

Hansard: Fideli to Thibeault -- Hydro rate Reduction Plan

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) <energynews@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Anderson, Alexandria (OPG)" <alexandria.anderson@opg.com>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Bergen, Tom (OPG)" <tom.bergen@opg.com>, "Bernard, Mary (IESO)" <mary.bernard@ieso.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, "Bozzo, John (OEB)" <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Buccilli, Lina (OEB)" <lina.buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Butters, Tim (IESO)" <tim.butters@ieso.ca>, "Campbell, Alexandra (IESO)" <alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Cannella, John (IESO)" <john.cannella@ieso.ca>, "Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <cheryl.carson@ontario.ca>, "Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY)" <daniel.cayley@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Cooper, Sarah (ENERGY)" <sarah.cooper@ontario.ca>, "Crawford, Paul (OEB)" <paul.crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, "Dow, Andrew (IESO)" <andrew.dow@ieso.ca>, "Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG)" <sandra.dykxhoorn@opg.com>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Evans, Karen (OEB)" <karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Farmer, Chuck (IESO)" <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Feather, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.feather@ontario.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@ontario.ca>, "Gruetzner, Ted (OPG)" <ted.gruetzner@opg.com>, "Hill, Allyson (ENERGY)" <allyson.hill@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>, "Johnson, Paul (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <paul.johnson3@ontario.ca>, "Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY)" <jennifer.kacaba@ontario.ca>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, "Kelly, Neal (OPG)" <neal.kelly@opg.com>, "Kinapen, Donna (OEB)" <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB)" <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Landmann, Peter (ENERGY)" <peter.landmann@ontario.ca>, "Lars Hansen" <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY)" <arla.latto-hall@ontario.ca>, "Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY)" <chloe.lazakis@ontario.ca>, "Leckey, Jane (IESO)" <jane.leckey@ieso.ca>, "Leung, Thomas (MOF)" <thomas.leung@ontario.ca>, "Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY)" <ken.lindsay@ontario.ca>, "Linington, Brenda (MOI)" <brenda.linington@ontario.ca>, "Mackie, Richard (OPG)" <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY)" <som.fatima.naveed@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Nelms, Scott (MOF)" <scott.nelms@ontario.ca>, "O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY)" <som.cheryl.o'donnell@ontario.ca>, "O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY)" <eamon.o'riordan@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY)" <bryan.pelkey@ontario.ca>, "Penic, Jordan (IESO)" <jordan.penic@ieso.ca>, "Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY)" <doreen.pitkeathly@ontario.ca>, "Poirier, Linda (ENERGY)"

<linda.poirier@ontario.ca>, "Rehob, James (ENERGY)" <james.rehob@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.reid@ontario.ca>, "Rowe, Jennifer (OPG)" <jennifer.rowe@opg.com>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Shear, Dan (ENERGY)" <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>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Todd, Brian (MOI)" <brian.todd@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Iliia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY)" <vanessa.visheau@ontario.ca>, "Waddell, Colleen (MOF)" <colleen.waddell@ontario.ca>, "Wall, Vanda (OEB)" <vanda.wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>, "Young, Terry (IESO)" <terry.young@ieso.ca>, "Evans, Karen (ENERGY)" <karen.evans@ontario.ca>

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Fideli: Thank you and good morning, Speaker. My question's for the Minister of energy. On the weekend, I spoke with the executives of legion branch 23 in North Bay. Their hydro bill had climbed from 38,000 to over \$48,000. And that's despite converting to L.E.D.S, changing the ballasts, and doing everything else they were advised to do. Preston quirk, bill Wilkins and Jim Thomson told me that, quote -- hydro has broken our back. They told me they were, quote, forced into bankruptcy because of their hydro bills. Eventually the legion was forced to sell their building. They're a prime example of how this government's failed energy policies are hurting communities across Ontario and creating hydro horror stories. I ask the Minister, will the government put a stop to their costly vanity ads and address the real hydro crisis they created in Ontario?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the member for the question and highlighting some of the organizations in this province that are having a difficult time, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we acted with the Ontario fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, and organizations like legions and many other institution that is we all have in our ridings will see this 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we brought forward this plan, Mr. Speaker, is to actually help those organizations. And I'm hoping that the member actually talked about what they would do as a party if they ever, Mr. Speaker, had the opportunity to bring forward a plan. But, Mr. Speaker, they have no plan. They have no idea on the systems. All they did, Mr. Speaker, was allow the system to deteriorate for decades, Mr. Speaker. Under our government we've rebuilt the system to make sure that we have power in northern Ontario, that we have now, Mr. Speaker, an affordable plan. That will help legions right across this province.

>> MPP Fideli: Back to the Minister. He obviously missed the point that the ledge on was forced to sell their building. They're gone. Preston and Billy and Jim told me, quote -- this hurts us. We had to lay off staff and it's hydro that did it, quote. They can no longer support their pipe fitters, their track and field grants that help so many area men and women to make it to the olympics. They no longer have a hall to give out to charity events. They can no longer properly take care of their vets. And they told me that's what hurts them the most. They want to quote lay the blame where it lies and that is with the hydro bill. Proud ownership of legion 23 is nothing but a distant memory today, Speaker. Our party has been sharing these tragic hydro stories. Mostly the heckling. How many more legions,

Rinks and restaurants need to close before this Minister takes any action? Thank you

>> **Minister Thibeault:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Long before my arrival in this ministry, Mr. Speaker, this government has taken action on building a system to ensure that we have a clean system and a reliable system, Mr. Speaker, something that they didn't do when they were in power, Mr. Speaker. They actually froze rates to make sure that there was no investment in the system. We invested \$50 billion, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we have a clean system, a green system and a reliable system, Mr. Speaker. The fair hydro plan coming forward will now help legions. It will help Curling clubs. It will help 500,000 small businesses and families, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing making sure our fair hydro plan will actually benefit everyone in this province. They don't have a plan, Mr. Speaker. They don't even have time to consider one, Mr. Speaker. The only thing that that leader can do is pen a letter about saving the NHL and the olympics, Mr Speaker.

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