

Draft 10
Vision Extrusions — Industrial Conservation Initiative
Remarks
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Hello. Bonjour. Boohzoo. Ahnee.

Thank you, Steven. [Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation].

It's great to be back at Vision Extrusions.

When I first visited this business in 2013 I learned one of Vision's principles — "if you can envision it, we can build it."

We took a similar message to people in the provincial election of 2014.

We asked them to envision a stronger, fairer Ontario.

A place with more opportunity, cleaner air, better access to education, and stronger health care.

And a place where businesses could thrive in a competitive global economy.

When we received a mandate to deliver on that vision, we began to build Ontario up.

This included the final phase out of heavily polluting coal-fired electricity.

Ending coal saves about \$4 billion a year in health and other pollution-related costs.

Today, more than 90 per cent Ontario's electricity is emissions-free.

It's something we can all be proud of.

We're leading in the fight against climate change and are well positioned for the low-carbon economy of tomorrow.

At the same time, the costs of building a clean and reliable electricity grid after decades of neglect have pushed hydro rates up.

Knowing how this was squeezing households and businesses, we've already taken a number of steps to push those rates back down.

We removed the Debt Retirement Charge from residential electricity bills...

Made electricity more affordable for low-income families through the Ontario Electricity Support Program...

And renegotiated the Green Energy Investment Agreement with Samsung.

But even with the costs we've taken off people's bills and out of the system, the price of power has continued to rise here just as it has across Canada and around the world.

I've heard from people in every region of the province that it's become too much.

And we've listened.

Because it is not just an electricity issue.

People need more help with the cost of living.

And it's my job to find ways to give people that break they deserve wherever we can.

So our plan has helped Ontario's economy emerge as one of Canada's fastest growing.

But I know that for a family, going from 1 to 2 to 3 per cent growth doesn't necessarily help with next month's bills.

For the province though, that growth means we are able to further support people.

A stronger economy means we can help make everyday living more affordable.

It's why jobs and growth are my top priority.

And it's why on Monday we announced we would lower electricity bills for people and businesses across Ontario.

[French only: We will lower electricity bills for people and businesses across Ontario]

So later today Glenn Thibeault, our Minister of Energy, will introduce the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act.

This legislation, if passed, will rebate the provincial portion of the HST directly on electricity bill for millions of families, farms and small businesses — an 8 per cent savings every month.

The opposition want to call this anything but a tax break that is going to help people in their everyday lives.

But the math is simple.

The province will take in less tax from electricity bills so that people can pay less and keep more of their hard-earned money.

That's what a balanced plan to build Ontario up for everyone does.

And we're also making sure businesses are benefitting.

The price of power is an important consideration for a business looking to invest or expand.

So **we're massively expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative.**

The ICI program helps businesses manage their electricity costs by rewarding conservation efforts with lower rates.

It can reduce their electricity costs by a third.

Here at Vision Extrusions, ICI has resulted in a 17 percent savings.

That's half a million dollars a year that can be invested back into the business. [TBC]

Vision is one of 300 businesses benefiting from the program.

With the changes we're announcing, the ICI program will soon be available to over a thousand more businesses across the province.

It's all part of our commitment to build a competitive, low-carbon economy for today and tomorrow.

Because good jobs in a growing economy means we can continue to help people in their everyday lives.

I'd now like to call on Glenn to talk in more detail about how our energy relief initiatives will help Ontario's families and businesses.

Thank you. Merci.