

Hansard: Brown to Thibeault -- Energy Costs

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: My question is for the **Premier**. We all know about the Minister of energy's mea culpa and hindsight. Liberals ignored the advice of their own experts when handing out twenty year contracts to friends. It could have saved Ontario 4 billion dollars if they listened. We know the 30 big renewable companies donated 1.3 million dollars to the Ontario Liberal party. My question to the **Premier** is given this regret about the bad contracts, will the Ontario Liberal party return the 1.3 million dollars in donations.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Investing in eliminating coal and building transmission as the leader of the opposition talked about was the right thing to do. Because of that, we have a clean, reliable system that we can depend on, Mr. Speaker. As I said, Mr. Speaker, hindsight is 20/20. I know the leader of the opposition knows hindsight. When it comes to the updated sex-ed curriculum, they did support it and then they didn't support it. Hindsight is something they know well. We have invested in a system that's very strong. We'll continue to find ways of lowering rates for everyone.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. Mr. Speaker, I asked a serious question about hydro. The government has acknowledged their green energy act was a mistake. They signed bad contracts. The response I get from the Minister of energy was a smear on a unrelated topic. I'll try again. Directly to the **Premier**. How does the **Premier** reconcile the fact that we've overpaid for renewable energy. That if we listened to the auditor general we could have saved 4 billion. The Ontario Liberal party received 1.3 million dollars in donations. A very clear question. Given this mea culpa, will the **Premier** ensure the Ontario Liberal party returns the 1.3 million dollars to Ontario ratepayers because of these bad contracts?

>> Minister Thibeault: The green energy act, Mr. Speaker, the what was the absolute right thing to do, Mr. Speaker. How these contracts were negotiated, we could do better. That's what we're actually doing. We're finding ways of doing better for the people of Ontario and bringing forward a rate mitigation process that's going to help all families and all businesses across the province. When talking about savings for people, Mr. Speaker, we've already done that and we're going to continue to do. That the renegotiated Samsung agreement, 3.7 billion dollars in

savings. Reduce fit prices. 1.9 million in savings. That was 800 million dollars. We've continued to do this, Mr. Speaker. While at the same time eliminating coal and rebuilding a system that they couldn't care for, that they left in

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