

September 16-17, 2016

## Media Scan: Price Mitigation Announcements

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## Print

### Barrie Examiner: Minister of Housing visits grid control facility in Barrie

By [Cheryl Browne](#), Barrie Examiner

Friday, September 16, 2016 5:38:11 EDT PM

(Appeared on page A1 of the hard copy on September 17, 2016)

(Also posted on Orillia Packet and Times website)



Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth and Minister of Housing Chris Ballard, who is also Newmarket-Aurora's MPP, speak to local media shortly after making an announcement on reducing electricity costs during a news conference held at the Hydro One Ontario Grid Control Centre in Barrie, Friday. MARK WANZEL/PHOTO

After one of the hottest summers on record, Ontarians would do well to be reminded of the blackouts and brownouts of yesteryear.

This was the message newly minted Minister of Housing and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard told the Hydro One workers at the Ontario Grid Control Centre in Barrie on Friday.

Together with Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth, Ballard was in Barrie to re-announce the Liberal government's commitment to save Ontario residents and businesses money on their hydro bills.

Yet before he re-announced the future 8% savings on the HST portion of Ontarians' bills, he focused on the past.

“When our government came to power in 2003, we inherited an electricity system that was dependent on dirty coal and was well, frankly, it was falling apart in many ways. We had not invested in the system in many, many years,” Ballard said.

“In 2015, Ontario’s electricity generation was more than 90% emission-free, bringing an end to regular smog days. In fact, when is the last time, even though we had a very hot and muggy summer, when’s the last time, we truly had a big smog day?”

Ballard, who joined the provincial Liberal government in 2014, said he was proud the government had brought an end to those emissions that were making our children sick.

“And we rebuilt our transmissions and distribution systems, ensuring rolling brown outs and black outs were a thing of the past. I remember those days. That’s a record we can all be proud of and you can be proud of,” he said.

Now with the coal factories a thing of the past, he also acknowledged that there was a cost associated with the improvements to the province’s power grid.

Ballard said the Liberal government recognized the upgrades have put pressure on both household and small-business budgets.

“We’ve heard from Ontarians they could use some help with the cost of everyday living, like the cost of electricity bills. So today, I’m proud to announce that Ontario will be taking action to reduce electricity costs in a lasting, meaningful way,” he said.

On Monday, Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault announced the 8% rebate of the HST on electricity bills for farmers, families and small businesses will take effect in January.

Ballard said the government will also help eligible families in rural areas who pay higher delivery charges to get some relief on their hydro bills.

“For eligible customers, we’ll modernize the rural or remote rate protection to help equalize the delivery costs between rural and more urban communities. These changes will reduce bills for more than 330,000 eligible customers by 20% and provide savings of more than \$540 annually,” he said.

Additionally, Ballard said the province will expand the eligibility of the Industrial Conservation Initiative program by one-third to help 1,000 more businesses reduce their electricity costs.

“First started in 2011 for only the largest companies in Ontario, the Industrial Conservation Initiative empowers individual businesses to better manage their electricity use and rewards them with lower costs for reducing their electricity consumption on the warmest days of summer and the coldest days of winter,” Ballard said.

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## Bayshore Broadcasting: Energy Minister on Open Line

Friday, September 16, 2016 1:45 PM by Matt Villeneuve

Glenn Thibeault spoke with former MPP Bill Murdoch on Open Line on Friday.



Bill Murdoch talks with Glenn Thibeault, the Minister of Energy, on Friday in the Open Line studio at Bayshore Broadcasting in Owen Sound (Photo by Matthew Villeneuve).

There is audio for this story.

 [click to open MP3 version](#)

(Owen Sound) -

Callers in Grey and Bruce Counties had a unique opportunity to ask the Minister of Energy about Ontario's electricity woes.

Glenn Thibeault was in Owen Sound on Friday and he appeared on Open Line on 560 CFOS with host Bill Murdoch, the former MPP for Bruce Grey Owen Sound.

Thibeault told listeners the Liberal's eight per cent tax rebate on electricity bills will benefit property owners in northern, rural and remote communities, such as Grey Bruce.

Those who phoned in were skeptical of the minister's comments, mentioning previous mistakes with energy portfolio (audio from Friday's Open Line is attached).

The reduction will automatically be removed from consumers' bills -- with a line reminding them of the discount -- as of January 1st, 2017.

Premier Kathleen Wynne, meanwhile, on Wednesday vowed to make the HST rebate permanent, a commitment that cost the provincial treasury \$1-billion annually.

Thibeault is also touring the Bruce Power nuclear station in Tiverton

## BlackburnNews.com: Provincial Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault

Energy Minister Touts Liberal Electricity Rate Plan



By Kirk ScottSeptember 16, 2016 4:13pm

Provincial Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says his government's plan to reduce hydro rates will help the people who need it most.

The Liberal government is removing the 8% portion of the retail sales tax from hydro bills. As well it's increasing the break rural residents get on their hydro bills.

"So what we've done is brought forward the single largest saving on electricity bills in Ontario's history and so what we're doing is making sure this going to be implemented by January 1," says Thibeault.

He made the comments in an interview Bruce Power after addressing a crowd of suppliers and municipal representatives.

Earlier he met with Bruce Grey United Way Executive Director Francesca Dobbyn. Dobbyn says the minister seemed sympathetic to people who are struggling with their hydro bills.

She presented him with a list of concerns and felt the minister was listening.

## CanIndiaNews.com: Bill tabled in assembly; relief promised in hydro costs

September 16th, 2016  [CIEDITOR-BALA](#)



New legislation was introduced in the provincial assembly yesterday that would, if passed, reduce electricity costs for about five million residential consumers, small businesses and farms. The province is also pursuing amendments to provide additional savings opportunities to more than 1,000 large energy consumers across the province.

Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Ottawa today to highlight savings for families and businesses in the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016. The proposed bill would save families, farmers and small businesses eight per cent directly on their electricity bills by providing a permanent on-bill rebate equal to the provincial portion of the HST. Rural consumers would receive an additional benefit from decreased rural delivery charges for eligible customers. Combined with the eight per cent rebate, this would mean average savings of \$540 a year or \$45 each month for eligible rural customers.

Wynne said: “To build this province up for everyone, people need clean and reliable electricity. But it also needs to be affordable. I have listened to people’s concerns about how the price of electricity is adding to their daily pressures. And our proposed legislation is a solution that will save people money so that family budgets can go further.”

### Critical investments

Building on existing programs, including the Ontario Electricity Support Program, Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit and the Ontario Sales Tax Credit, these measures would deliver the electricity cost relief Ontarians need, while the government continues to make the critical investments necessary to maintain a modern, clean and reliable energy system.

- Since 2003, Ontario has invested more than \$35 billion in over 16,000 megawatts of new and refurbished clean generation, including nuclear, natural gas and renewables, representing about 40 per cent of Ontario's current supply.
- The Ontario Electricity Support Program provides a monthly on-bill rate reduction to make electricity more affordable for low-income families.
- Ontario's removal of the Debt Retirement Charge from electricity bills this past January is saving a typical residential electricity user about \$70 each year.
- Between 2015 and 2020, Ontario will invest over \$2.6 billion through its Conservation First Framework to help homeowners and businesses become more energy efficient and save money.

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy: "These actions will benefit all ratepayers in a meaningful way. Many rural and northern customers would receive significant rate relief. Expanding incentives across Ontario would create more opportunity for businesses to be competitive and manage their electricity costs. Permanently rebating provincial taxes from electricity bills will provide extra relief for families, farms and small businesses."

The government is also proposing amendments to expand the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI), empowering more than 1,000 more businesses to shift their consumption away from peak periods. The expanded ICI would include all sectors and have a lower threshold for participation, delivering savings directly to the consumer and the system as a whole. – CINEWS

## CBC News: Region of Waterloo companies can reduce electricity by 34%, local MPPs say

*Cambridge Towel spends \$130,000 a month on electricity bills*

By Joe Pavia, [CBC News](#) Posted: Sep 16, 2016 3:29 PM ET Last Updated: Sep 16, 2016 4:48 PM ET



Local Liberal MPPs Daiene Vernile and Kathryn McGarry held a press conference Friday morning in Cambridge to tout the benefits of the provincial government's new hydro rebate. (Chris Seto/CBC)

Companies in the Region of Waterloo who use one megawatt of energy per month qualify for the Ontario government's Industrial Conservation Initiative, two local MPPs say.

MPP Kathryn McGarry of Cambridge and Daiene Vernile of Kitchener Centre used Cambridge Towel as a backdrop to promote the Liberal government's electricity cost-reduction plan announced in this week's throne speech – a plan that [has been called a "Band-Aid solution"](#) by Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown.

Through the ICI, industries could save 34 per cent on their electricity bills, the two MPPs said.

Homeowners in the region will see their electricity bills drop eight per cent with an average yearly saving of about \$130, they said.

Hydro third largest expense

Hugh Thompson, president of Cambridge Towel, said hydro is his company's third-highest expense behind labour and materials.

"Currently we're using about \$130,000 of energy a month," Thompson said.

"It has become this huge issue in terms of trying to be competitive and stay competitive in terms of cost reduction. We constantly do everything we can in terms of conservation."

But Jonathon Azzopardi, president of the Windsor-based tool and die maker, Laval International, said Ontario's eight per cent hydro rebate is useless for large manufacturers.

[#Ontario](#) is reducing electricity costs for [@RegionWaterloo](#) families & businesses - like [@cambridgetowel](#)! [#kwawesome](#) [pic.twitter.com/saTBABWs6k](https://pic.twitter.com/saTBABWs6k)

— [@DaieneVernile](#)

He said hydro has quickly become his third highest expense – behind labour and materials. One of his infrared ovens uses as much energy in eight hours as two homes do in a year.

"It's a very valuable process, but very expensive to run. And we're not unique. There's a lot of other industries that have those same types of consumers of electricity," Azzopardi said.

"You have to think twice when you turn it on, really. You're trying to figure out reasons not to turn it on when you should be thinking of reasons why to turn it on, and that's not a good thing."

Lower hydro bill could lead to hiring

Thompson said manufacturing industries in Ontario are suffering because of the cost of electricity, but he believes the 34 per cent reduction could lead to hiring new employees.

"If we reduce our cost we are able to become more efficient," Thompson said.

"If we become more efficient we can offer more goods to the market at a lower cost, and if we do that we'll grow our volume, and if we grow our volume we'll hire more people."

## Farms.com: OFA: Throne Speech Speaks directly to Agriculture (Sep 16, 2016)

By Keith Currie, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) watched as the Governor General delivered a new throne speech on September 12 – a “reset” of the Liberal government’s direction for the next two years. Throne speeches are, by nature, very general overviews of the new direction of the government. It was encouraging, therefore, to see specific references to food and farming and, in particular the acknowledgement that electricity rates are too high.

It’s no surprise the Liberals stayed steady on the commitment to building Ontario up through job creation and economic growth. The notion of new job skills training to help build the economy is good news for the agri-food sector, and has opportunities to feed into the overall growth challenge the Premier set for our sector at the beginning of this government’s mandate.

OFA is pleased to see the government’s continued commitment to infrastructure improvements. We’ll be monitoring the roll out for rural Ontario.

We all know electricity prices are stifling economic growth, and to hear the government recognize that rising costs are hurting household budgets across Ontario is a step in the right direction. The proposed 8% electricity rebate and adjustments to the Rural and Remote Rate Protection Plan to add up to 20% will at least help lower farm electricity bills in the short term. However, this initiative is about giving us back some of our own tax dollars and may further complicate balancing the provincial budget.

We know farming and the food sector rely on competitive energy, so we need real programs and policies in place to address the entire energy complex. For farming and rural Ontario, the real solution lies in building the infrastructure needed for natural gas across rural Ontario. We will continue to remind government about the \$1 billion per year savings in rural energy costs that would be realized if natural gas was readily available.

The speech reports that the Red Tape Challenge is continuing to help businesses save time and money, but the plan for reducing unnecessary regulations is unproven for the agri-food sector as consultations are ongoing. OFA will continue advocating for the existing Open for Business initiative that is designed to reduce red tape for farming businesses.

Other than its new focus on high electricity costs, the government did not signal any big directional changes or promises in the throne speech. This reset for the Liberal government doesn’t significantly alter our direction. OFA will continue to advocate on the key issues that impact the ability of Ontario’s agri-food sector to thrive. We will work to secure rural infrastructure improvement, competitive energy rates, a positive outcome for farming under the pending Cap and Trade system, and generally watching closely for the opportunities where our members can grow their farm businesses.

