

[TRANSCRIPT] Andrea Horwath PWPS - September 25, 2017

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MPP: Andrea Horwath

Media: CTV, Allison Jones, Smith-cross, TVO, Crawley, Bliss, Benzie, Brule, jeffords, global, Allison Smith

[START TRANSCRIPT]

Part 1:

Rath: So essentially the Liberals are saying that people in Ontario don't understand their hydro bills or they don't understand that they can get rebates if – [Becomes one-off]

Part 2:

Benzie: The Northern Ontario flap, I don't know if any of your folks were in the House when Lou Rinaldi said what he- they- Tories said they say he was talking about the North as a no man's land, you actually have the seats in the North so what - what do your guy's-

Horwath:

- Well, one of the things we know for sure is that the Liberals have not been paying attention to the concerns of Northern Ontarians
- I mean let's face it, they closed down the only passenger train that Northerners had access to when they got rid of the Northlander
- They have not been funding healthcare at the levels that they should be funding and they're having a real difficult time accessing healthcare in the North
- They've been closing schools in Northern Ontario and small town Ontario
- And all of these things are impacting Northerners
- And so I mean they can have a back and forth if they want across the House based on what Mr. Rinaldi may – or not – may or may not have said, but the bottom line is the Liberals have – have been ignoring the North and we had this huge economic opportunity apparently about a decade ago called the Ring of Fire and that still hasn't come into fruition
- And so it's not surprising to me if Northerners are quite upset with the Liberals because they have not seen a lot of action

Brule: Andrea about the documents that you talked about in the House today about the uh- the money being spent, can you explain to us what is it that you found in those documents?

Horwath:

- Well we found that the Liberals have a plan to continue advertising their um – hydro reductions to the tune of about \$5.5-million of public money
- From our perspective, the \$5.5-million should be invested in helping people get their hydro bills down
- not in partisan government advertising that wouldn't pass the smell test if the government hadn't changed the laws
- Right I mean the auditor general is not allowed to look at this stuff
- And so they go ahead and spend public money promoting their um - what I think is a very inappropriate plan that's going to cost us \$40-billion

Smith-Cross: Do you think there is anybody in Ontario now who isn't aware of the changes the government has made to bring the hydro bills down?

Horwath:

- No I doubt it very much and that's the problem
- I mean the government is using public dollars to promote their own partisan interests
- And I think people are tired of that kind of behaviour from this Liberal government
- And I find it astounding that none of their \$5.5-billion is – sorry million dollars is going out the door to help Kathleen Wynne and her Liberal – party as opposed to being used for – for – you know for people and their needs

Jones: Is it - the size of the number that surprises you, is there a more sensible budget you think that they could advertise this with?

Horwath:

- No I mean the bottom line is people are opening their hydro bills and they are seeing a difference perhaps
- Perhaps not
- I'm hearing that people are still pretty unhappy about the electricity system
- But I mean the government documents say very clearly the only reason they're putting this plan together to advertise is because of the bad media
- You guys are doing a good job
- The bad media that they got on – on skyrocketing electricity costs
- I mean you know this is public money
- I mean if it's private – you know – party money, that's one thing
- But this is public money trying to sell people on a plan that the government has put in place

- A plan that frankly is not a good plan for the people of Ontario

Jones: You mentioned the um – sort of timing around the election and government advertising, they say that there's obviously rules – that there are rules now, they couldn't do that during the campaign 60 days before, do you worry that the – a lot of the 17/18 budget is going to be loaded for that period right before that cut-off?

[becomes one-off]

[END TRANSCRIPT]