

Hansard: Fife to Thibeault--Hydro Exec Salaries

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Fife: Thank you very much, Speaker. My question is to the **Premier**. The C.E.O. Of O.P.G. Earned more than 2 million in total compensation last year. Not the 1.2 million that was stated in the sunshine list. The government's gradual thawing of public sector executive pay allowed the C.E.O. To walk away with over 2 million in salaries, bonuses, pension money and almost \$40,000 in other pay. \$40,000 a year is what most young people in this province would be thrilled to earn. They face, and I quote, stagnant wages. How can this **Premier** justify these executives Sal -- executive salaries for the struggling young people of this province?

>> MPP Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased once again to rise and speak to the great work that O.P.G. Is doing in our province making sure that we have affordable power, Mr. Speaker, that's also clean. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that on paper those salaries do look very large, Mr. Speaker. But let's not forget, Mr. Speaker, that these are the individuals who are nuclear technical experts, Mr. Speaker. The comparators that are used make sure that they're not the highest paid in this sector, Mr. Speaker, but they're also not the lowest paid in this sector. We also want to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that our nuclear facilities are run by the best -- Mr. Speaker, that our nuclear facilities are run by the best people to ensure the safety and health for everyone in the province, Mr. Speaker, and that's what the executive is doing at O.P.G..

>> MPP Fife: Again to the **Premier**. These high salaries, bonuses and pension perks are indefensible. They're not just high on paper. Here' high in the real world which is the province of Ontario, to the Minister of energy. Does the **Premier** understand that a whole generation in this province are struggling with part-time, contract and unstable work? They're not getting ahead. They are barely treading water. A new report out today shows that Ontario has the second-worst economy for young people in the country. In fact and I quote -- no province reported a decline in full-time earnings since 2003, except Ontario. This means young Ontarians are working for less money than their parents at a time of skyrocketing rents and hydro costs. When is this government actually going to do something and make more -- life more affordable for the people of this province?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I do acknowledge that

these salaries are high, Mr. Speaker, but these are our nuclear technical experts that are keeping our facilities operating, Mr. Speaker, at high safety standards making sure that all health and safety standards are being met and making sure that we have powers, Mr. Speaker, right across this province. But when it comes to making sure that people have affordable lifestyles, Mr. Speaker, that's what we've done with our fair hydro plan. Bringing forward a plan with a 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker, we worked with the experts at O.P.G. To ensure we can find ways to bring down our rates, Mr. Speaker. A 25% reduction for all families, small businesses and farms right across the province, Mr. Speaker, is extremely -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is something that we're very proud to bring forward, Mr. Speaker, which is our fair hydro plan helping families and businesses right across the province.

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