

Hansard: Brown to Premier (Thibeault) -- Energy Rates

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>, "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>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (ENERGY)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Cindric, Christina (ENERGY)" <som.3christina.cindric@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, Darren Matsugu (IESO) <darren.matsugu@ieso.ca>, "Diamond, Alyssa (ENERGY)" <alyssa.diamond@ontario.ca>, "Dier, Kirby (ENERGY)" <kirby.dier@ontario.ca>, Donna Kinapen (OEB) <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Flannery, Catherine (ENERGY)" <catherine.flannery@ontario.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@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>, 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>, "Kolodziej, Monika (ENERGY)" <monika.kolodziej@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>, "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>, "Ramcharran, Shanice (ENERGY)" <som.shanice.ramcharran@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@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>, "Thiru, Dhil (ENERGY)" <dhil.thiru@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.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>, "Whytock, John (ENERGY)" <john.whytock@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Xavier, Katrina (ENERGY)" <katrina.xavier@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the **Premier**. The people of Ottawa deserve a government that is going to stand up for them. And as I've said on Monday, hydro Ottawa has requested a rate increase for families who conserve energy. It makes no sense. If you conserve energy, you would pay more. Yet this government won't condemn that plan. Mr. Speaker, here is another chance. Directly to the **Premier**, to admit to say here in the legislature that that plan is absurd. Will the **Premier** tell the O.E.B. That families shouldn't be punished for conserving energy?

>> **Premier Wynne**: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. And as I have said to the leader of the opposition, those decisions in terms of increases or not are made by the Ontario energy board, Mr. Speaker. I think he knows that and it is up to the Ontario energy board to look at the facts laid before it and to make that decision. And as we know, Mr. Speaker, sometimes the O.E.B. Grants an increase and sometimes they do not, Mr. Speaker, and it's up to them to make that decision.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the **Premier**. When the **Premier** wants to get involved and have her P.S.T. Rebate, then she can get involved in hydro. All of a sudden now she can't get involved because the people of Ottawa she thinks it's appropriate they're charged more for conserving energy. It's absurd. Then again, Mr. Speaker, this is the same **Premier** that has overcharged the people of Ontario by \$9.2 billion for renewable contracts. This is the same **Premier**. This is the same government that has taken \$1.3 million in donations from some 30 companies for the Ontario Liberal party for bad policy. So my question is, Mr. Speaker, rates are going to go up on November 1st, long before any band-aid solution. Will the **Premier** do the right thing? Does her government refuse to condemn this possible rate increase? Do the right thing. Happy families suffering –

>> **Premier Wynne**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this morning to meet with the governor of Arizona, and we had a number of very fruitful conversations about issues that we were both dealing with in our jurisdiction. But one of them we had, Mr. Speaker, was about energy and we talked about the fact that, in Ontario, we have shut down the coal fired plant, that we have invested in our electricity grid, Mr. Speaker, and, you know, folks in Arizona are looking at jurisdiction regards as they make decisions about climate change, Mr. Speaker. So we have taken steps in this province, Mr. Speaker. We have a 9% emissions-free grid. We've invested in what was. Unreliable and dirty electricity grid, Mr. Speaker. No smog days this year, Mr. Speaker. That's because of decisions that we have made on electricity grid in Ontario.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The **Premier** can speak to any governor she likes. She can speak to any **Premier** she likes and they're all happy with Ontario's energy policy because we're sending jobs to every other state, jobs to every other province. That energy policy is a disaster. We are giving away electricity under this **Premier's** hydro plan and she does not appreciate how it's hurting families. Just last week in committee we heard stories about how this is hurting Ontario. Norma Schmidt told the legislative committee that this Liberal plan is a slap in the face to Ontario. Margaret Thomas from Brussels said when it comes to hydro, there is no joy in rural and northern House holds. Terrence green said -- who lives in Ottawa South called the rebate simply window-dressing. So, Mr. Speaker, we've heard it at committee. We've heard it around the province. Why won't the **Premier** act? Why won't the **Premier** help? Is it because she took \$1.3 million and donated it? That's the only reason she refuses to actually fix the hydro problem?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise. I'm looking for people to -
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm pleased to rise to address the questions by the leader of the opposition. Mr. Speaker, as we've said we've invested in a modernized electricity system, Mr. Speaker, and we took a dirty system and made it clean by completely eliminating dirty coal-fired generation, meaning Ontario has a cleaner future, Mr. Speaker. We don't have to send out warnings, Mr. Speaker, any more telling people not to go outside and breathe, Mr. Speaker, something that that government when they were in power had to do almost on a daily basis, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, families in Ontario now won't have -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that ask, Mr. Speaker, is instant and permanent come January 1st, Mr. Speaker. 8% reduction to all families right across the province, Mr. Speaker. That's the one thing that's benefitting families.

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