

FW: Afternoon Media Scan: Fair Hydro Plan - March 21, 2017

From: "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <gavin.halford@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Burns, Robert (MEDG/MRIS)" <robert.burns@ontario.ca>, "Chander, Sunita (ENERGY)" <sunita.chander@ontario.ca>, "Colalillo, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.colalillo@ontario.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY)" <serge.imbrogno@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Martin, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.martin@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, "Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY)" <patrick.imlay@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Cox, Hilary (ENERGY)" <hilary.cox@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Stromberg, Richard (MMA/MHO)" <richard.stromberg@ontario.ca>, "Martin, Ashley S. (MMA/MHO)" <ashley.s.martin@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 21 Mar 2017 16:01:24 -0400

From: Law, Sally (CAB)
Sent: March-21-17 4:00 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Bevan, Andrew (OPO); McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Donelson, Philip (OPO); Bossin, Bryan (OPO); Tomney, Genevieve (OPO); @CAB-Trans CO; Baker, Carys (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY); Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY); Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); DeWolfe, Julie (ENERGY); Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY); Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY); Foster, David (ENERGY); Iqbal, Muhammad (ENERGY); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY); Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY); Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Singh, Alysha (ENERGY); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY); Tresise, Landon (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); Walman, Evan (ENERGY)
Cc: Sumi, Craig (CAB); Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB); Law, Sally (CAB); Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB); Nutter, George (ENERGY); Halford, Gavin (ENERGY); Electronic Media
Subject: Afternoon Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction Plan - March 21, 2017

Afternoon Media Scan: March 21, 2017

MEDIA SCAN: FAIR HYDRO PLAN

March 21, 2017

Click links below to view article:

Online Coverage . 2

[iPolitics : Ontario NDP repeats call for hospital hydro relief . 2](#)

[Sudbury.com : Wynne Liberals' partisan hydro ads in contempt of parliament: PCs . 4](#)

[Sudbury.com : Hydro consumers on First Nations won't be charged delivery fee . 5](#)

TV Transcripts (Noon) 6

[CFTO : Liberal Government Panned For Fair Hydro Plan Advertising Campaign . 6](#)

Online Coverage

iPolitics ONTARIO NDP REPEATS CALL FOR HOSPITAL HYDRO RELIEF

Documents show cost increases far outpace rise in electricity usage

By: Ainslie Cruickshank
Tuesday, March 21st, 2017

<https://ipolitics.ca/2017/03/21/ontario-ndp-repeats-call-for-hospital-hydro-relief/>

The Ontario NDP reiterated calls Tuesday for the government to provide hydro relief to hospitals whose electricity bills have seen dramatic increases since 2010.

But Health Minister Eric Hoskins said he hasn't had a single hospital board or CEO come to him to say their hydro bills have been a burden. A number of hospitals received increases to their operating budgets last year, he added.

"There's no doubt that over the past years because of the fiscal situation the province has been in hospitals have had a number of challenges," Hoskins told media Tuesday after question period.

But electricity costs are a "tiny component" of hospitals' operating budgets, accounting for roughly one per cent, he said.

To help address the myriad of rising costs facing hospitals – everything from frontline healthcare worker salaries to medical equipment – the government increased hospital operating budgets last year, the minister said.

But NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said it's sad that hospitals – after years of budget freezes – have had to use to long-awaited cash inflows to cover budget gaps created by soaring electricity bills.

She said she's "shocked" that neither the minister of Energy or the minister of Health would acknowledge that electricity cost increases – in some cases doubling the cost of hydro – would impact patient care.

"If you're taking money from your operating budget that's going to electricity bills instead of frontline patient care then it's going to have an impact," she said.

"I think it's a disgrace what the Liberals have done and it's unbelievable that they're not acknowledging the impacts that it's having on our hospitals and on municipalities and on schools and on people."

"The bottom line is everybody's hurting from their failed electricity policies and unfortunately we're going to be hurting for a long time into the future because they're just kicking the football down the field and forcing the next generations to pay for the mistakes of this Liberal government."

Documents obtained by the NDP through freedom of information laws show a number of Ontario hospitals have seen a significant increase on their hydro budget lines since 2010.

Toronto's Mount Sinai hospital, for example, used 10 per cent more electricity in the 2015-2016 fiscal year than in 2009-2010. But it cost the hospital 30 per cent more – a total of \$4.5 million in 2015-2016.

The Toronto Rehab University hospital used one and half times more electricity in 2016 than in 2010, but it cost the hospital three times more – almost \$1 million in 2016.

Hamilton's St. Joseph's hospital, meanwhile, used 25 per cent more electricity in 2016 than 2010, but the price doubled, costing \$8.1 million last year.

All three of the hospital systems that operate the above hospitals saw increased operating budgets last year, Hoskins said.

The Sinai Health System, which operates five health facilities, received a 2.1 per cent increase to the operating budget last year, amounting to \$7 million, he said.

The University Health Network, which operates nine hospitals, received \$9.5 million in additional funding for its operating budget. And Hamilton Health Sciences, which runs six hospitals and six healthcare facilities, received an operating budget bump of \$29.4 million.

Hoskins wouldn't say whether hospitals could expect targeted hydro relief, only that the government is continuing to work with the Ontario Hospital Association and individual hospitals to ensure they have the resources they need.

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault also noted in the legislature that hospitals have access to a number of programs to support retrofits to help reduce energy usage.

"For example, Sudbury Health Sciences North got more than \$275,000 for help in energy efficiency upgrades and now they're saving over \$500,000 each year in energy costs," he said, adding the government's hydro relief plan should offer some savings of between two and four per cent.

