

Radio Transcript: CBC 830 News Story on Lowering Hydro Bills

From: "Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB)" <jeffrey.stinson@ontario.ca>
To: "@CAB-Trans PO" <cab-transpo@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "@CAB-Trans CO" <cab-transco@msgov.gov.on.ca>
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*As requested by Jennifer Beaudry

CBC 830 NEWS: HYDRO BILLS

Date: February 13, 2017
Station: CBC Radio (Toronto)
Length: 1:16 minutes
Speaker(s): Paul Sommerville, Executive Director, Mowat Energy

CBC: CBC Toronto has learned that the provincial Liberals are considering some changes that could lower your electricity bill in the range of about 8-per-cent. Sources tell CBC Toronto the government is looking at making changes to the global adjustment. It's the part of your bill that funds the billions of dollars needed for refurbishment and to build new power plants. Also under consideration are changes to programs that help low income households. Sources say that the Liberals are now looking at shifting the burden of those subsidies off ratepayers and instead fund them through the provincial tax system. Paul Sommerville is the director of energy policy at the Mowat Centre think tank; he says hydro customers should not necessarily have to bear such costs.

PAUL SOMMERVILLE: They represent government policy, for example, that really should have been funded through general taxation in the first place rather than on the electricity bill directly.

CBC: Now officials in the Premier's office say that no decisions have been made and in a statement to CBC Toronto, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says that all reasonable options for reducing hydro bills are on the table. Our Queen's Park reporter, Mike Crawley, has a more in-depth look at these potential changes. That's on our website, Cbc.ca/Toronto.