact on electricity customers.

<b>NOTL HYDRO BOARD RECOMMENDATION</b>			
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<b>MANAGING ELECTRICITY COMMODITY COSTS</b>			
<b>Cancel FIT and MicroFIT programs immediately and only sign new contracts when required based on independent evidence.</b>	Continued FIT and MicroFIT programs to end of 2017 despite many opportunities to cancel. Have endorsed Market Renewal process for identifying and securing new supply.	Will cancel the FIT and MicroFIT programs and will seek to cancel or re-negotiate all contracts where legally and financially feasible. Announced a temporary moratorium on new contracts.	Want to bring electricity generation back to the public sector.
<b>Write-off the excess costs of the FIT and MicroFIT contracts to tax base so they no longer impact electricity pricing. This also removes the proposed deferral of the cost of the Fair Hydro Plan.</b>	While the Fair Hydro Plan effectively recognized these costs as problematic, its treatment with arbitrary rate setting and cost deferral to future ratepayers made the situation worse for ratepayers in the long-term.	Silent on treatment of costs of contracts they are not able to cancel, re-negotiate or buy-out. Platform assumes Fair Hydro Plan borrowing continues.	Silent on treatment of existing contracts.
<b>Ensure decisions on nuclear power are based on realistic cost / benefit analysis.</b>	Recent decisions with substantial cost implications have largely lacked in transparency though the Financial Accountability Office has provided evidentiary based support. OPG will be required to justify cost-prudency of continuing operations at the Pickering Nuclear Station to the OEB.	Largely silent other than supporting the extension of the life of the Pickering Nuclear Station.	Largely silent as focus on contracts with private companies rather than OPG. Support independent evaluation to determine Pickering Nuclear Station shut-down.
<b>Integrate with Quebec and New York rather than always require generation in Ontario.</b>	Signed new deal with Quebec and increased interties with both to some degree. See interties as a source for cheaper power rather than being willing to fully integrate.	Recognize that Ontario currently has too much generating capacity but silent on benefits of integration with Quebec and New York.	Recognize error in preference of new capacity versus imports and will have a panel to study use of imports. Require imports to be renewable which puts limits on imports.
<b>Redesign of electricity pricing to take into account the competitive needs of business.</b>	Have expanded eligibility for the Industrial Conservative Initiative (ICI) program but have not provided industry with the across-the-board breaks provided to the residential and small business sector.	Have recognized the issue and have promised a stable and competitive electricity system for business without committing to any specifics.	Would eliminate time-of-use pricing and go back to flat rate pricing. This is going backwards. Silent on any reforms specific to business pricing.
<b>CANCEL UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS AND REMOVE COSTS OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS FROM RATES</b>			
<b>Cancel the Conservation and Demand Management (CDM) programs</b>	Continue to support programs and a Conservation First policy where conservation will be considered before new generation where cost-effective.	Will move the cost of the CDM programs to the tax base but will continue them. Marginal short-term impact on electricity costs; longer-term risk of higher costs.	Silent on the CDM programs.
<b>Eliminate the Meter Data Management and Repository (MDM/R)</b>	Have voted to extend the services of the Smart Metering Entity for another five years and expand its scope.	Have committed to transferring the cost of the Smart Metering Entity and smart meter infrastructure to the tax base; platform is silent on future existence of the MDM/R.	Silent on the MDM/R.
<b>Remove social programs such as the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) and the Rural and Remote Rate Protection Program (RRRP) from electricity rates.</b>	OESP and most of RRRP transferred to tax base as part of the Fair Hydro Plan.	Platform assumes full Fair Hydro Plan benefit to consumers continues. Platform makes references to transferring other costs that are not considered electricity (CDM, MDM/R).	Silent on OESP but plan to reduce rural delivery costs through tax subsidies (OPG water fees).

NOTL HYDRO BOARD RECOMMENDATION			
<b>MANAGING DISTRIBUTION COSTS</b>			
Recognize the role and benefits of smaller LDCs and not promote consolidation.	Have increasingly promoted consolidation by both their words and actions.	Silent on LDC consolidation in their platform but have encouraged consolidation in the past.	Have recognized the benefits of smaller LDCs though mainly because they are publicly owned.
Separate the transmission and distribution businesses of Hydro One	No action taken on this.	Silent on this.	Silent on this.
Break-up the Hydro One distribution business into smaller local distributor companies.	No action taken on this.	Silent on this.	Silent on this.
Recognition of the value of the ownership position in Hydro One.	Have continued to dilute public ownership and value by selling Hydro One shares to the market as well as to company employees and First Nations. Committed to maintaining provincial ownership stake of 40%.	Want to dedicate Hydro One dividends to reduce electricity rates with a goal of preventing future sales. No repurchasing of shares.	Want to buy back 100% ownership of Hydro One.
<b>PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE</b>			
Make the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) fully independent	Recent actions have further eroded the independence of the OEB. Have recently announced an OEB Modernization Panel to independently assess how the OEB can better protect consumers amidst a rapidly changing sector, support innovation and new technologies, and how the OEB should be structured and resourced to deliver on its changing role.	Silent on independence though promise to make the OEB more efficient.	Will give the OEB a mandate to more effectively protect ratepayers. The NDP also propose to cap the return on investment at a lower rate. This latter action would be counter to the concept of independence.
Recognize the changes coming to the industry and plan accordingly.	With net metering are acting to give consumers choice with new technologies. Investigating potential applications with pilot projects.	Recognize need to adapt to new technologies by restoring decision-making to IESO and OEB and away from political branches.	Want generation to be publicly owned which could constrain adaptation of new technologies.