

COMPENDIUM
ONTARIO REBATE FOR ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS ACT, 2016

The proposed *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* would assist eligible consumers with increases in their electricity bills resulting from Ontario's commitment to a more reliable and cleaner electricity system. The proposed Act will, subject to the approval of the Legislature, authorize a rebate equivalent to the provincial portion of the harmonized sales tax (HST) for Ontario electricity consumers in respect of electricity costs relating to certain consumers, including homes, farms, eligible multi-unit residential buildings and eligible small businesses.

Consumers would generally receive the rebate by means of an 8 per cent credit to the charges for electricity on their electricity accounts for each billing period. The rebate would be available and appear on invoices issued on or after January 1, 2017. Certain amounts that may be included on a consumer's invoice, such as a late payment fee or interest charge, would not be considered electricity costs for the purposes of determining the amount of the consumer's rebate.

The proposed Act would authorize the making of regulations to reimburse electricity vendors for amounts rebated to consumers' accounts under the Act. It would contain other administrative and enforcement provisions, including requirements relating to record keeping by electricity vendors and authorization for inspections and inquiries with respect to amounts of rebates provided and reimbursements to electricity vendors.

The proposed Act would also amend the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* so that the provisions of the proposed *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* and regulations made under the proposed Act are enforceable by the Ontario Energy Board.

It is also proposed that the *Ontario Clean Energy Benefit Act, 2010* be amended to authorize regulations to cease the making of any further payments or reimbursements under the former financial assistance program on a date to be prescribed.