

Hansard: Coe (Walker) to Mauro (Thibeault) -- Municipal & Healthcare Hydro Affordability

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Coe: Thank you, Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Municipalities are in charge of delivering services to their residents. It's up to them to ensure they're making the most of taxpayers' hard earned dollars. Under this government hydro rates have continued to skyrocket and they continue to deny they're the problem. The city of Oshawa received a hydro bill for street lights. The cost of power was 3,000 dollars. Speaker, what was the cost of the global adjustment? Almost 100,000 dollars. 100,000 dollars, Speaker! Which is outrageous. Can the Premier explain why she's adjusted to city bills over 100,000 dollars when they're using just 3,000 dollars worth of power.

>> Min. Mauro: Speaker, thank you very much for the question. I think it's really interesting for us on this side of the House to get a question from the Conservative party, the official opposition, when it comes to issues relating to municipal affordability. Speaker, many of us on this side of the House used to sit on municipal council. One of the reasons that many of us on this side of the House ran for election in 2003 is because we sat on municipal councils from 95 to 2003 when perhaps the biggest tax shift in the history of the province occurred when the Conservative party downloaded into the municipal rate base billions of dollars of long-term responsibility. So to get a question from the Conservatives about municipal affordability...

>> MPP Walker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the Premier. The hydro disaster in long-term care homes where electricity spiked. Instead of putting money into better food for seniors -- nursing homes are forced to redirect 30 million dollars to cover last year's hydro hikes. For one nursing home, that's 325 extra dollars. More than this government's -- this Premier calls fairness and stability in the system. I ask her: What's so stable? About paying more for hydro hikes than feeding and bathing frail senior patients?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very important question that the opposition member brings forward. In relation to hospitals and energy bills. I'm very proud to say that our conservation program helps hospitals and municipalities and arenas and everyone. For example, in my riding, the hospital had an event with greater Sudbury utilities in which it saved over 300,000 dollars. They can put it back into the system. They can use the money in helping families in the healthcare system. We have conservation. We have demand response. We have the ici program. We have so many programs out there. We continue to promote them. Unfortunately on the other side of the House they

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