Source: OFA

## GuelphToday.com: Sandals says hydro billing changes also help big business

New usage thresholds means 1,000 larger hydro customers can benefit from hydro incentives

September 16, 2016

by: Tony Saxon



Guelph MP Liz Sandals and Linamar CEO Linda Hasenfratz share a hug Friday, Sept. 16, 2016, at the Linamar plant on Woodlawn Road. Tony Saxon/GuelphToday

Guelph MP Liz Sandals says changes by the provincial government to hydro billing means 1,000 more businesses in Ontario will be eligible for relief on their hydro bills.

Sandals was at Linamar's Woodlawn Road plant on Friday to pump the tires on hydro changes announced in Monday's throne speech. In particular she focused on how those changes benefit not only homeowners and farmers, but also bigger industrial hydro consumers.

The government offers a program to them called the Industrial Conservation Initiative to larger industrial customers. When the program started a company had to consume 5 megawatts of electricity a month during peak hours to qualify for savings. That was lowered to 3 megawatts and the new proposals will see that threshold lowered to 1 megawatt.

Sandals said that lower threshold will not only make it available to smaller industrial users, but also large office buildings and institutional customers.

"All of our energy consumers now get some sort of advantage through the program," Sandals said.

"Eligible industrial customers will be able to find cost savings of up to 34 per cent, dependign on their ability to reduce peak electricity consumption," Sandals said.

Linamar CEO Linda Hasenfratz said hydro incentives work, not only in helping make Ontario manufacturers more competitive in the global market place through reduced costs, but they also motivate manufacturers to invest in measures that reduce their hydro consumption.

"Our plants are always looking at ways to reduce hydro consumption," said Hasenfratz, whose bigger plants have saved roughly \$5 million in hydro savings through the ICI program over the past few years.

"Energy costs are a key competitive factor. Frankly, it's been an issue," Hasenfratz said of hydro costs in Ontario.

She said the new lower thresholds for taking part in ICI should enable all of Linamar's plants to take advantage of the program.

## GlobalNews.com: Ontario residents say the cost of electricity 'has become too much': Wynne

September 16 2016 11:32am

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visits a power plant in Ottawa to address the growing cost of electricity in Ontario.



VIDEO - To view video associated with this post, follow the link below:

<http://globalnews.ca/video/2944570/ontarians-say-the-cost-of-electricity-has-become-too-much-wynne>

## London Free Press: Wynne admits 'disconnect' with Ontarians

London Free Press

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A10

Section: News

Byline: David Reevely

Source: London Free Press

The Ontario government has spent so much time on big-picture problems that it lost sight of Ontarians' everyday problems, Premier Kathleen Wynne admitted Friday. As premier, she's invested two years in devising a major climatechange policy, a new public pension program, figuring out how to raise and spend billions on public construction projects, she told the Citizen's editorial board during an Ottawa swing.

She also allowed a "disconnect" to happen between those big plans and the reality in which most Ontarians live.

"What I have heard... is that people feel that we're focusing on the big issues but we're not necessarily paying enough attention to their lives and what their experiences are," Wynne said.

Ontario is a North American leader in economic growth after some rough years. But the growth doesn't help everyone equally. Plenty of pre-recession jobs, especially manufacturing jobs in smaller towns, are gone and not coming back.

"If you're not sharing in that growth, if you're not sharing in that wealth creation, you may feel like you're being left behind," Wynne said, and acknowledged that maybe she hasn't paid enough attention to that.

"I got involved (in politics) so that I could be part of a government that could focus on what was happening to people. My sole reason for being in politics is to make sure that what we're doing is in the best interest of the greatest number of people," Wynne said.

But she's spent a lot of her time in power on things whose daily effects aren't obvious.

Maybe they should be: the point of the pension plan Wynne's Liberals plowed ahead with in the face of federal obstruction is to create better retirements for today's voters' children.

The climate-change plan "is literally about keeping a rising temperature down so their grandkids will have a sustainable planet," Wynne said.

But today's voters care a whole lot about today.

"If anything, we've been so focused on those big policies and - even though I have heard consistently about hydro prices, it's not a new issue for me as of two weeks ago, but figuring out what to do about that, how to act on that, we weren't in the financial position to do a lot about that, but now we are," Wynne said.

When Wynne became premier in 2013, her Liberals were in a wobbly minority position in the legislature.

Partly through her own energy and popularity, Wynne took them to an unexpected majority in the 2014 election.

Now, with the next election on the horizon in 2018, her personal approval ratings are poor and all the talk is of reboots. New cabinet, new legislative agenda, new way of talking to voters.

A day in Eastern Ontario - announcing funding for sesquicentennial projects, "highlighting" the electricity price cuts and subsidies announced in Monday's throne speech, a long sit-down talk with journalists who cover her, speaking to seniors in Kanata in the evening - is part of an apparent attempt at rehabilitating the premier's image. dreevely @postmedia. com twitter , com /davidreevely

## London Free Press: Green energy to blame

London Free Press

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: E3

Section: Letters

Byline: Peter Campbell

Source: London Free Press

Talk about robbing Peter to pay Paul. What the government of Kathleen Wynne fails to say is the same eight per cent will be added to the enormous Ontario debt.

High electricity prices is a Liberal made-at-home problem, due solely to their ridiculous green energy program. Foolish contracts were signed for green energy we do not need. Worst yet, the same electricity is sold to Ohio and Michigan at prices to benefit their industry, not ours.

Do not be fooled by this government. Your hard-earned tax dollars are being squandered by these fools.

Peter Campbell

London

## London Free Press: Looks like bait and switch

London Free Press

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: E3

Section: Letters

Byline: Chris Butler

Source: London Free Press

Regarding the article Grits plug hydro savings (Sept. 13).

Ontario 's throne speech refers to a rebate of the HST portion (eight per cent) on electrical bills effective Jan. 1 for " eligible " residents.

After a 7.5 per cent increase in electrical rates in December 2015 and May 2016, the removal of the 10 per cent Clean Energy Benefit in January 2016 and the addition of the Ontario Electrical Support Program (OESP) costs to all our bills (\$300 million), this is starting to look like a bait and switch act at a carnival show.

The real problem is that under Liberal leadership, the Ontario electrical system has become and, with this announcement will become increasingly more, a socialistic tool under the wraps of the Green Energy Act and the finger-in-the-dam policy tweaks to weather the political storm on affordability.

I would encourage all Ontario voters to vote with their heads in the next election for any party platform that returns electrical generation and distribution to its rightful place as a priority commodity (like food) under the umbrella of safe, continuously more cost effective reliability and let your MPP know your intentions. It ' s time to stop buying votes with my electrical bill.

Chris Butler

London

## London Free Press: Taxpayers pay regardless

London Free Press

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: E3

Section: Letters

Byline: Greg McLachlan

Source: London Free Press

Well, it appears Ontario ' s green premier and her Public Service Union Party (formerly the Liberals) finally have awakened to the reality that the people in Ontario are paying outrageous electricity rates. She ' s promising relief.

Fellow voters, whenever a politician offers " relief ," you have to wonder from where the money is going to come. I assure you, you ' ll be paying for it regardless of the channel.

One place it ' s coming from is your licence plate renewal sticker. Rates went up 11 per cent on Sept. 1. To ensure I was unable to benefit from early renewal at the previous rate, my renewal notice arrived Sept. 7.

Greg McLachlan

London

## London Free Press: Too little , too late

London Free Press

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: E3

Section: Letters

Byline: John Peake

Source: London Free Press

The Ontario Liberal government ' s throne speech as it relates to high electricity rates and the proposed corrective action is simply pitiful.

The idea that relief in the amount of an eight per cent reduction in rates for residential users and possibly \$45 a month for rural users is preposterous.

The result remains that we will continue to suffer severe financial hardship paying our electricity bills. At the same time, industry will not remain or locate in Ontario with the crippling power rates.

It is obvious this government has lost focus, assuming it ever had a grasp of reality or logic. The power pricing proposal is an insult to our intelligence.

John Peake

London

## Meaford Express: Walker rips Hydro HST rebate plan

Meaford Express

Sat Sep 17 2016

Section: Opinion/Columns

Byline: Bill Walker

The Ontario Liberals are trying to pull their same-old tricks by offering more promises on the backs of taxpayers.

The Liberal government is dangling a shiny bauble in the form of a rebate, while continuing to increase taxes across a variety of services.

The government's plan to cut eight per cent from Hydro bills is a zero-sum game, as it will coincide with the arrival of the new massive carbon tax, a projected \$1.9 billion tax increase that will raise the cost of virtually every product in Ontario.

What the Liberals don't want you to know is that the promised relief on electricity bills won't last. Ontarians will again suffer a hit to their wallet after the government rolls out its new carbon tax. Therefore, whatever gains they promised today, they will in fact take away come carbon-tax time.

Furthermore comparing their offer of a \$45-monthly rebate against the average annual increase of \$1,000 in hydro bills is nothing but disrespect for Ontarians."

The Liberals' monthly rebate plan won't save small businesses from closure. We used to argue that the government's policies were hurting small businesses because they couldn't grow, make improvements or even hire new workers. But now, because of the increasing rates, it's a question of survival. Even small stores, such as the Grocery Store in Chesley, cannot keep forking out \$120,000 every year on its Hydro bill.

Kathleen Wynne and her government could have implemented these changes much sooner.

Less than two months ago Minister of Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault refused to call the impact of Ontario's skyrocketing hydro rates on rural and Northern customers a crisis. The reality is that this government and this Premier didn't seem concerned about people losing their jobs, however with the loss of the Scarborough bye-election and the fear of losing their own jobs, they all of sudden acknowledge the concerns about soaring hydro rates.

The Liberal government has failed to deliver on the many promises it made over the past 13 years.

It's clear that their Hydro speech was all about rebranding the Premier's motives and making the tired and unpopular Liberal party look fresh. But it's all for naught: people can see that today's speech was self-serving. They can see that the only benefactors are the Liberal MPPs looking to save their seats in the 2018 election. It's the same old story just like the Groundhog Day movie.

If the government really wanted to help taxpayers, then it would stop the sale of Hydro One and stop signing any more costly Green Energy Act contracts.

They're desperate to prove they can relate and connect to the everyday issues, but it's never been more clear than today just how out of touch the Wynne Liberal Government has become. Sadly, too little, too late.

## Milton Canadian Champion (InsideHalton.com): Halton MPP happy Province is delivering electricity savings to Ontarians



Julie Slack / Canadian Champion

*Halton MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris makes an announcement at United Way Milton about reducing electricity costs across the Province.*

Milton Canadian Champion

September 16, 2016

By [Julie Slack](#)

Keeping utility costs affordable is important to Milton residents and Halton's MPP held a press conference to explain how the government is helping them to achieve that.

Indira Naidoo-Harris said the average household will save about \$130 annually if the government's legislation to rebate the provincial portion of the HST is passed.

She told a small group of residents and business owners at the United Way Milton on Friday morning that if the bill passes in the legislature that residential, small business and farms will see their electricity bills reduced by 8 per cent beginning on January 1.

Naidoo-Harris also said that rural customers will see a further rate reduction when the delivery charge is decreased.

“Rural customers pay high delivery rates,” she said. “About 330,000 eligible customers would see reductions of 20 per cent.”

That works out to about \$540 annually.

“Many Ontarians are facing difficult challenges with their hydro bills,” she said. “There's a lot of talk around the water cooler ... they're finding it challenging to pay.”

She also said the government is empowering businesses to reduce their bill by up to 34 per cent through the expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative.

“We intend to reduce costs in a lasting and meaningful way,” she said, noting the investments the province made in eliminating coal-fired plants and ensuring an end to smog advisories, brownout days and blackouts came with a high price tag.

She said in 2003, “we inherited a crumbling hydro system that suffered regular brownouts and in one case a major outage.”

The government aims to help Ontarians with the cost of everyday living and helping businesses compete is part of the province's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its priority of growing the economy and creating jobs, noted the local MPP.

“I'm pleased we are reducing electricity costs for families and businesses,” she said. “These steps will help ease pressure on consumers in their day-to-day lives. They are important initiatives that will give Halton residents in both urban and rural settings, significant rate relief.”

Added Kate Holmes, CEO of United Way Milton: “United Way Milton is pleased to support this initiative. This will help reduce financial stress on people who are using United Way Milton-funded programs.”

