

Radio Transcript: CBC 630 News Story on Lowering Hydro Bills

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*As requested by Jennifer Beaudry

CBC 630 NEWS: HYDRO BILLS

Date: February 13, 2017
Station: CBC Radio (Toronto)
Length: 1:20 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 8%. Sources tell CBC Toronto that 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 power plants. Also under consideration, changes to programs that help low income households. Sources say that the Liberals are looking at shifting the burden of subsidies off of ratepayers and instead fund them through the provincial tax system. Paul Sommerville is the director of energy policy at the Mowat Institute. It's a 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: Officials in the Premier's office says no decisions have been made. And in a statement, Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault tells CBC Toronto that all reasonable options for reducing hydro bills are on the table. Our Queens Park reporter Mike Crawley as a more in-depth look at these potential changes. It's on our web site, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-hydro-bills-global-adjustment-kathleen-wynne-1.3975946>