

TV Transcripts: Premier's Year-End Interviews

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*as requested by Rebecca MacKenzie

[Global](#)
[CFTO](#)

Premier Wynne Both Contrite About Hydro And Defensive About Decisions In Year End Interview

Source: Global

Dec 19, 2016 6:06 PM (17)

Anchor: Premier Kathleen Wynne says she will not rule out dipping further into tax revenues to help people afford Hydro bills. In an end of the year interview, the Premier was both contrite about the Hydro problem and defensive about the decisions her government has made.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: I've said that I take responsibility for not understanding fully and early enough that this was such a burden on people.

Anchor: Premier Kathleen Wynne talking Hydro costs and what her government is doing to control them.

Anchor: Is this file do or die for you in terms of the re-election in 2018?

Premier Kathleen Wynne: It's not about the re-election. It's about helping people to deal with their electricity costs.

Anchor: January 1st, you'll see an 8 per cent rebate on your Hydro bill, a move that will cost a billion dollars a year. Wynne won't rule out spending more tax money to lower bills.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: You know what, I'm not going to commit to a solution at this point because we're still looking and that's the point.

Anchor: Also coming January 1st, cap-and-trade, which means more money for gas and home heating. But the home heating increase won't show up as separate line on your bill, a decision made by the Ontario Energy Board or OEB.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: It's in the order of about \$4 a month and so we've been clear about that. We've been very transparent about it.

Anchor: But a simple directive from you and that's a separate line on the bill.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: So I think you should have a conversation with the OEB about that. That's their decision.

Anchor: But a directive – the Ministry often issues directives to OEB. Why don't you do that?

Premier Kathleen Wynne: So the OEB has purview over that. They've made a decision. They've done–

Anchor: If it's what you want and you say you want that transparency, then make that order and make it happen.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: I think I've answered this question.

Anchor: How the Liberals handle the energy file in 2017 will be vital to Wynne's political fortunes, and the Premier's pitch will be that the costs are worth it.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: What I want to be able to say is I ran on a plan in 2014. I told you that we were going to invest in this province, in the infrastructure, in the people, we were going to make sure your retirement was going to be more secure. We're doing all those things, and yes, we're fighting climate change.

Anchor: Premier, thank you for your time and best this season.

Premier Kathleen Wynne: Thanks very much.

Anchor: You could see the full interview with the Premier this weekend on Focus Ontario, Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 11:30am. And despite sagging poll numbers, the Premier insists she will lead the Liberal party in the 2018 election.

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Premier Says She Will Address Hidden Charges on Hydro Bills in Year-End Interview

Source: CFTO

Dec 19, 2016 6: 20 PM (14)

Anchor 1: The Premier wants to end the secrecy surrounding some of the hidden charges on your utility bills.

Anchor 2: Kathleen Wynne made the pledge during a sit-down interview with CTV's Paul Bliss today in her office at Queen's Park. This clearly has become the big issue facing the Premier.

Reporter: Oh, that's right, Ken. And she admits it. In fact, Kathleen Wynne admitted just a couple weeks ago that it was a failure on her part and a mistake to realize the growing strain that hydro bills are placing on Ontario families, but now she says it's time to do something about it. The hidden charges on your hydro and home heating bills jack up the cost, but bury the facts. It's frustrating for consumers.

Reporter: I see you're in trouble, too.

[Laughter]

Premier Kathleen Wynne: I'm always in trouble.

Reporter: In a year-end interview with CTV news the Premier said it's time for more transparency.

Premier Wynne: I think having more information rather than less information on electricity bills is a good idea. I think people to understand what they're paying for and what the costs are.

Reporter: Kathleen Wynne says she's very worried about the high delivery charges in certain places in the province. She's hinting relief is on the way. Wynne is also suggesting you'll be seeing more soon on your hydro bills about that mysterious global adjustment charge, it's hidden deep in the price of electricity. But that leaves the hidden charges coming to home heating bills, the Premier's cap-and-trade plan to fight carbon emissions will add \$5 to \$10 a month to your natural gas bills, but it will be buried in the delivery fee.

Premier Wynne: The OEB made a decision around that gas charge and so they have the authority to

do that.

Reporter: Would you like them to reconsider it at least?

Premier Wynne: Well, again, we don't direct them in that, but, you know, I've said pretty clearly that I think more information rather than less is a good idea.

Reporter: The Premier admits she made a mistake by not keeping on top of how punishing hydro bills have become for some households. The Premier told me she had a meeting last week with the head of the Ontario Energy Board to try to figure out a way together they can tackle the rising rate of hydro. She won't say when relief coming because they haven't figured it out just yet. I'm Paul Bliss.

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

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