## Nepean Barrhaven News: Premier Wynne tours Hydro Ottawa, touts new electricity rebate



### Electricity rebate

Megan DeLaire/Metroland

*Premier Kathleen Wynne spoke about the provincial government's proposed electricity tax rebate during a tour of Hydro Ottawa's control room on Sept. 16. Wynne's government announced an eight per cent electricity bill rebate on Sept. 12.*

Nepean Barrhaven News (Ottawa Community News)

By [Megan DeLaire](#)

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne had a glimpse of the inner workings of Ottawa Hydro during a visit to the city on Sept. 16.

Wynne was joined by Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Bob Chiarelli, Ottawa Centre MPP Yasir Naqvi, Ottawa-Orléans MPP Marie-France Lalonde, Ottawa South MPP John Fraser and Hydro Ottawa CEO Bryce Conrad.

The premier's trip to Ottawa came days after her government announced plans to offer a new rebate on electricity in Ontario.

Amid growing criticism over the high cost of electricity in the province, the provincial government pledged in a Sept. 12 Throne Speech to reinstate an eight per cent tax rebate on electricity bills. The rebate amounts to the provincial portion of the HST and is expected to save a typical household \$130 a year.

Wynne used her Hydro Ottawa tour as well as stops at the National Gallery of Canada and the Kanata Seniors Centre as an opportunity to tout the rebate in Ottawa.

“I’ve heard from people in the Ottawa region and in every region across the province that its become too much,” Wynne said of the cost of electricity in Ontario. “And we’ve listened to those concerns, because it’s not just an electricity issue. People need more help with the cost of living, and it’s our job to give people that break wherever we can.”

The rebate would go into effect Jan. 1, affecting 5 million residential consumers. Eligible rural customers would receive a larger rebate in the form of lowered rural delivery charges, saving \$540 a year.

“We’ve recognized that there needs to be a change,” Wynne said. “And that’s exactly why we’ve made the changes that we announced in the throne speech.”

But not everyone is buying what the premier is selling.

In an open letter to Wynne, Osgood Coun. George Darouze highlighted the disparity between Hydro Ottawa customers’ bills and those of Hydro One customers. The rural Ottawa councillor said many Hydro One customers in Ontario face a daily choice “between feeding their families and turning on the lights.”

“Removing the eight per cent HST from hydro bills is no more than a small band-aid on a much larger wound,” Darouze wrote, adding that the move would only serve to decrease provincial revenue while allowing Hydro One to continue gouging rural customers.

“Not only does this not address the gap between Hydro One rate payers and Hydro Ottawa rate payers, it does not correct the issue at its core.”

Darouze, who plans to present a petition entitled Fair Hydro for Ottawa to the Ontario legislature in the fall, said more needs to be done to make the cost of hydro more equitable.

“I urge you to take serious and immediate action towards correcting the erroneous cost of hydro rates under Hydro One,” he said. “We deserve a real and substantive solution.”

Reporter Megan DeLaire joined Metroland Media in March, 2015 after graduating from a five-year multimedia journalism program offered by the University of Ottawa and Algonquin College. She is a reporter with the Nepean-Barrhaven News, but contributes to Metroland newspapers serving areas across Ottawa.

## North Bay Nugget: Urban customers to pay for rural rebate

North Bay Nugget

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A1 / Front

Section: News

Byline: Gord Young

Source: The Nugget

Rebates for rural residents to help offset high electricity rates will be subsidized by other hydro ratepayers, including those in North Bay.

Todd Wilcox, chief executive officer at North Bay Hydro, said the Liberal government's promised rebates of about 20 per cent for eligible rural customers of Hydro One will be funded by increased payments from other utilities. "That subsidy isn't being borne the government," said Wilcox, noting utilities such as those in North Bay, Toronto and elsewhere will pick up the tab.

He said other hydro ratepayers already make volume-based payments to Hydro One, which operates the province's transmission grid.

For North Bay Hydro customers, Wilcox estimates those payments at about \$1 per month. And, he said, they will likely double to \$2 monthly once the rebate goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

The 20 per cent break for eligible rural customers of Hydro One was announced alongside a province-wide rebate of eight per cent - the equivalent of the provincial portion of the harmonized sales tax (HST) - as part of the Liberals' throne speech Monday. The HST rebate is expected to cost the provincial treasury \$1 billion a year.

The government said the HST reduction will save the typical Ontario household about \$130 a year, while rural electricity customers who qualify for the additional 20 per cent rebate will save \$540 annually.

Additionally, Wilcox said residential hydro customers and small businesses will foot the bill for new measures to help reduce electricity costs for large commercial and industrial ratepayers.

This week's promised hydro rebate comes on the heels of increasing anger among Ontario residents about the skyrocketing cost of electricity.

"People are trying to make sense of what's happening," said Wilcox, noting hydro financing is complicated at the best of times, never mind when politics muddies the waters.

He said the local utility has been seeing more Hydro One customers at its office looking for help understanding their bills because they have become frustrated dealing with the company over the phone.

Wilcox said North Bay Hydro recently looked at electricity costs for two local business over the past five years. He said the price per kilowatt hour for electricity, which is set by the Ontario Energy Board, increased 25 per cent over that period.

Wilcox said consumption, however, decreased by 15 per cent. He credited some of the conservation programs offered by the local utility for helping to curb usage.

## Peterborough Examiner: Plan will benefit rural hydro customers, Leal says

Friday, September 16, 2016 1:56:10 EDT PM

(Appeared on Page A3 of the hard copy paper on September 17, 2016)



(QMI Agency Photo)

Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal, the province's minister of food, agriculture and rural affairs, held an event Friday to discuss the province's recently announced plan to cut hydro costs for Ontario residents by removing the HST from hydro bills for homes, farms and small businesses as of Jan. 1.

Leal, who spoke at the county offices, said the plan will benefit Peterborough county residents by offering an 8 per cent reduction on residential electricity bills, averaging about \$130 annually or \$11 each month per home.

The plan, announced during a throne speech earlier this week, would also provide eligible rural ratepayers with additional relief programs, thereby decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 each month.

Leal also mentioned the expansion of a program called the Industrial Conservation Initiative, which could help businesses reduce their electricity costs by up to 34 per cent.

Legislation to start the process for these program must still be passed in the Ontario legislature.

## Orillia Packet and Times: Too little, too late

Orillia Packet & Times

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A4

Section: Opinion

Byline: Patrick Brown

Source: Orillia Packet & Times

Following a third consecutive byelection loss, the Wynne Liberals decided to prorogue the legislature in a last-ditch desperation attempt to “refresh” their image with voters.

Unfortunately, this refresh is too little, too late. Ontarians’ hydro bills are going to continue to get more expensive. No throne speech is going to change that.

While short-term relief for Ontario’s families is desperately needed, the announcements and flashy promises made in the government’s throne speech will do nothing to stop their hydro bills from increasing. We’re seeing nothing but a government trying to save face.

Since the Liberal government first took office, the average annual household hydro costs have increased by more than \$1,000. As a result, the number of Hydro One customers unable to pay their bills increased by 150% in a one-year period. The Wynne Liberals continue to drive more and more families and seniors into energy poverty.

It shouldn’t have taken Premier Wynne so long to realize this. She’s had plenty of time to listen to the concerns of Ontarians struggling to get by. Sadly, the only reason the premier acknowledged hydro rates are a problem is because it’s starting to affect her Ontario Liberal Party.

Ontarians have had enough. They want to see a government that listens and takes real action on their priorities, not a tired and self-interested government who goes through the motions.

If the Wynne Liberals were serious about tackling the province’s energy crisis, the government would have committed to stop signing contracts for energy we don’t need, and immediately halted any further sales of Hydro One shares.

The Ontario PC caucus will continue to hold the government to account, and ensure they have a credible plan to our province’s energy crisis.

Patrick Brown

Ontario PC leader Simcoe North MPP

## Ottawa Citizen: Reevely: Ontario Liberals lost sight of pocketbook issues, Wynne admits on Ottawa tour



[David Reevely](#)

[More from David Reevely](#)



Published on: September 16, 2016 | Last Updated: September 16, 2016 6:14 PM EDT

The Ontario government has spent so much time on big-picture problems that it lost sight of Ontarians' everyday problems, Premier Kathleen Wynne admitted Friday.

As premier, she's invested two years in devising a major climate-change policy, a new public pension program, figuring out how to raise and spend billions on public construction projects, she told the Citizen's editorial board during an Ottawa swing. She also allowed a "disconnect" to happen between those big plans and the reality in which most Ontarians live.

"What I have heard ... is that people feel that we're focusing on the big issues but we're not necessarily paying enough attention to their lives and what their experiences are," Wynne said.

Ontario is a North American leader in economic growth after some rough years. But the growth doesn't help everyone equally. Plenty of pre-recession jobs, especially manufacturing jobs in smaller towns, are gone and not coming back.

“If you’re not sharing in that growth, if you’re not sharing in that wealth creation, you may feel like you’re being left behind,” Wynne said, and acknowledged that maybe she hasn’t paid enough attention to that.

“I got involved (in politics) so that I could be part of a government that could focus on what was happening to people. My sole reason for being in politics is to make sure that what we’re doing is in the best interest of the greatest number of people,” Wynne said.

But she’s spent a lot of her time in power on things whose daily effects aren’t obvious. Maybe they should be: the point of the pension plan Wynne’s Liberals plowed ahead with in the face of federal obstruction is to create better retirements for today’s voters’ children. The climate-change plan “is literally about keeping a rising temperature down so their grandkids will have a sustainable planet,” Wynne said.

But today’s voters care a whole lot about today.

“If anything, we’ve been so focused on those big policies and — even though I have heard consistently about hydro prices, it’s not a new issue for me as of two weeks ago, but figuring out what to do about that, how to act on that, we weren’t in the financial position to do a lot about that, but now we are,” Wynne said.

When Wynne became premier in 2013, her Liberals were in a wobbly minority position in the legislature. Partly through her own energy and popularity, Wynne took them to an unexpected majority in the 2014 election.

Now, with the next election on the horizon in 2018, her personal approval ratings are poor and all the talk is of reboots. New cabinet, new legislative agenda, new way of talking to voters.

A day in Eastern Ontario — announcing [funding for sesquicentennial projects](#), “highlighting” the [electricity price cuts and subsidies announced in Monday’s throne speech](#), a long sit-down talk with journalists who cover her, speaking to seniors in Kanata in the evening — is part of an apparent attempt at rehabilitating the premier’s image.

The hydro reannouncement, in a Hydro Ottawa control room off Merivale Road in Nepean, gave the top local Liberal minister, Bob Chiarelli, a chance to practise a line you can expect to hear a lot over the next two years.

“We’ve come through a very difficult time as a result of the global economic downturn that started in 2008,” he said, introducing his boss.

Both the federal and provincial governments ran huge deficits, as revenue shrank and they spent like crazy to stimulate the economy. Lots of people wanted spending cuts then and after, to get the budget balanced again quickly, he said, which would have meant cutting services.

“We decided to protect those services,” Chiarelli went on. “In the last provincial election, the people of Ontario told us to invest, because they know that in difficult times we need to remain

focused on what's most important: that means health care, that means education, that means investing in business and people so together we could create jobs that help people and the economy.

"It's true that politics is a team sport, but like all successful teams, this government has a strong and impressive leader and she's willing to make the tough decisions. ... She's taken Ontario from recession to prosperity, and I'm very proud of that."

This is a self-serving story, obviously, but it's not fiction. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce — not known as a nest of communists — [says the economy has gone from slow growth to moderate](#) in the last couple of years and "will shift to a more robust phase in 2017." The recovery is real and accelerating.

The dual tricks for the Liberals will be making Ontarians believe that what the stats say reflects real life and that their leader deserves the credit.

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[twitter.com/davidreevely](https://twitter.com/davidreevely)

## Ottawa Citizen: Premier supports release of Abdi report

**Ottawa Citizen**

**Sat Sep 17 2016**

**Page:** A3

**Section:** City

**Byline:** Brian Platt

**Source:** Ottawa Citizen

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she supports the public release of the police oversight report into the death of Abdirahman Abdi, though some parts would likely be held back due to privacy concerns.

Abdi, a Somali-Canadian, died in July following a violent confrontation with Ottawa police officers. A cause of death has not been released, and the incident is being reviewed by the provincial Special Investigations Unit.

