

TRANSCRIPT – France Gélinas Post Question Period Scrum – March 23 , 2017

MPP: France Gélinas

Media: Jeffords, Crawley, Brulé

[START TRANSCRIPT]

Gélinas:

- --say this, they started talking from both sides of their mouth at the same time
- I mean, hospital have invested hundreds of thousand of their own money to try to get their electricity bill under control
- They have been successful in decreasing the amount of the electricity that they use and sometimes by big amount, like 25 percent reduction in the amount of electricity they use
- And, yet, their hydro bill continues to be higher and higher
- It is a concern—hospital wouldn't be going through all of this time, effort and energy and money to try to decrease their hydro bill, if it was not
- When I meet with them—you were in our ridings during January—everybody was so happy because January was really mild in the North and they were all saying the same thing, you know, like, they're looking at balancing their books, they're going to save a little bit of money on hydro in January, but then March came and it was brutally cold so they all know that any savings there is, is [gone out]
- So hospital do spend a fair amount of time, resources, energy, money to try to manage their electricity, because they are so squeezed for cash that, you know—like, 1 percent, yes, but 1 percent of a 5-million-dollar budget is still millions of dollars that, that goes out the window, paying hydro bills that keeps going up and up

Crawley: So what do you think government should do about, you know, the amount that hospitals are paying for electricity?

Gélinas:

- Well, I would say they should have never done the mistakes with our hydro system
- We should have never come to that
- I mean, they've made some really bad decisions when it comes to hydro that have led our hospital to be in this very bad situation
- At this point, they have no choice but to offer relief—relief like the NDP has put forward would help all of the, all of the hydro user, whether you are a hospital or not, to decrease the amount of hydro bills that they have to pay every month
- This is cash that could be going to nursing care, to hospital services, to drugs, to everything else that a hospital needs to do, rather than ever-increasing hydro bills

Jeffords: France, CP is reporting this morning that the OEB has said that a month after the government ordered reconnections for hydro customers who had been disconnected, that only half of the customers have been, I guess, reconnected to this point. I'm wondering about your reaction to that?

Gélinas:

- This is shameful
- This is shameful
- I mean, this is something that the government is on the record to say—

one-off

[END TRANSCRIPT]