

# Fw: Media Statement to follow RPP announcement

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**From:** "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>  
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**Date:** Thu, 20 Apr 2017 12:38:40 -0400

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**From:** Berry, James (ENERGY) <James.Berry5@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** Evans, Karen (ENERGY); Katona, Keley (ENERGY)  
**Subject:** FW: Media Statement to follow RPP announcement

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As discussed for potential newsroom posting, so would need to be formatted and translated in advance (pending PO direction on distribution). Keley, in addition to the changes recommended by LSB that we accepted, highlighted below is an addition the Minister made this morning.

## **Statement from the Minister of Energy on the Ontario Energy Board's New Regulated Price Plan (RPP) Electricity Rate Announcement**

Today, Glenn Thibeault, Ontario's Minister of Energy, issued the following statement:

We welcome the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB's) decision to reduce electricity rates starting May 1, 2017 by an average of 17 per cent across the province for all residential households and as many as half a million small businesses and farms.

The OEB's decision to include a portion of the estimated reductions from the Fair Hydro Plan, in keeping with its standard practice, means Ontarians will see real savings sooner than expected. This is an important first step to deliver on our government's commitment to lower rates by a total of 25 per cent on average by this summer with rates also held to inflation for the next four years. The Plan will bring the largest rate cut in Ontario history.

Today's OEB Retail Price Plan (RPP) announcement includes the 8 per cent reduction announced in January, and 9 per cent savings through both the shifting of the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) to the tax base and a portion of the electricity rate reductions Ontarians will see through our Fair Hydro Plan.

Our government intends to introduce legislation that would, if passed, provide real relief for Ontarians and greater fairness in our electricity system this summer. With the anticipated implementation of our government's proposed legislation, the OEB would be required to lower rates again this summer to fulfill our pledge to cut electricity bills by 25 per cent on average and reduce rates for families in rural or remote areas of the province up to 40 to 50 per cent.

On March 2, Premier Wynne committed to providing significant and real relief on electricity bills for Ontarians, and our government will be delivering on this pledge this summer.