SIU reports have traditionally not been released, but that changed in April when, following intense media scrutiny, the province released a redacted version of the SIU report into the death of Andrew Loku, who had been shot by Toronto police in July 2015.

Wynne told the Citizen on Friday there are legal concerns preventing her from making hard guarantees, but the public will likely see at least some of the Abdi report.

“I fully expect that that will be the case, but I’m not in a legal position to say that,” she said. “But I fully expect and would support that happening.”

She also pointed out that a comprehensive provincial review of police oversight is currently underway, in part to develop consistent guidelines on releasing SIU reports to the public.

“My sole concern is that we not make a blanket statement about releasing of reports without understanding the caveats around privacy and how we actually put some parameters in place to protect people’s privacy,” she said. “Other than that, I’d like to see reports released.”

Wynne sat down for a wide-ranging discussion with the Citizen’s editorial board on Friday, taking questions on many subjects.

The meeting follows the prorogation of the legislature last week and a throne speech on Monday, which committed billions of dollars in promises to reduce hydro bills by eight per cent and create 100,000 more day care spaces within five years.

“The point of the throne speech was to mark the midterm of our mandate and to really lay out what we’ve done,” she said. “We’re doing well in Ontario, relative to the rest of the country and relative to the continent, really, in terms of economic growth and job creation. And that’s allowing us to make some decisions about supporting people and helping them in their lives every day.”

## **Ottawa Sun: Wynne wants siu report; Tells Sun editorial board she supports making Abdirahman Abdi investigation public**

Ottawa Sun

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A4

Section: News

Byline: Brian Platt

Source: Ottawa Sun

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Wynne sat down for a wide-ranging discussion with the Sun's editorial board on Friday, taking questions on hydro rates, doctor negotiations, fundraising reforms and many other subjects.

The meeting follows the prorogation of the legislature last week and a throne speech on Monday, which committed billions of dollars in promises to reduce hydro bills by eight per cent and create 100,000 more daycare spaces within five years.

"The point of the throne speech was to mark the midterm of our mandate and to really lay out what we've done," she said. "We're doing well in Ontario, relative to the rest of the country and relative to the continent, really, in terms of economic growth and job creation. And that's allowing us to make some decisions about supporting people and helping them in their lives every day."

Here are some of the other comments Wynne made in the meeting:

After many years of provincial deficits, Wynne has promised a balanced budget in 2018. Will it stay balanced after?

What I can say to you is that is our plan, it's our projection. I can't tell you if there'll be some cataclysmic economic event. We've made difficult decisions, whether it's around constraining increases for public sector workers, or the decisions ministries have had to make. We've tried very hard not to cut and slash across the board, and we haven't done that. Our trajectory is to get into balance and to stay in balance.

The government has proposed reforms that will ban all politicians - including those running for office - from attending fundraisers. Why go that far? Won't this give an advantage to incumbents?

It became clearer and clearer that what people were looking for in their politicians was a real disconnection between the political discussion of anything to do with policy and the donation of money.

I think that's fair. I think what's not fair is to suggest that there should be one set of rules for governing MPPs and one set of rules for the rest of the legislature.

This is complicated.

Riding associations are freaking out, because they're trying to figure out what it's going to mean to them to raise money.

I started as a completely unknown candidate for school board. Lost my first election, but raised my profile. I was always building my support on my own, I wasn't a favoured candidate. So I have fought incumbency throughout my political career. I think everybody's going to be developing their systems, and you can develop your team whether you're an incumbent or not.

The Ontario Medical Association (which represents doctors) voted to reject the last tentative agreement you reached after years of negotiations. How are you going to resolve this?

The OMA is very split. We negotiated in good faith with the leadership and with their team, and they've got real factions within the organization. They've got some work to do to sort out what their positions are.

Why not go to binding arbitration?

I believe that finding a way to come to a negotiated agreement is better and more collegial. It's better for the relationship, and I also think we need to find ways of working in partnership.

Given the recent controversies and flip-flops, do you think your government's sex education curriculum is safe if Patrick Brown becomes premier?

I have no idea, because he's been incredibly unclear on it. You'll have to ask him what his latest position is.

## Owen Sound Sun Times: United Way's Dobbyn, energy minister meet



By [Scott Dunn](#), Sun Times, Owen Sound

Friday, September 16, 2016 5:02:17 EDT PM

(Appeared on page A1 of the hard copy edition on September 17, 2016)



Ontario Energy Minister Gregg Thibeault, left, met over breakfast Friday with United Way of Bruce-Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn, past board chair Dave Myette, and board chair Nick Lovell, not pictured. (Submitted photo)

OWEN SOUND - United Way of Bruce-Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn had a breakfast meeting in downtown Owen Sound Friday with Glenn Thibeault, who used to be the United's Way's executive director in Sudbury.

Now Thibeault is Ontario's minister of energy and two months after Dobbyn requested a meeting, they ate and talked in downtown Owen Sound at the Bleeding Carrot.

Dobbyn said they discussed energy costs and, in a news release to mark the occasion, she thanked him for the government's recently announced initiatives to cut Ontario electricity bills.

“I would like to thank the Minister for listening to the concerns of rural Ontario's rural residents, who are struggling to pay their electrical bills,” she said. “As we head into the cold winter months, the provincial government's new efforts will go a long way in helping Ontarians keep their lights on, especially in Bruce and Grey counties.”

These gifts to power users effective Jan. 1 were announced in Monday's throne speech, including an eight per cent HST rebate, worth about \$130 annually to the average household, relief for rural power delivery charges of \$540 a year, and help for industrial customers.

Thibeault received a week prior a set of 14 suggestions Dobbyn had prepared for him. She she felt they were well received. But she declined in an interview to reveal them, saying that was because some were being acted upon and some may not be feasible for reasons she hadn't thought of.

One idea was to automatically enrol anyone who qualifies for the Ontario Energy Board's Low-Income Energy Assistance program -- where power companies put aside some money used to help pay for needy customers' arrears -- in the Ontario Energy Savings Plan, which provides a monthly \$30 to \$75 hydro bill rebate to qualifying electricity customers.

"I think he saw the logic," Dobbyn said of Thibeault. "He seemed really interested. They've had the brief for about a week in anticipation of our meeting, so they said they've already been talking to other ministries that would have to participate in some of these initiatives."

Other suggestions concerned providing more money to help people, and more funding for the agencies and charities which are working with people who need this help, and bureaucratic changes, such as the example she gave of eliminating having to qualify twice for energy bill assistance.

Dobbyn said she gave the minister no deadline to respond to the suggestions and he offered none. Thibeault's commitment to her "was that he would explore them, that he would look into the various suggestions. He expressed great appreciation that we came not just with the problem but we came with solutions," Dobbyn said.

"I'm really encouraged by the meeting."

Dobbyn then attended a lunch with the minister at the invitation of Bruce Power, which hosted them at the nuclear plant along the Lake Huron shoreline. In the release she also praised Bruce Power.

"By providing energy at 30 per cent less than average costs, and donating over \$1.3 million annually to causes across the region, Bruce Power's positive impact on our community extends much further than the light switch."

## Sarnia Observer: Wynne admits 'disconnect' with Ontarians

Sarnia Observer

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A5

Section: News

Byline: David Reevely

Source: Ottawa Citizen

OTTAWA - The Ontario government has spent so much time on bigpicture problems that it lost sight of Ontarians' everyday problems, Premier Kathleen Wynne admitted Friday.

As premier, she's invested two years in devising a major climatechange policy, a new public pension program, figuring out how to raise and spend billions on public construction projects, she told the Citizen's editorial board during an Ottawa swing.

She also allowed a "disconnect" to happen between those big plans and the reality in which most Ontarians live.

"What I have heard. .. is that people feel that we're focusing on the big issues but we're not necessarily paying enough attention to their lives and what their experiences are," Wynne said.

Ontario is a North American leader in economic growth after some rough years. But the growth doesn't help everyone equally. Plenty of pre-recession jobs, especially manufacturing jobs in smaller towns, are gone and not coming

back. "If you're not sharing in that growth, if you're not sharing in that wealth creation, you may feel like you're being left behind," Wynne said, and acknowledged that maybe she hasn't paid enough attention to that.

"I got involved (in politics) so that I could be part of a government that could focus on what was happening to people. My sole reason for being in politics is to make sure that what we're doing is in the best interest of the greatest number of people," Wynne said.

But she's spent a lot of her time in power on things whose daily effects aren't obvious.

Maybe they should be: the point of the pension plan Wynne's Liberals plowed ahead with in the face of federal obstruction is to create better retirements for today's voters' children.

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When Wynne became premier in 2013, her Liberals were in a wobbly minority position in the legislature.

Partly through her own energy and popularity, Wynne took them to an unexpected majority in the 2014 election.

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A day in Eastern Ontario - announcing funding for sesquicentennial projects, "highlighting" the electricity price cuts and subsidies announced in Monday's throne speech, a long sit-down talk with journalists who cover her, speaking to seniors in Kanata in the evening - is part of an apparent attempt at rehabilitating the premier's image. [dreevely@postmedia.com](mailto:dreevely@postmedia.com) [twitter.com/davidreevely](https://twitter.com/davidreevely)

## Sault Star: Rob Peter to pay Paul

The Sault Star

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A8

Section: Opinion

Source: - Toronto Sun

It's alarming watching premier Kathleen Wynne and Finance minister Charles Sousa stumbling around in the dark on electricity pricing for Ontarians.

particularly since they had plenty of time to get their stories straight before announcing monday that as of Jan. 1, Ontarians will no longer pay the 8% provincial sales tax on their electricity bills.

Since it was Ontario's liberal government under dalton mcGuinty that first imposed the 8% sales tax on electricity on July 1, 2010, when it harmonized Ontario's sales tax with the HSt, the opposition parties and media logically asked the liberals if the 8% tax reduction would be permanent.

On tuesday, Sousa ducked the issue, saying only that, "we haven't established a date to end" the sales tax removal.

By Wednesday - amid growing controversy - Wynne said the 8% sales tax withdrawal would be permanent, with Sousa declaring: "this is not a temporary measure, unlike what was provided before with the Ontario (clean) energy benefit."

Ontario's clean energy benefit, a 10% government subsidy of hydro rates, was scrapped by the liberals on Jan. 1, 2016, after five years.

Ending that subsidy amounted to a \$1 billion-a-year cash grab from electricity consumers, to improve the bottom line of the cash-strapped Wynne government.

By removing the HSt from electricity bills on Jan. 1, 2017, all the government is doing is giving back that \$1 billion to electricity consumers, through a taxpayer-funded subsidy.

But since taxpayers are also electricity consumers, just as electricity consumers are also taxpayers, what the Wynne government has actually done, literally, is to rob peter to pay paul, where peter and paul are the same person.

The problem is, moving around piles of borrowed money that will eventually have to be paid back, with interest, not only doesn't help the public, it doesn't address the root problem, which is that hydro rates are skyrocketing because of the liberals' chronic mismanagement of the system.

When they stop their politically insane practice of signing up captive Ontarians for more and more unneeded, expensive and unreliable wind and solar power - which makes the entire grid less efficient and thus more expensive to operate - then we'll know they're serious about starting to get electricity pricing under control.

But not before.

## SudburyStar.com: Urban customers to pay for rural rebate



By [GORD YOUNG](#), The Nugget (also appeared on SudburyStar.com)

Saturday, September 17, 2016 2:05:51 EDT AM



(Canadian Press file photo)

Rebates for rural residents to help offset high electricity rates will be subsidized by other hydro ratepayers, including those in North Bay.

Todd Wilcox, chief executive officer at North Bay Hydro, said the Liberal government's promised rebates of about 20 per cent for eligible rural customers of Hydro One will be funded by increased payments from other utilities.

“That subsidy isn't being borne the government,” said Wilcox, noting utilities such as those in North Bay, Toronto and elsewhere will pick up the tab.

He said other hydro ratepayers already make volume-based payments to Hydro One, which operates the province's transmission grid.

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Additionally, Wilcox said residential hydro customers and small businesses will foot the bill for new measures to help reduce electricity costs for large commercial and industrial ratepayers.

This week's promised hydro rebate comes on the heels of increasing anger among Ontario residents about the skyrocketing cost of electricity.

“People are trying to make sense of what's happening,” said Wilcox, noting hydro financing is complicated at the best of times, never mind when politics muddies the waters.

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Wilcox said consumption, however, decreased by 15 per cent.

He credited some of the conservation programs offered by the local utility for helping to curb usage.

