

Hansard: Armstrong to Thibeault -- Energy Affordability

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) <energynews@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <mei-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, Alexandra Campbell (IESO) <alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca>, Alexandria Anderson (OPG) <alexandria.anderson@opg.com>, Andrew Dow (IESO) <andrew.dow@ieso.ca>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <cheryl.carson@ontario.ca>, "Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY)" <daniel.cayley@ontario.ca>, Chuck Farmer <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, Donna Kinapen (OEB) <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@ontario.ca>, "Hill, Allyson (ENERGY)" <allyson.hill@ontario.ca>, "Ho, Larissa (ENERGY)" <larissa.ho@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY)" <serge.imbrogno@ontario.ca>, "Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY)" <patrick.imlay@ontario.ca>, Jane Leckey (IESO) <jane.leckey@ieso.ca>, John Bozzo (OEB) <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, John Cannella (IESO) <john.cannella@ieso.ca>, "Johnson, Paul (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <paul.johnson3@ontario.ca>, Jordan Penic (IESO) <jordan.penic@ieso.ca>, "Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <jennifer.kacaba@ontario.ca>, Karen Evans (OEB) <karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Landmann, Peter (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <peter.landmann@ontario.ca>, "Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY)" <arla.latto-hall@ontario.ca>, "Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY)" <chloe.lazakis@ontario.ca>, "Leung, Thomas (ENERGY)" <thomas.leung@ontario.ca>, "Lina Buccilli (Lina.Buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca)" <lina.buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY)" <ken.lindsay@ontario.ca>, "Linnington, Brenda (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <brenda.linnington@ontario.ca>, "Lyon, Sam (ENERGY)" <sam.lyon@ontario.ca>, "Major, Candace (ENERGY)" <candace.major@ontario.ca>, Mary Bernard (IESO) <mary.bernard@ieso.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (ENERGY)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Moulton, Dan (ENERGY)" <dan.moulton@ontario.ca>, "Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY)" <som.fatima.naveed@ontario.ca>, Neal Kelly (OPG) <neal.kelly@opg.com>, "Nelms, Scott (ENERGY)" <scott.nelms@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY)" <som.cheryl.o'donnell@ontario.ca>, "O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY)" <eamon.o'riordan@ontario.ca>, Paul Crawford (OEB) <paul.crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY)" <bryan.pelkey@ontario.ca>, "Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY)" <doreen.pitkeathly@ontario.ca>, "Poirier, Linda (ENERGY)" <linda.poirier@ontario.ca>, "Rehob, James (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <james.rehob@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, Richard Mackie (OPG) <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, Sandra Dykxhoorn <sandra.dykxhoorn@opg.com>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Shear, Dan (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <dan.shear@ontario.ca>, "Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY)" <valerie.simmons@ontario.ca>, "Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY)" <marlo.spencelair@ontario.ca>, "Spence, Marcia (ENERGY)" <marcia.spence@ontario.ca>,

"Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY)" <andrea.stoiko@ontario.ca>, "Sweet, Edward (ENERGY)" <edward.sweet@ontario.ca>, "Syed, Usman (ENERGY)" <usman.syed@ontario.ca>, Sylvia Kovesfalvi <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, Ted Gruetzner (OPG) <ted.gruetzner@opg.com>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, Terry Young (IESO) <terry.young@ieso.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, Tim Butters <tim.butters@ieso.ca>, "Todd, Brian (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <brian.todd@ontario.ca>, Tom Bergen (OPG) <tom.bergen@opg.com>, Vanda Wall (OEB) <vanda.wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY)" <vanessa.visheau@ontario.ca>, "Waddell, Colleen (ENERGY)" <colleen.waddell@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Xavier, Katrina (ENERGY)" <katrina.xavier@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>

Date: Mon, 31 Oct 2016 12:07:46 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Armstrong:** Speaker, my question's to the **Premier**. Earlier this year we learned that enrollment for the Ontario electricity support program was only 25% of eligible families. Now we have found that the government has excluded even more low-income families by refusing to grant enrollment for anyone living in a unit that is not individually metered. I have seniors on low fixed incomes calling my office and telling me they are struggling with increased hydro costs. They don't qualify for oesp because they're -- their building's hydro bill is split among residents. They are living in energy poverty. They are struggling with high rising hydro costs and they are below the income cutoff. The Ontario electricity support program excludes so and others living on fixed incomes. When will the government fix the oesp ... to ensure that all low-income families can benefit?

>> **Min. Thibeault:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable member for the question. I know there are specifics that she brought up, and while I can't speak to the specifics, Mr. Speaker, what I can talk about is the oesp program and the great work that it's been doing since it started. It will be 11 months tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. This program is getting about 14,000 families and seniors applying for this program, Mr. Speaker. We do want to see more families on this program and that's why we continue to spend money on advertising, Mr. Speaker. It's a great program for it and that's why we're making sure that we send more of these brochures to the opposition offices, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that they can talk to their constituent about it. Mr. Speaker, \$45 -- constituents. \$45 a month for some families goes a long way. For seniors and those families that heat their home with electricity, Mr. Speaker, they can apply and get up to \$75, Mr. Speaker and that's something we're happy to see.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.