

Hansard: Fedeli (Yurek) (Jones) -- Hydro-Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Fideli: Speaker, the families were nestled, ice cold in their beds while 12% more hydro cuts danced in their heads. They prayed for relief from cold and from cough. Can you please, Premier, promise you won't cut their hydro off?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping with the Christmas theme, it's only that party that's talking about coal, which is something that Santa gives to naughty people, Mr. Speaker. It's that side that's getting all the coal this year, Mr. Speaker, especially when you look at our hydro plan. Our hydro plan gives a 25% reduction on all bills for families and as many as half a million small businesses and farms, Mr. Speaker. And now, in their – people garnishee, thank you for the MPP For Ancaster for that and the people's garnishee, they're now sneakily including our own platform in their bill, Mr. Speaker. So what is it, Mr. Speaker? Are they sticking with coal or do they want to stick with green, Mr. Speaker? On this side of the House, we're sticking with green. We want

to ensure that our system is clean and reliable and green. So that we can continue to breathe clean air, not coal, Mr. Speaker, like that they're putting in everyone's stocking.

>>MPP Yurek: So the Minister of energy rises to spin in Q.P.. People are asking for relief. We all hear the pleas. But instead the Minister rises and spins with a bluster. Again, will they give 12% off bills is the question we muster?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're actually giving 25% off, Mr. Speaker. That's something that they voted against. And so they can bluster and moan all they would like, Mr. Speaker, but we're making sure that we're helping families in this province. We're making sure that, at the end of the year, that people have seen a lower hydro bill, Mr. Speaker. Not unlike what they did, Mr. Speaker, where they vote against it every single time. They vote against making sure that we have a clean system. They vote against voting that we give people a reduction, Mr. Speaker. And when you look at their plan, even, even the independent energy analysis are saying all of these new costs will put pressure, Mr. Speaker, on making sure that we can continue to invest in hospitals, invest in schools, invest in roads, Mr. Speaker. Building this province up is what we have been doing. And we, Mr. Speaker, will make sure that we can do this with a clean, reliable and affordable electricity system.

>>MPP Jones: Energy environment and the Minister of finance even infrastructure the member from grant. Around the caucus room they say, will you introduce long-lasting energy relief today?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We introduced long-lasting energy reductions, Mr. Speaker, in July. They're now talking about doing something, Mr. Speaker, that will not reduce anybody's bills, Mr. Speaker. It's actually going to make it more difficult for people. At the end of the day, when you're talking about \$12 billion in cuts, Mr. Speaker. \$12 billion in cuts, what are they going to cut? Which programs, Mr. Speaker? When it's talking about energy. Are they going to cut the Ontario electricity support program that helps low-income individuals? Are they going to cut the first nation delivery tax -- Mr. Speaker, are they going to cut the first nations delivery tax credit. You know what, Mr. Speaker? We've seen this before just like the Harris years, Mr. Speaker. They're going to cut and slash everything. That's what they're known for, Mr. Speaker. We can guarantee that.

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