## **TBNewsWatch.com: Energy minister denies delivery rate changes will hike rural bills**

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says cap-and-trade won't impact residential hydro bills, flat delivery rate won't hike rural ratepayer costs

September 16 2016

by: Leith Dunick



FILE -- Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault.

Ontario's energy minister says a report suggesting rural ratepayers will be hit hard when the province introduces a flat hydro delivery rate is way off the mark.

Glenn Thibeault countered, during a phone interview on Thursday, saying in fact rural residents will see their bills drop under the plan.

"The fixed distribution rate is actually going to lower rates for rural and remote customers," Thibeault said, adding published pieces stating the opposite would happen got the story completely wrong.

“The Ontario Energy Board’s mandate is to find ways to reduce costs, not increase costs and the fixed rate will actually change that variable piece they see on an ongoing basis.”

According to a Sept. 13 Global TV report, residents living in low-density areas serviced by Hydro One could see their distribution costs jump by up to 25 per cent, which could increase their hydro bills by as much as 11.5 per cent.

The utilities urban customers could see distribution rates drop by as much as 19 per cent, resulting in a four per cent cut to their bill.

“It was disappointing to see that, but we’re going to make sure that we get on that and correct (the story),” said Thibeault, who did not offer details on how much rural residents might be expected to save under the revamped plan.

Thibeault, who took over the portfolio just three months ago, was reaching out to local media across the province to discuss Monday’s throne speech, in which the governing Liberals promised starting Jan. 1, 2017 they’d remove the provincial sales tax portion of from residential and small business hydro bills.

The news was greeted by skepticism in some corners, Charla Robinson of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce questioning whether Ontarians would see their bills decrease when cap-and-trade hikes were factored in.

The program, introduced to help the province cut its greenhouse gas emissions, will see costs for gasoline to rise by 4.3 cents a litre and natural gas bills to grow by \$5 per month.

But according to the province, home electricity prices will not rise as a result of cap-and-trade.

Thibeault said there are many ways consumers can save money through programs that encourage them to reduce their own carbon emissions, suggesting programs that reward people for buying electric cars and energy efficient heat pumps.

“And if you reduce your carbon emissions you’re going to lower your personal cap-and-trade cost impact ... and if people actually change some of their behaviours they can lower their costs even more,” said Thibeault.

Ontario does have a number of programs in place to help certain residents reduce electricity rates, including the Ontario Energy Support Program, the Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit, the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and the Northern Ontario Energy credit, which provides up to \$221 per year for qualifying families.

Thibeault also discussed changes to the industrial conservation initiative, which will open the program to about 1,000 more businesses across the province by reducing the qualification from three to one megawatts of power.

He estimated it will save businesses that take part between 14 and 34 per cent on their hydro bill.

## Toronto Star: How we've fallen in love with green energy

Toronto Star

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: B10

Section: Business

Byline: Gordon Pape Building Wealth

If the stock market is any indication, investors have fallen in love with green power. Almost every Canadian company that focuses on wind, solar, biomass or hydroelectricity saw its share price shoot up in recent months.

This is despite the fact that Ontario's green-energy policies are being blamed, in part, for the sky-high cost of electricity in this province, which has left many families scrambling to pay their bills.

The situation is so out of control that the Liberal government unveiled a plan this week to spend an estimated \$1 billion a year on rebates to hydro customers, starting in 2017. The average savings will be about \$11 a month, a drop in the bucket for most families.

The province's high electricity prices are also contributing to Ontario's tarnished reputation as a desirable place to invest new money in plants and equipment, according to some analysts.

Among the factors that have driven electricity prices to these levels are lucrative contracts signed with some green-energy producers that guarantee the province will purchase their output at excessively high rates. Combine that with the fact that Ontario is now generating far more power than it needs, and we end up with a messy situation.

None of this has deterred investors from pouring millions of dollars into green-energy stocks. Back in June, I wrote a column about two such companies: Brookfield Renewable Partners and TransAlta Renewables.

Brookfield (which invests mainly in hydro projects) was trading at \$36.71 in mid-June. It reached a high of \$41.04 in August, an 11.8-per-cent advance, although it has pulled back recently.

TransAlta Renewables, which invests in wind, hydro and gas projects, saw its share price climb from a low of \$12.48 in June to \$14.69 last week, a gain of 17.7 per cent. It, too, retreated in the recent market sell-off.

Other green-energy companies have had a similar experience. Quebec-based Innergex Inc., which invests in wind, hydro and solar plants, saw its stock rise from \$13.92 in mid-June to a high of \$15.70 in late July, a gain of almost 13 per cent. Pattern Energy, a wind power company that is based in San Francisco but trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange, saw its shares shoot up 22 per cent from \$26.75 in mid-June to \$32.65 in August.

So, do these recent share-price increases mean that investors have embraced green energy? I think not. I suggest people were more interested in yield than climate change when they bid up the shares.

Over the summer, investors piled into almost every stock that offered a decent dividend/distribution. Shares of utilities, telecoms and REITs took off as sinking interest rates made their returns increasingly attractive. Yieldcos, which are companies structured to maximize dividends, were especially attractive. The companies I've mentioned fall into that category.

The problem is that all these stocks are extremely interest-rate-sensitive. As concerns grew that the U.S. Federal Reserve might raise its key rate later this month, investors began to pull back. Along with other high-yielding stocks, green energy issues have been in retreat for several weeks. This indicates that people weren't buying them because they were environmentally friendly, but rather because of their cash flow.

If the Fed holds the line on interest rates at its meeting of Sept. 20 to 21, I think we'll see these stocks recover from their recent slump. But it won't be social responsibility that pulls investors back. At current prices, the yields on these issues range from 4.4 per cent (Innergex) to 6.4 per cent (Pattern Energy). That's an attractive incentive to anyone looking for income. If it comes from a climate-friendly company, so much the better!

Gordon Pape is editor and publisher of the Internet Wealth Builder and Income Investor newsletters. His website is [BuildingWealth.ca](http://BuildingWealth.ca). For subscription information, go to [BuildingWealth.ca/subscribe](http://BuildingWealth.ca/subscribe)

Length: 617 words

Tone: Neutral

Reach: 500678

Illustration: TransAlta, which operates wind turbines near Shelburne, Ont., saw its share price climb from a low of \$12.48 in June to \$14.69 last week. Marcus Oleniuk/Toronto Star file photo

## Toronto Star: Wynne reboot: A game of thrones; Hold the politicking, Editorial Sept. 13

Toronto Star

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: IN11

Section: Opinion

Kathleen Wynne's government is morally and intellectually bankrupt in this latest attempt to bribe us with our own money. Their ploy to implement an 8-per-cent tax cut on hydro bills by eliminating the provincial portion of the HST is a fiscal slight of hand that relies on the assumption that the citizenry is too stupid to understand that its impact will be a \$1-billion shortfall in government revenues, which will mean the need to increase taxes in other areas to make up the shortfall.

The beleaguered taxpayer will pay for that missing 8 per cent in other ways, but now it will be via other hidden taxes, like the carbon tax fee or increased service fees or income taxes or reduced services in other areas.

They also are counting on the fact that people won't make the connection that the primary reason for the drastic increases in hydro costs for consumers is due to the failed green-energy policies of the Ontario Liberals. Ontarians paid \$37 billion extra for electricity from 2006-14, according to the auditor general, due to overpriced green energy, poor government planning and poor service from Hydro One.

On the other hand, maybe that's the point. Ontario voters have shown their collective ignorance and naiveté by electing this government in the first place, right after the multiple fiascos of the previous Dalton McGuinty-led government, despite all the evidence in front of them that they shouldn't.

As they say, you get the government you deserve.

Steven M. Liberty, Oakville

Wynne and her government have finally realized that hydro prices in Ontario are much too high. Ironical that people have been complaining about the soaring price of hydro for 10 years. It just took a byelection loss for them to hear the people.

So they will take the 8-per-cent HST off hydro bills starting in 2017. But the cost of the carbon tax will add about \$12 to \$14 per month to all electric bills. So much for savings.

What the Liberals should do if they are really serious about helping people is cancel the Green Energy Act completely. That part of your hydro bill that says "global adjustment" should read Green Energy Act - the tax that pays for all the extravagant contracts they sign. Ontario produces surplus electricity. Why can't taxpayers be recipients?

Albert O'Connell, Cornwall

Hold the politicking, Editorial Sept. 13

In your mild criticism of the Wynne government, you forgot to mention the scathing reports issued by various auditors general the past few years. In particular, while stating that our rates are middle-of-the-pack, you declined to cite the fact that we paid \$37 billion more than the market rate for power from 2006-14, and that we're selling off unneeded, excess power, at bargain rates, to neighbouring states and provinces.

And, as well, I didn't see any references to the looming price increases on everything once Wynne's cap-and-trade program comes into effect on Jan. 1. Let's be honest, there's more going on here than a mere cost of cleaning up the grid.

Jeff Barker, Mississauga

According to the Star, the average Ontario household will benefit by \$130 annually from the HST reduction. This amounts to \$10.83 per month, 36 cents per day, and 1.5 cents per hour. Does Wynne really believe these amounts will help Ontarians struggling with their hydro costs?

Neil H. Shank, Barrie

What kind of reverse magician hat trick is Wynne attempting? She raised the carbon tax on electricity (which is a good thing for the planet), but won't tell us by how much. Then she lowers the electrical tax by 8 per cent and adds another billion dollars to our deficit. And, we are supposed to be impressed?

Dina Moyal, Innisfil, Ont.

At age 92, I'm no longer spending much time at my cottage. The most recent hydro bill covers three months and shows I used 246 kW hours for a charge of \$26.11. Sounds great, an average charge of 10.5 cents kW hour, right in line with the handout. But the delivery charge was \$126.99 and the regulatory charge was \$2.38 for total of \$129.37, or 52.6 cents to deliver every 10.5 cents of hydro.

And the HST was \$20.21, close to the hydro charge.

Arthur W, Ludlam, Toronto

PC Leader Patrick Brown says Wynne and the Liberals are "old, tired and self-interested." As opposed to what? Patrick Brown who is young, tiresome and self-interested, I suppose.

Mark Jessop, Barrie

In keeping with the recent Throne Speech, I'm reminded of a common euphemism for "throne" - that is, a toilet. In the political sense, the euphemism seems appropriate, as these speeches tend to have about as much value as a roll of toilet paper. Any money that they benignly deign to give the taxpayer is nothing more than a remittance of our own money, paid by the taxpayer.

When it comes down to it, we have very little say in the way our premier and the rest of the leftovers from the Dalton Gang mispend our money. At the end of the day it's a "dung deal."

Martin Proctor, Toronto

The 8-per-cent HST reduction will save me exactly \$3.76 per month. I will try not to spend it all in one place.

Robert Kent, Mississauga

How is it logical that this woman is in charge of our hydro when her own brain obviously isn't properly wired as demonstrated by poor leadership and half-baked schemes?

Sandy McInnes, Milton

## Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal: Wynne petitions against ... herself?

The Chronicle Journal

Sat Sep 17 2016

Section: Columns Comment.

Wynne petitions against ... herself?

By Christine Van Geyn

This column was published in in the Huffington Post.

Sometimes in the world of public policy, Ontario feels like another planet. Up is down, black is white, and now the governing party is petitioning itself against its own policies.

The Ontario Liberal Party has launched a new petition for lower hydro bills.

Without an ounce of self-awareness, the party that for over a decade has bungled Ontario's electricity policy, resulting in the fastest growing rates in North America, is petitioning itself against the high rates for which they are responsible.

The Liberal's anti-Liberal petition is clearly a public relations move, albeit a strange one.

Perhaps the Liberals have noticed the tens of thousands of signatures on other petitions protesting the high hydro rates they caused. Googling hydro rate petitions will yield the existing province-wide petition launched by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, and countless local petitions to municipalities. Perhaps Premier Wynne just wants to join in on the fun by launching her own hydro rate petition, since they're proving so popular.

Since the Liberals are now in the business of protesting their own government's policies, there are a few others they could add to the list.

First, they could protest the procurement of new electrical generation, which is leading to sky high rates. This would be more effective than cutting HST off of hydro bills that grow at an average rate of 8 per cent a year. Any savings from that cut will be immediately overtaken by rate hikes.

