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Sent By Email

Steve Orsini
Secretary of the Cabinet
Head of the Public Service and Clerk of the Executive Council

Dear Mr. Orsini:

Auditor General of Ontario's Special Report on the Fair Hydro Plan (the "Report")

This week, Ontario's Auditor General uncovered an appalling attempt by the Wynne Government to hide the true \$4 billion cost of the government's hydro rebate scheme, a price which will be paid by all Ontarians.

The Auditor General concluded that the government is proposing to use accounting that does not follow its own policy for preparing financial statements under independently set Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The Auditor General found that such a practice hides the real financial impact of the government's purported electricity rate reduction from Ontarians.

"However, the government did not properly account for this debt impact from the electricity rate reduction in its 2017/18 budget and is not planning to account for it properly in its future consolidated financial statements. In essence, the government is making up its own accounting rules." (p.6)

The Report outlines that, despite requests having been previously made to the Ministry of Energy for the production of related and highly relevant documents by the Auditor General, this documentation has not been forthcoming.

The Ministry of Energy signed a contract, with a retainer of \$500,000, to receive help from a law firm to provide search services and to compile emails before providing them to us. At the time we completed this Special Report, the Ministry had still not provided us with all of its emails, which we requested on May 31, 2017." (p.6)

Similar requests made by media under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 have also been refused on the basis that "no records exist".

In light of the revelations contained in the Report, and the necessity to get to the bottom of this highly improper conduct, we must insist that all records related to this matter, including, but not limited to, all sound recordings, videotapes, photographs, books of account and data and information in hard copy and electronic form be preserved. For absolute clarity, this request is not limited to the Ministry of Energy, but extends to all possible custodians in the provincial government.

