

Re: Hydro Costs - Request for Comment from P

From: "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>
To: "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Rowe, Mary (OPO)" <mary.rowe@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Fri, 13 Jan 2017 17:24:10 -0500

Thank you. If there aren't further concerns I would love to send in the next 15 minutes to try to make CBC's Ontario deadline.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Bevan, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:09 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Rowe, Mary (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: RE: Hydro Costs - Request for Comment from P

Looks good thx

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: January-13-17 5:06 PM
To: Bevan, Andrew (OPO); Rowe, Mary (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Subject: Hydro Costs - Request for Comment from P
Importance: High

Hi all,

Jenn has been getting inquiries from national reporters asking for the Premier's reaction to a woman at PM Trudeau's Peterborough stop complaining about hydro prices. We've worked with Rebecca to draft the following.

Deadline is very tight so please let us know your thoughts.

Thanks

I believe it is unacceptable that some Ontarians have to choose between their rent, their grocery bill and their hydro bill. People shouldn't have to make the tough choices like those we heard about today in Peterborough. And before the holidays I took responsibility for this problem and I publicly committed to finding more solutions.

10 years ago Ontario's electricity system was a mess. We had a broken system and regularly faced blackouts and smog days. Today, the system is clean and it's reliable because of the work we have all done to rebuild it. In a little over a decade, over \$50 billion has been invested to upgrade Ontario's transmission and generation infrastructure.

But the cost of the changes has burdened people in every corner of Ontario.

We've already taken some action to help them, including removing the Debt Retirement charge from bills, permanently rebating the provincial portion of the HST to reduce bills by 8%, cutting delivery charges for the most rural customers even further for a total savings of 20%, putting off new generating projects and offering financial support through initiatives like the Ontario Electricity Support Program.

However I know it's not enough.

While we're meeting with experts – like the IESO and local utilities – I am also reaching out to people who have written to me to express concern, frustration and anger. I want to hear from them directly.

People are hurting and I have promised we're going to do whatever we can to help them.