They could also launch a petition to stop the new cap-and-trade tax on home heating and gasoline, which is going to take effect the same day as the hydro HST rebate, and will cost you more than the rebate will save you. The government predicts the HST rebate will save you about \$130, while the new tax on home heating and gasoline will cost you between \$156 and \$387. The Liberals will be happy to know that petitions against this new tax are already quite popular, with thousands of signatures on the petition launched by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Or the Liberals could consider a petition to end the government's plan to subsidize the Liberal party with millions of dollars of taxpayer money, or to stop adding to the province's massive \$300 billion debt. The Liberals could even petition themselves to reverse Wynne's recent tax hikes on beer and wine.

What is frustrating though, for the thousands of Ontarians who have signed petitions asking the premier for change, is that she's now clearly getting the message. She's aware that there is a problem - so aware that her party actually launched her own version of petitions that already exist.

So if Wynne is aware of the message being given to her by thousands of Ontarians, and she is even asking herself to take action, why isn't she actually doing anything? After all, she has a majority government, and the power to make changes that could make our lives more affordable.

Premier Wynne should listen to her own advice, and make real changes to make life affordable again.

Christine Van Geyn is Ontario director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

## **TVO: Queen's Park This Week: Who's in and who's out, the throne speech and a lawsuit**

John Michael McGrath

TVO

September 16, 2016

### **Throne speech kicks off the week (and a new session)**

After Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell prorogued the house on the advice of Premier Kathleen Wynne last week, it meant this week would start with a speech from the throne, laying out the government's priorities between now and the next election, expected in the spring of 2018.

The government announced it would unveil a rebate for home electricity customers to knock eight per cent off their bills, equal to the provincial share of the HST. It also announced other measures to further ease energy costs in rural and northern Ontario. On the social program side, the government said it would create 100,000 new child care spaces between 2017 and 2022 — though it will have to get re-elected for the bulk of those spaces to be added.

Despite some debate in cabinet [several months ago](#), the government reiterated its commitment to bringing in a balanced budget next year. Finance Minister Charles Sousa says Ontario's recovering economy will make that possible [despite the new expenditures announced this week](#).

### **Tim Hudak bids Queen's Park adieu**

Former Progressive Conservative party leader and Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak bowed out of provincial politics on Thursday, with the three parties each paying tribute to a man who entered the fray in 1995, at the age of 27 — “far too young to be elected,” joked Liberal MPP Jim Bradley (who was elected at the age of 32.) New Democrat Paul Miller of Hamilton East-Stoney Creek (a riding adjacent to Hudak's) spoke about his good relations with Hudak despite their differing politics.

“From time to time, he asked my advice about dealing with unions,” Miller recalled. “He'd take it and he'd do the exact opposite, every time.”

Nepean-Carleton PC MPP Lisa MacLeod, who ran unsuccessfully to replace Hudak as leader, wasn't above cracking jokes with the rest of the legislature—asked for five words to describe him, she offered “one hundred thousand job cuts”—but she also struck a more personal, and serious tone.

“After 2014, the election defeat was hardest on him, but I was struggling with depression. He would sit with me, either here at Queen’s Park or on the phone when I was at home, and he would try to boost me up,” said MacLeod. “That’s the Tim Hudak I know: well brought up, always deserving of my loyalty, always a friend.”

Hudak, for his part, argued that despite the cynicism of any one moment, politics in Ontario has become more open, more transparent and more responsive to public opinion than it was when he started a generation ago.

TVO’s Steve Paikin attended Hudak’s farewell party on Wednesday evening [and found the good will wasn’t just a show for the cameras](#).

### **Raymond Cho takes his seat**

Progressive Conservative Raymond Cho took his seat as the MPP for Scarborough-Rouge River, after winning the Sept. 1 byelection handily. Tories repeatedly described Cho’s victory in a Liberal-friendly riding as the impetus for the government’s decision to prorogue and shift its energy policies, which the Liberals in turn denied on multiple occasions.

Cho used his first opportunity in question period to ask about the government’s transit and hospital spending plans for his Scarborough community.

### **Trent Hills mayor demands cancer treatment changes**

Mayor Hector MacMillan of Trent Hills appeared at Queen’s Park on Thursday to demand changes to the province’s rules on funding cancer treatments. MacMillan was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier this year, and has been a fierce critic of OHIP rules he says are condemning him to death.

MacMillan has been relentless for a month now, [appearing at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in August](#) to question Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Eric Hoskins in person about the lack of treatment options available to Ontarians —options MacMillan says are available to patients in the United States.

### **CUPE sues to stop Hydro One sale**

The Ontario branch of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) served the government with notice of a pending lawsuit on Wednesday, demanding the halt of any further sales of shares in Hydro One, the provincial electricity transmission company. CUPE President Fred Hahn said the lawsuit was necessary to preserve the province’s financial stability. Hahn cites

the Financial Accountability Officer, who reported last year that the sale of Hydro One would worsen the province's budget balance in the long term.

"The premier and her ministers had no political mandate to pursue the sell-off, experts made it clear the sale would be bad for Ontario and still they chose to proceed with privatization," Hahn said. "Why?"

Hahn also implicated the government's questionable fundraising practices in the lawsuit, stating that reports from The Globe and Mail and others found lucrative government fundraisers included some of the banks that have made millions in fees from the sale of Hydro One shares.

Hahn said further details about the lawsuit, including a formal cause of action, will come in November.

### **Question period: energy prices, health care spending, and the throne speech**

Question period this week was, unsurprisingly, mostly concerned with the policies announced during the throne speech and the politics around it. The Tories and New Democrats joined in calling the HST rebate an insufficient or "Band-Aid" solution to high energy prices. Both parties also demanded the government halt the sales of any further shares in Hydro One.

PC Leader Patrick Brown also asked the government questions about health care spending, and what he called Hoskins' "picking a fight" with Ontario doctors in negotiations over medical fees this summer.

### **Up for debate: bills & motions this week**

There was only one motion up for debate this week: the one in response to the speech from the throne. The motion is almost always a formality, and is expected to be so again this year. (Throne speech motions only promise any real excitement with minority governments: In 1985, Frank Miller's short-lived Tory government fell when the Liberals and New Democrats amended the throne speech.)

The government did, however, begin bringing bills from the last session of the legislature forward to the new one. That included the government's campaign finance reform bill (formerly Bill 201, now [Bill 2](#)) and its affordable housing bill (formerly Bill 204, now [Bill 7](#).)

Because neither of those bills had been debated in the legislature before prorogation, the government has simply re-introduced them without any special orders. That's true of the private member's bills that have been re-introduced so far as well — except for one: London West New

Democrat Peggy Sattler's [Bill 64, Protecting Interns and Creating a Learning Economy Act](#). Bill 64 would strengthen labour protections for unpaid interns and impose new requirements on their employers. Sattler's bill was at the committee stage when the house was prorogued, but with support from all parties it was brought back at the same stage without having to endure second reading debate again. The committee days for Bill 64 haven't been scheduled yet.

## Waterloo Region Record: What's next for Ontario electricity?

Waterloo Region Record

Sat Sep 17 2016

Page: A10

Section: EDITORIAL

Byline: Dustin Carey

The provincial Liberals recently announced that as of January 1 the provincial portion of the HST will be removed from electricity bills.

While I don't expect many to complain about the \$150 or so a year this action will save in household utility bills, it is no doubt a move driven by short-term political necessity, rather than long-term planning.

But it does raise the question, what's next for Ontario hydro? What can be done to truly drive down rates?

The particular complexities of Ontario's electricity market make that a convoluted answer. The grid system at large must be maintained to a capacity for annual peak demand - those few very hot summer afternoons where half the province has AC running full blast, spiking consumption. To ensure that capacity is maintained, long-term contracts are awarded to electricity generators. As a result, the maintaining cost of the grid is fairly static.

The problem begins to arise with the fact that electrical demand in Ontario has been falling for a decade or so, but not uniformly. While overall demand has dropped, that hot summer afternoon peak demand has not. As a result, the fixed cost to maintain peak demand must be met with a shrinking revenue base.

Legislation signed by Mike Harris set conditions that exacerbate this problem. Previously, Ontario Hydro was an at-cost generator and distributor, meaning customers were charged what it cost to produce the electricity. Harris modified the structure to require profit generation, assuming it would aid in driving down prices.

Consequently, Hydro One is required by law to turn a profit, despite overall falling revenue from decreasing demand. To adhere to this requirement while maintaining peak demand capacity, the Ontario Energy Board has no choice but to raise rates.

But what to do to reduce rates?

Well, assuming peak demand remains steady - and the consumption driven by this very hot summer is suggesting that it will - the answer is rather counter-intuitive. To reduce rates, overall demand for electricity must rise again, but not at peak hours which would require further demand capacity.

And incidentally, the Liberals are already moving forward on the most effective means to increase off-peak consumption. The province's subsidizing electric vehicles will drive adoption of a new source of electrical consumption primarily utilized at night when overall electrical demand is lowest.

Large-scale adoption of electric vehicles will increase revenue to Ontario's grid system, allowing rates to drop.

While an electric vehicle owner's electricity bill may rise, this would be offset by corresponding reductions in gasoline expenditure.

The Liberals have an ambitious plan in place to reduce electricity rates through the use of electric vehicle subsidies rather than the elimination of taxes.

What remains to be seen is if they will survive this political dark cloud to see if their plan will work.

Dustin Carey of Windsor is an alumnus of the University of Waterloo's Master of Climate Change program.

## Wellington Times: Still digging

September 16, 2016

It was an anxious weekend for wind and solar energy developers in Ontario. On Friday Premier Kathleen Wynne signalled she would address electricity rates in the province by way of a new throne speech in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. After losing a safe seat in a by-election in Toronto, she had to do something.

The quickest, most effective way to do that would have been to end the lavish gravy train of subsidies and support to producers of intermittent and expensive sources of power. It isn't as though it is needed—Ontario exports more electricity than wind and solar sources generate on most days.

So it was a weekend spent on pins and needles for these folks. Their lawyers just a speed dial away from spinning into action on Monday morning.

Imagine their foaming-mouth frustration— having paid the Liberal party a lot of money, having spent a fortune on expensive dinners with Kathleen Wynne and her cabinet, and now, now she was going to turn on them? How dare she? They had filled her next election campaign war chest with looted taxpayer dollars, and now she was going to cut them loose? There would be hell to pay.

They needn't have worried. On Monday, Wynne announced her government would take the revenue hit—not the producers. Their sweetheart deals were left untouched. Instead, the province would forgo its sales tax revenue. Next year.

It's like the familiar scene in the heist movie when the thieves are busy cracking the safe and drilling through the ceiling when the security guard wanders too close. The burglars freeze and hold their breath. It must have been like that. Until the security guard determines everything is in order and continues on his rounds.

Kathleen Wynne's tax cut will only cost the province a billion dollars a year. When you owe \$300 billion, it doesn't seem such a big deal. The beauty part is that Kathleen Wynne and her big wind and solar dinner guests get to carry on. Without scrutiny. Still enjoying the heaving bounty of the well-laden gravy train.

The trouble is that is our money. All of it. The loot being plundered. And now the sales tax that is being forgone. You and I will have to make up this lost revenue—either in higher taxes or debt payments. We pay—one way or the other.

Wynne could have cut at the source of the problem—ending the subsidies that bathe and pamper big wind and solar developers. Instead, she will shift a small portion of hydro bills onto taxpayers—hoping we don't notice. It is a purely cynical play.

But she can't have Ontarian's looking too closely at the monstrous creation that electricity generation has become under the Liberal government. At this point, no one outside the most faithful Liberal supporter could reconcile Dalton McGuinty's green energy ambitions with the

malformed and malevolent Frankenministries of the environment, energy and natural resources that have been hideously reshaped by this government.

When it is all over, there will be investigations, studies and commissions established to find out what went so terribly wrong and what can be done so that it never happens again. But we are not there yet. We are still at the getting-worse, digging-the-hole-deeper part.

Next year, Ontario will join California and Quebec in a cap and trade emissions market. It is designed as an indirect tax on carbon—though energy providers are prohibited by the province from showing this new cost on your gas and hydro bill.

It is a complicated scheme that hasn't worked well in Europe and is in trouble in California and Quebec. Governments have a poor track record of using market mechanisms to realize public policies. This is likely related to the fact that governments tend to turn to such mechanisms when trying to obscure unpopular policy.

The problem is that, given time, everyone—except government and consumers—learns to game the system to their advantage. Powerful multi-national businesses will always be more agile and more motivated than government.

