

Hansard: Brown (Yakabuski, Smith) to Premier (Thibeault) -- Energy Management

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>

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: My question is for the Premier, the Liberals can't seem to get anything right when it comes to energy file. The wait never seems to end. 12 million dollars wasted on consultants and advertisements. 28 million dollars losing a lawsuit for a project that hasn't even been built. The newest scandal? An 81 million dollar accounting error by the independent electricity system operator. Just like that, the IESO deficit grew by 81 million dollars. Mr. Speaker, are the Ontario rate payers on the hook yet again? How does this keep on happening, Mr. Speaker?

>> Premier Wynne: The member opposite should know there are no additional impacts to rate payers. This issue goes back to 2010. The 70 million dollars in savings remains a net savings to Ontario ratepayers. The issue goes back to 2010. There are no additional impacts on ratepayers.

>> MPP Yakabuski: Not quite the answer I got from the Deputy Minister this morning. The Liberals have tried to hide this 81 million dollar mistake. The public accounts say they have applied to the Ontario energy board to raise rates to correct the Liberal accounting error. I hardly think it's ethical for the Liberals to hide hydro bills to make up for their mistake. Speaker, has the 81 million dollar been approved and how much more can a family expect to pay to make up for this Liberal accounting error?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable member for his question. As we said in committee, we need to be very clear there's no new additional impact to ratepayers. Accounting experts determined over which period the payments would need to be taken. All government agencies use these standards. Last week in the House we passed legislation to save 5 million Ontarians 8% on their electricity bill. This week the opposition is talking about accounting practices for pension payments dating back to 2010 that have previously been disclosed for several years worth of public accounts. We announced regulations to save businesses one-third of their energy costs. This week the opposition talking about accounting practices and disclosures from years ago. We'll continue to stay focussed on the issues.

>> MPP Smith: This is another 81 million dollar Liberal scandal the government is trying to sweep under the carpet. It's been revealed this government wasted 12 million dollars on consultants and advertisements, another 28 million dollars on the Wynne stream lawsuit and an accounting error. I'll trust the auditor general's accounting before I trust this government's accounting. This means the Liberals wasted with all the three scandals 121 million dollars with the stroke of a pen. We know this is a former federal NDP but congratulations with these scandals. Mr. Speaker, how much will families be expected to pay to make up for this latest 121 million dollars worth of Liberal scandal and mismanagement?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Honourable member likes to focus on my past. This government focusses on Ontarians' future. (Applause) For those on this side of the House, Mr.

Speaker, we know that back in 2010 there was accounting practices that have changed in accordance with expert guidelines. All government practices have changed in relation to that. They went from gap to the We focus on a clean reliable system. When we're talking about the details of this accounting change, Mr. Speaker, the opposition obviously has no plan when it comes to energy. They can't see the forest for the trees. The only thing they can see are the big coal piles they'd like to bring back to Ontario. We have now invested in a clean --

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