

- EDITORIAL -

Hold parties to their future broken promises

It's one thing to see a car commercial give us all the glitz and glamour with none of the hard numbers. The company is softening us up, luring us in with speed and flashy colours. Don't think about the ticket price, payment plan, your pocketbook. It's about the dream, not the reality. That's fine until we walk into the dealership. They have to tell us the price then. Why would anyone sign on the dotted line without knowing it?

No, we would demand to know the full cost.

Yet many appear willing to walk into the voting booth and sign on without knowing the cost of the next government.

At one point in the not-too-distant past, parties put out fully-costed platforms. Last November, former PC leader Patrick Brown unveiled his 78-page 2018 election platform, calling it The People's Guarantee. It included guarantees to cut income tax rates for middle- and low-income earners. Hydro bills would be slashed by 12 per cent. There was something for child care, mental health, an accountability act: you get the picture.

The party's new leader, Doug Ford, promised a "solid platform that is fully costed," but had yet to release one nearing the midway point of the June 7 election campaign. It seems the plan now is to make a scattering of announcements, each including a price tag.

The Liberal Party back in 2003 bragged about their fully costed platform, saying it was verified by a forensic accountant and two bank economists. Of course, once elected, Premier Dalton McGuinty more than doubled the promised deficit spending and raised taxes (in the form of the Ontario Health Premium.)

The Liberals have had a platform ever since. It is the government's budget released prior to every election. They are piling onto it with - among other promises - a pledge to ban auto insurance rates based on driver postal codes; an idea they voted against at Queen's Park.

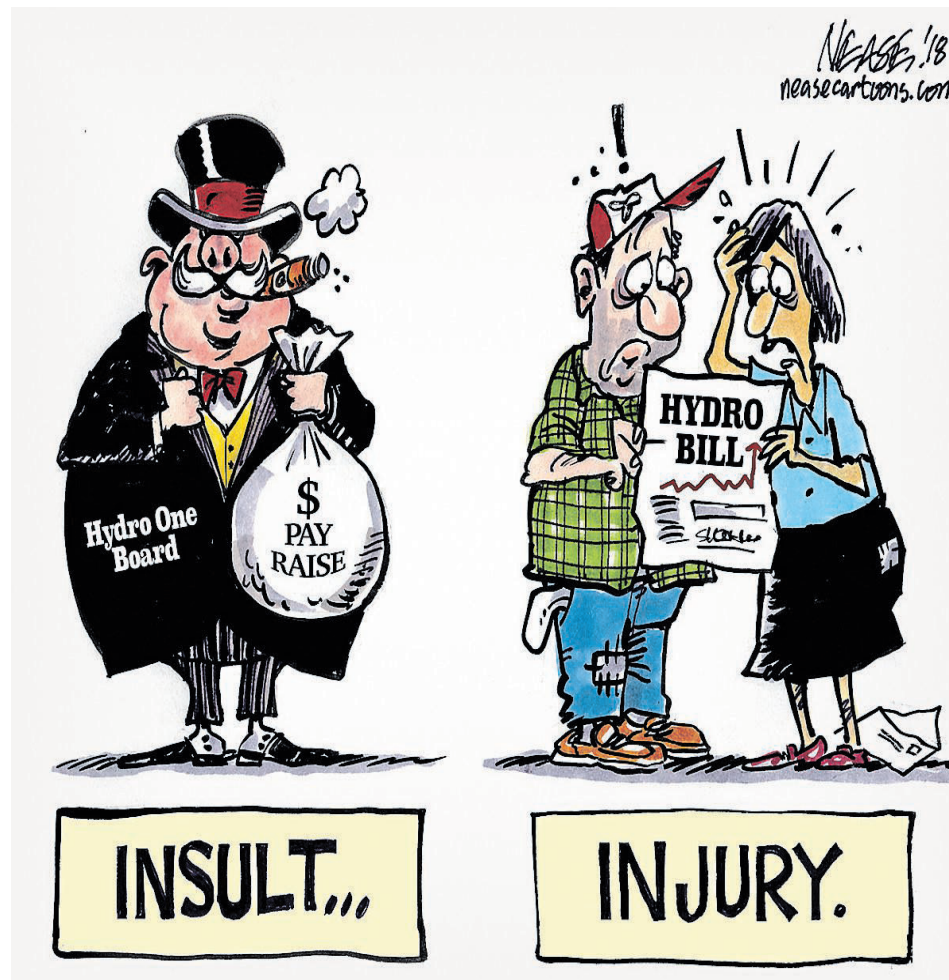
So it seems the choice is between a platform that, based on past actions, would be abandoned once the party wins power; or no platform at all, meaning no promises to break, by a party that wants you to vote in ignorance.

The difference between a broken promise and no promise? At least we can hold them to a broken promise.

The Ontario NDP has offered platforms, including in 2018, and has not broken a promise in decades, if ever. That may have to do with holding precious little time in power, who knows?

We could dream a little too. Maybe that car will go as fast and shine as brightly as in the commercials. Maybe cost doesn't matter. Ready to sign?

Not until we've seen the broken promise first.



Ford needs to be progressive on carbon pricing

Re: A price on carbon by Alan Slavin May 17, 2018

Cap and trade is good, in that it reduces emissions, but it does not help lower income people transition away from fossil fuels.

A carbon fee and dividend does just that - puts money back into the pockets of those who can least afford the ever-increasing costs of fighting climate change. And their contribution to the problem is miniscule, unlike big and wealthy users.

The Progressive Conservatives under Patrick Brown had a plan called the People's Guarantee, where they would give the money back through income tax reduc-

tions. The provincial auditor general would have verified 100 per cent revenue neutrality. The party had a golden opportunity to help everyone, but have now veered away from its progressive roots, much to our collective detriment.

So my question to Doug Ford is this - why do you not want to give money back to me and everyone else in this province using the best plan to fight this escalating threat to humankind?

Gord Cumming

Seatbelts on buses should be mandatory

To provincial leaders and MPP for Dufferin-Caledon,

The lives of our children are near and dear to my heart.

As you are aware, on Friday, May 4, a school bus was

involved in a horrific accident where it plunged into the Humber Valley ravine off of Humber Lea Road. Fortunately there were no significant injuries, but needless to say it is difficult to determine how long these students will suffer the trauma of this incident.

Had the bus rolled over I would hate to guess the number of lives that could have been lost or the injuries that could have been sustained.

Not only myself, but many of my friends I have spoken to about this feel that seatbelts on all buses, not just school buses should be made mandatory and that all passengers failing to adhere to the policy of wearing them should be fined.

As a recent example, 16 members of the Humboldt Bronco Hockey team died and 13 injured, some of them seriously enough that they

may never walk again.

Had this bus been equipped with seatbelts how many of those lives could have been saved, and how many injuries could have been avoided.

How many more horrific bus accidents is it going to take before the provincial government and/or the federal government take action and mandate seatbelts on all public transit.

With the provincial government elections just weeks away, I ask as not only a mother and grandmother, but as a concerned citizen that action be taken immediately to put forth the mandate of seatbelts on public transportation as part of your election platform.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

June Longpre,
Bolton

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