But Kathleen Wynne only needs it to be successful for a few months. To show that her scheme is producing the revenue she says it would. Enough to get her reelected in the spring of 2018.

It won't be easy. At this point, voters have made a firm connection between the Liberal government and their eye-watering electricity bills. It will be hard to break. Wynne needs the Ontario PCs to do something colossally stupid. Fortunately for her and her government, Ontario's PCs have shown a talent for this.



## Transcripts

### CTV Ottawa: Premier Defends Hydro Rebate During Tour of Hydro Ottawa

Source: CJOH

Sep 16, 2016 6: 13 PM (11)

Click image to view video



Anchor: Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Ottawa today, defending her government's plans to help residents deal with rising hydro costs. She got a tour of Hydro Ottawa before highlighting elements of this week's throne speech. The government will cut bills by 8 percent.

**Premier Kathleen Wynne:** What we know is we needed to do something to support all consumers across the province. But the rural and remote users needed to have an adjustment on delivery charges. That's why we're making the change.

Anchor: Those ballooning costs of the years something Wynne attributed to recent investments in green energy. Critics including the auditor general say rising costs have more to do with mismanagement.

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*Transcript captured directly from source. Some typographical errors or omissions are to be expected.*

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## Global News: Energy Minister Visits Rural Ontario to Discuss Soaring Hydro Prices

Source: Global

Sep 16, 2016 6:39 PM (7)

[Click image to view video](#)



Anchor: There's more fallout tonight from our reports on hydro prices in Ontario. Today the province's Energy Minister traveled to rural Ontario to address concerns from residents whose electricity bills are soaring. Glenn Thibeault is vowing to deal with the situation. But as Eric Sorenson reports, in Ontario, power solutions don't come cheap.

Reporter: Ontario's Minister of Energy came to small-town Ontario today to take his medicine on local radio.

Unidentified: Then we got this other tax coming on pretty soon.

Reporter: And get an earful from unhappy electricity customers.

Unidentified: The high hydro rates for seniors is totally out to lunch.

Reporter: Folks out this way pay the highest electricity rates. Rural Ontario is the heartland of what is becoming a clean energy province, but try explaining how costs are spread to make Ontario clean and green.

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy: Saying electricity is like a Rubik's cube.

Reporter: The new Minister of Energy grasping for ways to 6:40:14 PM show the scale of the problem.

Minister Thibeault: You turn a piece, now it affects businesses and commercial, so when you try to do something to help the business, you affect residents.

Reporter: It's a Rubik's cube with only costly solutions. For example, going green

including solar, wind and new hydro electric. The cost of shutting down coal-fired plants is another. Building new plants and fixing old infrastructure, that's more dollars. Subsidizing exports because Ontario has excess supply. Another net loss and even conservation and as we use less energy, which is good for the climate, it generates less revenue. Whichever way you twist the problems, the government and Ontarians are left with big costs. For the entire electricity system, more than \$20 billion a year and rising. Keenly aware of the hydro backlash, the **Premier** appeared at Ottawa hydro trying to get in front of the issue.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: It's become too much, and we've listened to those concerns.

Reporter: The **Premier** offered new hydro rebates in this week's throne speech and more for rural customers, but **Wynne** concedes the cost of making this a clean-energy province will keep going up.

Premier Wynne: There is more investment that will have to be made over time.

Reporter: Cost run-ups began years ago refurbishing nuclear plants and never were reined in.

Mark Winfield, York University: There's 40 or 50 years worth of chickens coming home to roost all at once and so there is blame to go around for governments of all three major parties going back many, many decades.

Reporter: And how you distribute the pain of hydro costs across the grid of Ontario voters confronts not only this government but the next one. Electricity, the issue that will keep on hurting. Eric Sorenson, Global

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*Transcript captured directly from source. Some typographical errors or omissions are to be expected.*

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## BROADCAST

### CBC News Ottawa: Premier and Hydro Ottawa say they are not going to revisit the decision to keep thousands of Ottawa homes on Hydro One accounts

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| <b>Program:</b>   | CBC News                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Air Time:</b> | 1:00PM - 1:10PM                      | <b>Date:</b>     | 2016-Sep-16 1:00PM |
| <b>Station:</b>   | CBC Radio 1<br>(Ottawa) - CBO<br>FM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Network:</b>  | Canadian Broadcasting<br>Corporation | <b>City:</b>     | Ottawa             |
| <b>Reporter:</b>  | Ashley Wright                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Length:</b>   | 01:00                                | <b>Province:</b> | Ontario            |
| <b>Interview:</b> | Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Premier                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                  |                                      |                  |                    |
| <b>Note:</b>      | About 45,000 customers in Ottawa are on the province's electricity system and many of them pay more than those on the city's system. Earlier this week the Liberal government announced an 8% hydro bill rebate to bring down rising electricity prices. This caused Ottawa Councillor George Darouze to renew his campaign to bring all of Ottawa under Hydro Ottawa. |                  |                                      |                  |                    |
| <b>Log ID:</b>    | 20160916R-0113                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |                                      |                  |                    |

### CBC News Ottawa: Premier in Ottawa to make announcement about initiatives the govt says will save money for families and businesses

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                                      |                  |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Program:</b>   | CBC News                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Air Time:</b> | 12:00PM - 12:10PM                    | <b>Date:</b>     | 2016-Sep-16 12:00PM |
| <b>Station:</b>   | CBC Radio 1<br>(Ottawa) - CBO<br>FM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Network:</b>  | Canadian Broadcasting<br>Corporation | <b>City:</b>     | Ottawa              |
| <b>Reporter:</b>  | Andrew Foote                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Length:</b>   | 01:30                                | <b>Province:</b> | Ontario             |
| <b>Interview:</b> | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |                                      |                  |                     |
| <b>Note:</b>      | The premier is making the announcement at the Hydro Ottawa building. In the speech from the throne the government announced an 8% rebate on energy bills, admitting that their emphasis on green energy had bumped up bills. Thousands of Ottawa customers on Hydro One have been saying they would get much better rates with Hydro Ottawa. |                  |                                      |                  |                     |
| <b>Log ID:</b>    | 20160916R-0102                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                                      |                  |                     |

### CFPL AM London: Craig Needles interviews Energy Minsiter Glenn Thibeault

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |                             |                  |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Program:</b>   | The Craig<br>Needles Show                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Air Time:</b> | 9:30AM - 11:30AM            | <b>Date:</b>     | 2016-Sep-16<br>9:34AM |
| <b>Station:</b>   | CFPL AM<br>(AM980)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Network:</b>  | Corus Entertainment<br>Inc. | <b>City:</b>     | London                |
| <b>Reporter:</b>  | Craig Needles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Length:</b>   | 11:00                       | <b>Province:</b> | Ontario               |
| <b>Interview:</b> | Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                  |                             |                  |                       |
| <b>Note:</b>      | Craig Needles wanted to know why the government decided to rebate the provincial part of the HST and not do more. Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says the throne speech brought forward the single largest electrical bill savings in Ontario's history, |                  |                             |                  |                       |

not just the 8% rebate, but also a 20% reduction for rural customers. Needles says Global News reported that delivery charges are going up for rural customers this fall, but the energy minister says they made a miscalculation. Also discussed: energy rates in Manitoba and Quebec, Green Energy Act contracts renegotiated with Samsung, continued operation of Pickering Nuclear Power Plant, Ontario Electricity Support Program

**Log ID:** 20160916R-0095

### Global News: More fallout tonight from Global News reports on hydro prices in Ontario

**Program:** Global National **Air Time:** 6:30PM - 7:00PM **Date:** 2016-Sep-16  
6:40PM

**Station:** CIII TV **Network:** Shaw Media **City:** Toronto  
(Global)

**Reporter:** Eric Sorensen **Length:** 03:00 **Province:** Ontario

**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister; Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Premier; Mark Winfield, York University

**Note:** Today the province's energy minister travelled to rural Ontario to address concerns from residents about how electricity rates are soaring. Glenn Thibeault is vowing to deal with the situation. He went on a radio station and took calls. He explained that dealing with electricity prices is like a Rubik's cube. Meanwhile the premier appeared at Hydro Ottawa today. The premier concedes the cost of making this province green will continue to go up.

**Log ID:** 20160916T-0039

### CTV News London: Ontario's energy minister made his first visit to the province's largest producer of electricity today

**Program:** CTV News **Air Time:** 6:00PM - 7:00PM **Date:** 2016-Sep-16  
6:18PM

**Station:** CFPL TV (CTV **Network:** Bell Media Television **City:** London  
Two London)

**Reporter:** Sean Irvine **Length:** 02:30 **Province:** Ontario

**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister; Mike Rencheck, Bruce Power CEO and President; Francesca Dobbyn, United Way

**Note:** Glenn Thibeault toured Bruce Power and vowed support for the company's ambitious plans moving forward. Bruce Power is embarking on a 15-year \$13 billion refurbishment involving six of their eight reactors. They are looking for a 10-year renewal licence instead of the five years they typically get from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Over half-a-million Ontarians are behind in their electricity bills. The minister also met local United Way members who have been

helping people who can't afford to pay for their electricity bills.

**Log ID:** 20160916T-0033

### [CKPR \(CBC\) TV Thunder Bay: Thunder Bay's 2 provincial cabinet minsiters back in town for the first time since the throne speech](#)

**Program:** Tb News      **Air Time:** 6:00PM - 7:00PM      **Date:** 2016-Sep-16  
6:02PM

**Station:** CKPR TV      **Network:** Dougall Media      **City:** Thunder Bay  
(CBC) (TBTv)

**Reporter:** Xiaoli Li      **Length:** 02:00      **Province:** Ontario

**Interview:** Bill Mauro, Municipal Affairs Minister; David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations; Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

**Note:** Bill Mauro and Michael Gravelle say the promise of big hydro savings for Ontarians will have a big impact on the region. The province's portion of HST on energy bills will be rebated and the rural electricity plan will be expanded to cover 20% of electricity bills. There is concern new the cap-and-trade system will wipe out any savings. Meanwhile, the throne speech also committed to providing clean drinking water for First Nations.

**Log ID:** 20160916T-0034

### [CKNX AM Wingham: Energy minister touting Liberal govt's plan to reduce hydro rates](#)

**Program:** CKNX-AM      **Air Time:** 4:00PM - 4:10PM      **Date:** 2016-Sep-16  
News      4:00PM

**Station:** CKNX AM      **Network:** Blackburn Radio Inc.      **City:** Wingham  
(AM920)

**Reporter:** Janice MacKay      **Length:** 00:30      **Province:** Ontario

**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister

**Note:** Glenn Thibeault toured Bruce Power today. The province is removing the 8% portion of HST from hydro bills and increasing the break rural customers receive.

**Log ID:** 20160916R-0118

### [CHML AM Hamilton: Scott Thompson asks PC Leader Patrick Brown to respond to his interview of the energy minister](#)

**Program:** Scott Thompson      **Air Time:** 12:00PM - 3:00PM      **Date:** 2016-Sep-16  
Show      12:35PM

**Station:** CHML AM      **Network:** Corus Entertainment Inc.      **City:** Hamilton  
(AM 900)

**Reporter:** Scott Thompson      **Length:** 14:30      **Province:** Ontario

**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister; Patrick Brown, PC Leader

**Note:** Scott Thompson objects to Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault's claim that as the rates go up so do your savings. He rants about this claim and then brings in PC Leader Patrick Brown. The opposition leader says the Liberals know how to spin! It doesn't seem right to him to take away the Clean Energy Benefit at 10% and bring in this HST rebate at 8%. He complains about giving away \$3 billion to Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York, claiming Kathleen Wynne is the best economic development minister those states have ever had. Patrick Brown is calling on the Liberals to stop signing all these new renewable energy contracts who are mostly Liberals donors. He's also totally against the fire sale of Hydro One, especially since the Liberals are giving companies money to buy the shares. Also: HOT lanes

**Log ID:** 20160916R-0115

#### CHML AM Hamilton: Scott Thompson interviews Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault

**Program:** Scott Thompson Show **Air Time:** 12:00PM - 3:00PM **Date:** 2016-Sep-16 12:13PM  
**Station:** CHML AM (AM 900) **Network:** Corus Entertainment Inc. **City:** Hamilton  
**Reporter:** Scott Thompson **Length:** 15:00 **Province:** Ontario  
**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister

**Note:** Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault talks about the reaction he's been hearing to the announced 8% rebate of HST on electricity bills. He explains there is an additional discount for rural customers plus the Industrial Conservation Initiative. He explains how they've been working on lowering rates, like renegotiating the green energy Samsung deal, keeping the Pickering Nuclear Power Plant going and saving money on renewable energy. Scott Thompson objects to Thibeault's claim that as the rates go up so do your savings.

