

[Notes] Horwath on CFRA Ottawa - September 12, 2016

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Date: Mon, 12 Sep 2016 16:34:46 -0400

Solomon: Welcome Horwath. Always a pleasure. Naqvi on the program and he said we've invested heavily in the grid, taken coal plants offline, yes rates are middle-ground, and now this is a permanent 8% rebate. Response?

Horwath:

If they were serious taking 8% off, they should have just taken it off the hydro bill

Instead they have another rebate in place

Not now, they're going to have to wait until January

Who knows how long it's going to last

Solomon: Naqvi says it's permanent. You don't buy it?

Horwath:

I don't buy it

They should have taken HST off completely

Never mind rebate program, it never should have been put on the bills in the first place

Never too late to make the right decision

Solomon: Patrick Brown said here's the problem, they're taking off 8% but they've also taken off the clean energy rebate which was 10%

Horwath:

With rebate programs that's the problem

They can be overturned by any government, they can be sunset by the Liberals

If you want HST off, take it off

Solomon: what's your solution for lowering energy prices?

Horwath:

People talk about built-in costs or legacy costs or that decisions made over the years where we can't get rates down

Let's not forget it was conservative government led us down the road to massively privatize system
Liberals have done just as much damage, if not worse
Other provinces on either side of us have rates that are half of ours
What we ended up with now is a system people can't afford
A system that was put in place first to bring better life to people of Ontario

Solomon: Hydro One is only 15% privatized up to now. It was public before and the rates still went up. That's what I asked PB. This criticism that if you stop privatization everything will be

Horwath:
More you privatize, the more rates go up

Solomon: how do you lower them now though?

Horwath:
Windfall will go to benefiting return on investment of owners
Before Mike Harris and conservatives started massively outsourcing generation of hydro in this province, we had rates that were similar to Manitoba or Quebec

Solomon: let's not go back, I don't want to do history lesson, but you're right

Horwath:
These contracts have been a huge problem
We got a peek into them with the gas plant scandal
They vastly favor interests of private-sector companies

Solomon: fair enough on energy contracts. One of the issue is cap and trade and everyone having to pay 13 a month. Taxpayers federation said get rid of that? You support price on carbon, how do you get lower prices by supporting that?

Horwath:
Concerned about lack of transparency
Mitigating impact on lower-income family
People in the north paying far more for energy
On a theoretical basis do we believe there needs to be some way to deal with climate change problems we face? Absolutely
Overall do we support cap and trade? Absolutely
But the Liberals implemented a system that doesn't meet three hallmarks: fairness, transparency and making sure we take care of people who are not able to pay

Solomon: love these discussions, thanks. Always enjoy having you.

Horwath: Take care