

Hansard: Brown to Thibault -- Hydro Rates

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of energy. I recently toured the Ottawa mission. They do fantastic work supporting some of the city's most vulnerable. The people that need our assistance the most. But now even the mission itself needs Ontario's help. They told me one of the issues facing the mission and their ability to succeed is skyrocketing hydro rates. The Liberal hydro plan is taking important precious funds away from the mission, helping -- helping take care of Ottawa's most vulnerable. Instead the services that the mission wants to provide, they can't because of this hydro mess. Mr. Speaker, do the Liberals believe that places like the Ottawa mission should be paying for hydro over helping the most vulnerable?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to that question. You know, Mr. Speaker, we've done, on this side of the House, many things that help actually residents that actually use the mission, Mr. Speaker, but also help organizations like the mission, Mr. Speaker, who are doing great work to actually find ways to reduce their energy consumption, Mr. Speaker. Come January 1st, Mr. Speaker, they're going to see their electricity bill, Mr. Speaker, reduced by 8% thanks to this government bringing forward that bill to permanently remove, Mr. Speaker, the H.S.T. From their bills, Mr. Speaker. Also many things that we are doing to help the residents that actually use the shelter, Mr. Speaker. You know for those that actually need some assistance, they can actually get it from this side of the government. We also have a great Minister looking into housing and poverty, Mr. Speaker, so we're doing many things to help these families. But I find it you know, Mr. Speaker, very interesting coming from a party that has no plan on electricity, Mr. Speaker. They have no idea. The only thing they want to do, Mr. Speaker, is go back to burning coal, Mr. Speaker. That's not what we will do on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to advocate for a clean reliable system.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the Minister. No one believes for a second that hydro bills are going down under this government. Years of Liberal scandal, waste and mismanagement settle created a hydro crisis in our province. And it's because of that crisis that Ontario businesses and families are struggling to pay their bills. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy but because of Liberal rate increases many are faced with the prospect of closing their doors. Recently I visited the grimsby diner. The grimsby diner's only open during peak hours. It has

no choice but to make the most expensive rate in North America. They can't choose when to serve breakfast. But within a one-year period, the business's hydro bills -- I not Liberals don't want to hear this and they heckle me they don't want to hear it. But this business, their builds if one year have gone up 25%. So my question to the Minister of energy, rather than stand there attacking others, what are you going to do to keep small businesses afloat in the province of Ontario?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased again to rise and to talk about the great programs that we put in place, Mr. Speaker, to help small businesses. We're going to see, Mr. Speaker, that 8 pores reduction as of January 1st for many small businesses right across the province as well as family farms, Mr. Speaker. They're going to seal an 8% reduction. We're also seeing the I.P.I. Program that's going to open up for another 1,000 businesses, Mr. Speaker. That's going to really help many of our small and medium size enterprises right across our great province, Mr. Speaker. Now what? When you talk about the I.P.I. Program, Mr. Speaker, we've had 80 new participants just recently come and sign up for that program, Mr. Speaker, because they know that they can actually save up to one third on their hydro bills, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that they're very excited about. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to invest in a clean, reliable system, Mr. Speaker. On that side of the House. They have no plan. The only thing that they want to go back to, Mr. Speaker, is burning coal.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, back to the Minister of energy. All we hear is false allegations and more Liberal spin. Mr. Speaker, you hear the Minister of energy -- Mr. Speaker, the Minister of energy says they have an 8% rebate. What he doesn't mention is the 10% clean energy rebate is gone. Hydro bills are not going down. And the excuses Ontarians are growing tired of, and the fact that I heard that in Ottawa- Vanier, a Liberal campaign worker told an individual struggling with this bill that they had to put on a winter coat appear turn down the -- Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that Michel in Ottawa- Vanier didn't appreciate being told to put on a winter coat and turn down the thermostat by Liberal headquarters. I'll give you a little piece of friendly advice. That shouldn't be your talking point. We want answers and solutions. Frankly Michel in Ottawa deserves an apology. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of energy, will the **Premier** apologize for that callous comment?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only party that should be apologizing is that party for leaving our system in decay for so long, Mr. Speaker. It was this government that actually had to step up -- Mr. Speaker, making sure we invested in a clean and reliable system, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. And you know what? Mr. Speaker, on that side of the House they have no plan. They have nothing to tell Michel. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we have many things to tell Michel. 8% reduction coming January 1st. Six programs that are there to help him, Mr. Speaker. We also have great work in many other aspects when it comes to the energy, Mr. Speaker. So we don't have a problem, Mr. Speaker, standing up and talking about a system, Mr. Speaker, that we had to clean up from them, Mr. Speaker. We are very proud of what we've done and we'll continue to advocate for the people of this province. Thank you.

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