

Radio Transcript: CBC Here and Now News Story on Lowering Hydro Bills

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Date: Mon, 13 Feb 2017 17:29:35 -0500
Attachments: 20170213 - CBC Here and Now - Global Adjustment.doc (35.33 kB)

*As requested by Jennifer Beaudry

CBC RADIO ONE HERE AND NOW: HYDRO BILLS

Date: February 13, 2017
Station: CBC Radio (Toronto)
Length: 1:35 minutes
Speaker(s): Mike Crawley, CBC News

CBC: First to a story about some possible relief for your pocket books. CBC Toronto has learned the Wynne government is considering two moves that could reduce your electricity bill. Our Queen's Park reporter Mike Crawley broke this story. Earlier, I asked him to walk me through the changes the Liberals are considering.

MIKE CRAWLEY: The biggest one involves something called the global adjustment. You may have never heard of it because it's actually buried in the price of Hydro. But it's costing the typical household more than \$1,000 a year and this fee it finances all the fixes to the Hydro system: new plants, refurbishments, wind farms, and what the government is looking at doing is kind of like refinancing your mortgage, so spreading the payments out so that they happen more slowly.

CBC: And what kind of reduction are they looking at for customers then?

CRAWLEY: Well my sources are telling me it could be around 8 or 10 per cent of a cut to the average Hydro bill. There's another change that they're considering that could mean another couple of dollars or so a month in potential savings, and that would be getting rid of the fees you pay on your bill that help low-income households with their Hydro costs. Now, the government's stressing they haven't made any decisions and there are no announcements about electricity coming before the Legislature returns next week. But my sources tell me that these are two ideas the Cabinet will be seriously considering when it meets on Wednesday.

CBC: CBC's Mike Crawley at Queen's Park. And Mike has written more on rising Hydro bills on our website. You can read that at cbc.ca/toronto.