

COVER NOTE FOR MEDIA AVAIL

MEETING WITH MAYOR WATSON — MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017

Premier —

On Monday, March 6th, you will be meeting with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson. His office has highlighted three main discussion points for the meeting: Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, infrastructure investments in Ottawa (specifically LRT) and the growing issue of opioid use in Canadian cities.

Mayor Watson's office is happy to make the hydro plan the focus of the media avail following your meeting. Below is a set of BPs to consider for that avail. Attached to this note is a shorter, one-page version of the BPs should you need them.

- Hello everyone, thank you for being here
- And I want to thank my friend Jim for our meeting today [Jim Watson, Mayor, Ottawa]
- It's great to have you back at Queen's Park

Since our days in cabinet together, Mayor Watson and I have always believed that government can be a force for good in people's lives

- Today, we talked about the work we are doing together to make that a reality
- That conversation began with the province's plan to lower the cost of electricity for every ratepayer in Ontario
- In a challenging economic time, families are having trouble getting ahead — and staying ahead
- The way hydro rates have gone up so much and so quickly has hit household budgets particularly hard
- It's unfair and it's up to us to do something about it

So, starting this summer, rates will come down significantly — an average of 25 per cent across the board

- And we're going to hold rates there, raising them only by inflation — roughly 2 per cent — for at least four years
- It is the largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario's history

As a former Minister, Jim knows how decades of underinvestment had undermined our electricity system

- We made a decision to rebuild — \$50 billion worth of new energy infrastructure
- That was the right thing to do — today the grid is clean and reliable
- No more blackouts. No more smog days
- But we asked today's generation of ratepayers to absorb all of these costs, paying for the mistakes of the past and subsidizing future ratepayers

That wasn't fair — we heard that from families across Ontario, including in Ottawa

- The actions we took to keep bills down over the last few years were just too narrow in scope — they didn't make a big enough dent
- So we're fundamentally restructuring the way the system is funded — spreading the costs of building a clean, reliable system out over a time frame that is fairer
- [Nous prenons davantage de moyens pour restructurer et refinancer le système. Le résultat sera des tarifs d'électricité en Ontario grandement réduits. Les tarifs vont demeurer bas et tout le monde en profitera.]

We're able to absorb the costs of this plan for fairer hydro because Ontario's economy is strong

- Our budget will be balanced this spring

- A balanced budget is not an accounting exercise — it puts us in a position to do even more to make sure our economic growth is inclusive — that everyone shares in our province's prosperity
- For example, it means we can keep building infrastructure at a record pace

Mayor Watson and I also talked about that today

- We talked about projects that the province is supporting because they are going to make a real difference for people in Ottawa, like the Confederation LRT
- So I want to thank Jim for meeting with me today to continue our work building fair, inclusive communities
- Thank you and now I'll turn it over to Mayor Watson

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Kevin — 416-303-7688

Ian — 416- 326-5608

Genevieve — 416-325-7245