**Log ID:** 20160916R-0114

#### CJBK London: Interview with Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault

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**Program:** London Calling with Andy Oudman **Air Time:** 3:00PM - 6:00PM **Date:** 2016-Sep-15 3:11PM  
**Station:** CJBK AM (NewsTalk 1290 CJBK) **Network:** Astral Media Inc. **City:** London  
**Reporter:** Andy Oudman **Length:** 17:00 **Province:** Ontario  
**Interview:** Glenn Thibeault, Energy Minister; Parker Gallant [statement], energy advocate; Christine Van Geyn [clip], Ontario Director of Canadian Taxpayers Federation  
**Note:** Andy Oudman says he respects politicians like Glenn Thibeault because it's a tough life, but he's been keeping Daddy Dalton's Daily Disaster Diary for the last 10 years. Oudman says Ontario is in

crisis, sliding into Lake Erie. The people are angry about electricity. He asks the energy minister to talk about the problem and the solution. There's an 8% rebate for all customers, plus a doubling of the rural rebate on the delivery cost, and the Industrial Conservation Initiative is expanding to bringing more businesses in. The minister comments on working on improving the Green Energy Act. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation calls on the minister to stop procuring new green energy which we don't need as we have a surplus, but Thibeault explains a surplus is required in cooperation with our neighbouring states. Oudman says people hate wind turbines and asks the energy minister why he keeps building them. Thibeault says we need the renewable energy as our nuclear plants will be going offline.

**Log ID:** 20160915R-0118

### CHOK FM: Expenses of Hydro and Cap and Trade

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                  |                      |                  |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Program:</b>   | The Talk Show with Sue Storr                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Air Time:</b> | 9:00AM - 10:00AM     | <b>Date:</b>     | 2016-Sep-15 9:07AM |
| <b>Station:</b>   | CHOK FM (Country 103.9)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Network:</b>  | Blackburn Radio Inc. | <b>City:</b>     | Sarnia             |
| <b>Reporter:</b>  | Sue Storr                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Length:</b>   | 42:00                | <b>Province:</b> | Ontario            |
| <b>Interview:</b> | callers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                  |                      |                  |                    |
| <b>Note:</b>      | There are companies across the province that are revisiting their plans for expansion because of cap and trade. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says the announced break on hydro bills won't help customers, and cap and trade plans come into effect in January which will add to bills. CUPE is suing the government over the sale of Hydro One now. Callers phone in to give their opinions on hydro costs, and cap and trade. |                  |                      |                  |                    |
| <b>Log ID:</b>    | 20160915R-0048                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |                      |                  |                    |

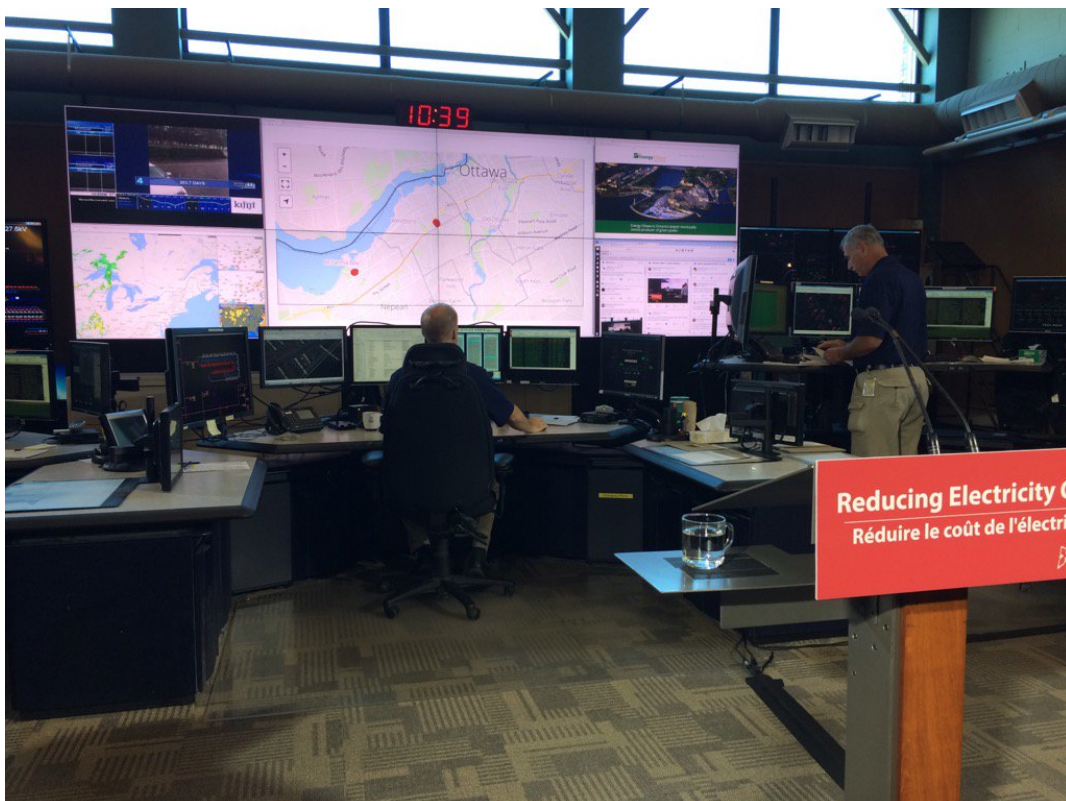
## TWITTER/VISUALS

- [@amkfoote](#) - Wynne on customers on **Hydro One** who want to be on **Hydro** Ottawa - says that decision has been made to not go ahead with it.
- [@amkfoote](#) - **Hydro** Ottawa CEO Bryce Conrad says unless something out of their control happens to bring in **Hydro One** customers, they're not focusing on it
- [@amkfoote](#) - Conrad says they tried and tried to make the **Hydro One** ->**Hydro** Ottawa switch work but just couldn't make it happen.
- [@politicsfisher](#) - [@Kathleen\\_Wynne](#) Ont's salesperson-in-chief in **Ottawa** 2 talk **Hydro** rebates! She, mins and backbenchers out selling plan. [#re-announcement](#)
- [@GeoffZochodne](#) - Premier [@Kathleen\\_Wynne](#) about to speak in **Ottawa** from within **Hydro Ottawa's** control room [\\_youtube.com/watch?v=KYMnaO...](#) [#onpoli](#)
- [@amkfoote](#) - Premier [@Kathleen\\_Wynne](#) is in **Ottawa** today: launching Ontario 150, touring **Hydro Ottawa's** control room, talking to the Kanata 55+ expo.
- [@hydroottawa](#) - [@HSTP\\_Ottawa](#) Proud to be part of this great initiative again this year! [#Ottawa](#) [#Community](#) [#Santa](#)
- [@AnnieClaireBO](#) - Wynne says more than 90% of Ontario's energy is emission free. "We are very well positioned for low carbon economy of tomorrow"
- [@AnnieClaireBO](#) - On the new hydro rebate, Wynne says residents will automatically get 8% off their electricity bill. Rural delivery charges also decreasing.
- [@AnnieClaireBO](#) - Wynne says change in delivery charges are being done to help reduce monthly costs for rural and urban consumers [@ctvottawa](#)
- [@MacLeodLisa](#) - Thirty -six cents a day. That is what you will save. Before they add carbon pricing that is.
- [@MacLeodLisa](#) - Then continued to sign more expensive GEA agreements.
- [@MeganDeLaire](#) - Wynne currently touring [#Ottawa](#) Hydro. Now the subject of many "pointing at things in the control room" photos! Speaking in 15. [#ontario](#)
- 

### David Reevely – Ottawa Citizen

- [@davidreevely](#) - CEO Bryce Conrad boasts about the control room and the repair teams it dispatches.
- [@davidreevely](#) - By next year, HO will produce enough green energy to power 1/3 of Ottawa's homes, he says.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Chiarelli takes the mic. "We're both in exciting and a challenging time in Ontario." Recovering from bad recession.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Wynne tells a short history of hydro in Ontario. Power dams began in Ottawa. We built a great power system, let it crumble.
- [@davidreevely](#) - We've now invested. Stabilized. Closed coal plants. We're positioned for the low-carbon economy.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Now people need price relief. Removed debt retirement charge. Renegotiated Samsung agreement.
- [@davidreevely](#) - "People need more help with the cost of living." Government's job to provide that help.

- [@davidreevely](#) - Overall growth "is a pretty abstract concept when it comes to making ends meet this month."
- [@davidreevely](#) - So: the HST rebate on hydro bills for families, farms, small businesses.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Rural customers need more help. So more money for the support program there. And "massively expand"ing the Industrial Conserv. Initiative.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Going from 300 to up to 1,300 eligible businesses. Cutting consumption threshold from 3MW to 1.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Q: What of building more wind power when we sell at a loss? A: We're revisiting the long-term energy plan. Will make sure it makes sense.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Q: What of criticisms the HST is a pittance? A: We had to invest to make the system reliable. Some people are still in diesel today.
- [@davidreevely](#) - A functioning system cost money. We spent that money. We've been prudent in that spending. But now people need help with the bills.
- [@davidreevely](#) - Under cap and trade, there will opportunities to support green retrofits.





Hydro Ottawa Retweeted



**Yasir Naqvi** @Yasir\_Naqvi · 19h

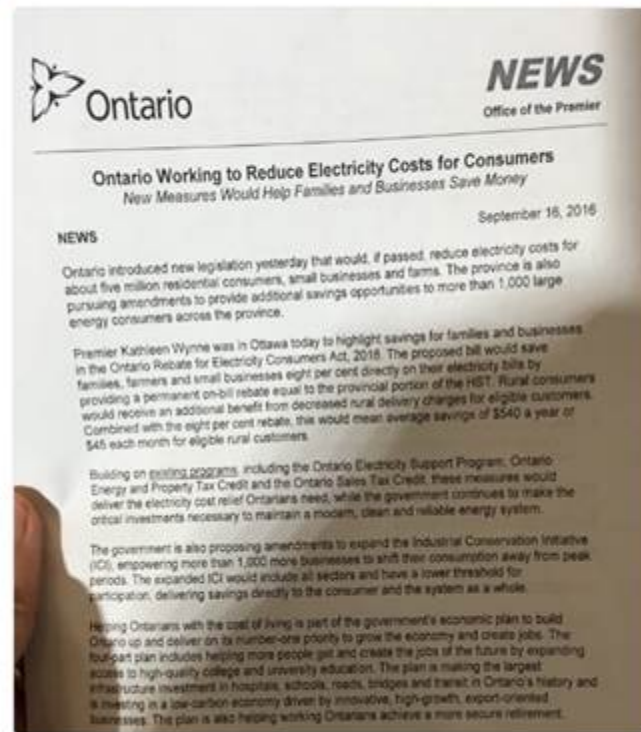
Informative tour of @HydroOttawa Control Room w  
@Kathleen\_Wynne. #Ontario is removing 8%HST off hydro bills  
#OttCity





David Reevely @davidreevely · 4h

Now admire this news release.

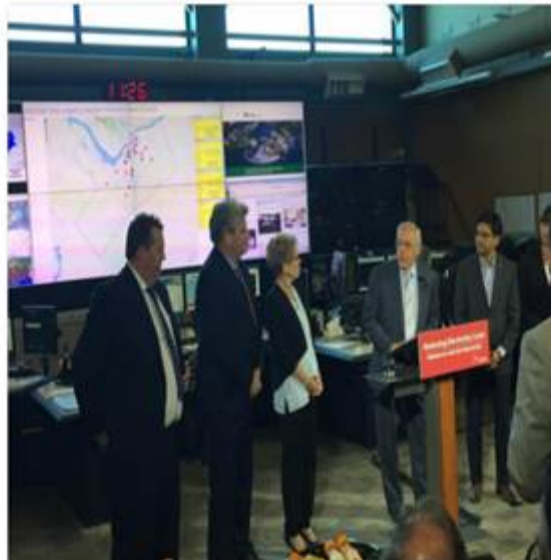


1



Bob Chiarelli @Bob\_Chiarelli · 3h

At @hydroottawa, spreading the word about reduced electricity rates to save families and businesses money. #onpoli



5