--

Sudbury.com WYNNE LIBERALS' PARTISAN HYDRO ADS IN CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT: PCS

'Clearly, these advertisements serve no purpose other than to promote Kathleen Wynne's re-election'

By: BayToday Staff

<https://www.sudbury.com/around-the-north/wynne-liberals-partisan-hydro-ads-in-contempt-of-parliament-pcs-566791>

Ontario PC's today charged that Kathleen Wynne's taxpayer-funded hydro ads are in

contempt of parliament.

MPP Wilson informed the Speaker today that he will rise on a point of privilege arguing a case of contempt by the Ministry of Energy.

"The self-congratulatory ads, which the auditor general has said are out of line, are running before legislation has been introduced, an alleged breach of parliamentary rules," says a PC news release.

House Leader Jim Wilson said "What we've got here is a clear case of electioneering from the Wynne Liberals using taxpayer dollars."

The ads in question appeared on both social media and radio markets across Ontario.

Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown has already written to Minister Liz Sandals asking her to immediately stop the ad campaign, release a detailed account of the budget for these advertisements, as well as which consulting firms received the contracts.

"These ads are potentially costing millions of dollars while families, businesses, hospitals, schools and other institutions suffer every day from affordable electricity bills," continues the release.

"Neither MPPs nor the public even know what the new hydro scheme looks like, what it will cost, and who will get left behind," added Wilson. "Clearly, these advertisements serve no purpose other than to promote Kathleen Wynne's re-election."

"Based on past parliamentary rulings, we feel that we've got a very strong case. We look forward to hearing the ruling of the Speaker," said Wilson, noting that the Ministry of Energy has previously confirmed that legislation is needed to enact this new hydro scheme.

--

S u d b u r y . c o m HYDRO CONSUMERS ON F I R S T N A T I O N S W O N ' T B E C H A R G E D D E L I V E R Y F E E

Chiefs applaud exemption included in Ontario Fair Hydro Plan

By: Michael Erskine, Manitoulin Expositor

<https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/hydro-consumers-on-first-nations-wont-be-charged-delivery-fee-567216>

News that First Nations community residents will be exempted from delivery charges on their electricity bills as part of Premier Kathleen Wynne's recently announced plan for electricity relief is being greeted with delight by First Nation leaders.

"It's excellent news," declared Anishinaabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, contacted as he was taking in a hockey game at the Little NHL Tournament in Mississauga.

"I have to commend our negotiating team, folks like (Six Nations of the Grand River) Chief Ava Hill, (Whitefish River First Nation) Chief Shining Turtle and (Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians) Grand Chief Gordon Peters, among others," he said. "They really did an excellent job."

Grand Chief Madahbee said that the exemption from delivery charges, along with the other reductions announced generally, will have a positive impact on First Nation communities across the province. "It's going to be a big help to our communities for

sure,” he said. “Some of the communities are really struggling. Every little bit helps.”

Under the plan an across-the-board relief of 17 percent is coming this way by this summer, in addition to an eight percent rebate that took effect on January 1. Those changes are estimated to cost about \$1 billion per year.

Several other measures were announced by the premier to help low-income and rural residents at a cost of \$2.5 billion over three years. A program that gives a rate subsidy to those customers in rural and remote areas will also be expanded, so that ratepayers covered by local distribution companies with the highest delivery charges may also see their rates cut.

The Ontario Electricity Support Program for low-income ratepayers will be funded through government revenues and the benefits are being increased. A household that qualifies for the smallest credit, a single person earning less than \$28,000, will soon save \$45 a month instead of \$30.

The province is also establishing an affordability fund for electricity customers who don't qualify for low-income conservation programs to make energy efficiency improvements.

TV Transcripts (Noon)

CFTO LIBERAL GOVERNMENT PLANNED FOR FAIR HYDRO PLAN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Source: CFTO

Mar 21, 2017 12:03 PM (3)

Anchor: The Liberal government is under an intense barrage today over its hydro bill advertising blitz. The yelling in the House got so intense an opposition member was ejected and continued to yell at the Wynne Liberals. The Speaker then threatened to expel PC Todd Smith for the rest of the session.

Todd Smith, PC Energy Critic: You're ignoring it. You're ignoring it.

Dave Levac, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario: The member from Prince Edward-Hastings is named.

[Interjections]

Patrick Brown, Ontario PC Leader: Will the Premier stop her re-election campaigning and using taxpayer resources to do it? It's wrong, and the Premier knows that.

[Interjections]

Andrea Horwath, Ontario NDP Leader: The Mount Sinai health system saw a 45 per cent increase in hydro bills between 2010 and 2015. That's nearly \$1.5 million, Speaker, that is not going to support front line health care.

Yasir Naqvi, Ontario Government House Leader: We are focused in making sure that we bring meaningful relief to the people of Ontario, that we reduce hydro rates by 25 per cent. That's what the government is doing. It's a very important policy. Obviously the opposition is only engaged in distraction, because, Speaker, they have no plans. They are actually really confused.

Anchor: The opposition is furious. The Liberals are running ads on radio and social media boasting about their 25 per cent hydro bill cuts. The ads are being paid for with taxpayer money, and today the Liberal Party started handing out flyers on the subway

system, a blitz targeting every day workers. The flyers promote the hydro bill discount and are self-congratulatory. The opposition is also angry because the Wynne government stripped the Auditor General of the power to reject ads that are partisan and self-serving. The Liberals meantime defending spending taxpayer money on the ad campaign by saying people need to know their hydro bills are being cut so they can plan family budgets.