[Liberal Press Release] Now versus Never - March 15, 2017

From: Liberal Caucus <research@liberal.ola.org>
To: Liberal Caucus <research@liberal.ola.org>
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 2017 09:50:15 -0400

Liberal Caucus Service Bureau
For Immediate Release
March 15, 2017

Now versus Never

(Queen's Park) Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is cutting electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all families, with an 8 per cent cut already and the rest to follow this summer. The NDP's plan will never provide relief. It's now versus never.

Liberal	NDP	PC
Decrease bills by an average of 25% for families, small businesses and farms	Maintain the 8% HST rebate, with the rest subject to future decisions.	No plan
Refinancing the global adjustment to provide immediate, fair relief for ratepayers.	Defer global adjustment changes to an obscure expert panel	No plan on global adjustment
Enhancing electricity support programs and shifting these costs off the electricity bill	Defer electricity support programs for low income Ontarians to vague future announcement	No plan on low income Ontarians
Broadening rural and remote rate protection to provide distribution charge relief for customers of the LDCs with the highest charges	NDP plan wouldn't tackle delivery charges in a meaningful way, and does not make structural reforms.	No plan on rural or remote rate protection
Expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program to increase the level of assistance and access to the program	Defer electricity support programs for low income Ontarians to vague future announcement	No plan on low income Ontarians
Establishing a new On-Reserve First Nations Delivery Credit, eliminating the delivery charge for all on-reserve First Nations	Does not mention First Nations communities	No plan on First Nations communities
Broadening the ownership of Hydro One to invest in infrastructure and pay down debt. We are directing net revenue gains from the sale to fund infrastructure projects across Ontario that will create jobs and strengthen the economy. These proceeds will help fund priority projects such as GO Transit Regional Express Rail, Light Rail Transit projects in	Buy back $4 billion of shares at unpredictable prices, for purely ideological reasons. The ownership of Hydro One does not impact rates. The OEB regulates rates. In fact, experts have repeatedly stated that they expect Hydro One to become more efficient, potentially reducing costs for	Want to halt the process of broadening the ownership of Hydro One – which will not take one cent off electricity bills.

communities across Ontario, as well as new natural gas network expansion in rural and northern communities. We've also committed to a $31.5B dedicated fund to invest in public transit, transportation, and other priority infrastructure projects across Ontario.	ratepayers.	
Allowing the OEB to phase in fixed distribution charges across all LDC's – which will be in place between 2019 for most and 2023 for Hydro One.	NDP plan wouldn't tackle delivery charges in a meaningful way, and does not make structural reforms.	No plan on distribution
Supporting ongoing OEB pricing pilots and exploring alternatives to Time Of Use pricing. The pilots will test the most effective methods of providing customer choice, while recovering the costs needed to run the system. Pricing plans will eventually be tailored to individual needs – much like what already occurs for cable, phone, and internet packages.	Capping the price of electricity at an arbitrary 10.3 cents /kWh. The proposal does not clarify how system costs would be recovered and payments made to cover the cost of existing supply, generation and transmission. A shortage could potentially put reliability at risk. Doing away with Time of Use would also lead to much larger peak energy demands, which have been reduced by 4-5% through the program – which can lead to a need to build expensive new generation.	No plan on pricing
Benchmarking energy executives to comparators, while reserving the right to not permit increases.	No plan on executive compensation.	Claim they would bring down executive compensation in the energy sector to tackle rates – would have a negligible impact. Regardless, they have no plan on how to do this.
Using energy plants (like Pickering) until the natural end of their useful life to help save cost in building out new generation	Decommissioning Pickering earlier than currently forecasted would lead to significant job losses – they are also very vague about timelines.	No plan on Pickering
Renegotiated the Samsung agreement, reducing costs by $3.7B, reduced the FIT prices through annual reviews saving $1.9B, suspended large renewable procurement program to drive down costs by $1.5B, suspending LRP II and Energy From Waste to reduce costs by $3.8B, and suspending future FIT procurements.	Capping the profit margins of suppliers at less than 5.5%. This would open the province up to lawsuits as many of these suppliers already have contracts, and have done long term planning for their infrastructure builds.	Ripping up contracts is not a plan. It would open up the province to massive legal lawsuits and potentially no savings, while sending a message to investors that Ontario can't be trusted with their business. Want to also suspend LRP 1, which would lead to

		lawsuits as well. With more than 28,000 electricity contracts through the IESO, this process will be costly, drawn-out, and uncertain.
Maintaining open, competitive electricity trade with our neighbours. We buy and sell power from our neighbours when we need to and when prices are advantageous for Ontario ratepayers. Exports and imports allow us to have a reliable grid.	The proposal on importing and exporting electricity is very vague and relies on an "expert panel" to create a plan.	No plan on electricity trade
Continuing the 8% HST rebate.	Pursue lengthy and uncertain negotiations with the federal government to attempt to rebate all of HST. The NDP proposal already fully includes these negotiations as successful and adds it to their plan for reported reductions.	No plan for tax on electricity bills

Four questions for the NDP

1. Will Andrea Horwath support our plan to reduce rates?
2. Will Andrea Horwath explain how buying billions of dollars in shares of Hydro One will reduce electricity rates?
3. Will Andrea Horwath explain why she has no plan for vulnerable or at-risk Ontarians?
4. Will Andrea Horwath explain how opening up the province to millions of dollars in legal costs to reopen contracts will help quickly lower rates?

-30-

For more information:
416-325-9138