

# Hansard: Gates to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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**Subject:** Hansard: Gates to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

## **INSTANT HANSARD**

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>> MPP Gates: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the **Premier**. A local business Forrester city casting from fort Erie, contacted our office regarding their recent hydro bill. It was \$12,000. Yes, \$12,000. This local business actually only used around \$1,000 in electricity. But between global adjustment charges, delivery charges and H.S.T., the bill is \$12,000. While I appreciate that there is an 8% discount to help business in Ontario, unfortunately this business does not qualify for that reduction. Because their kilowatts per-hour usage, they don't qualify. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is unfair. The Liberal government should be concerned businesses in niagara and across Ontario are going to have to close because of these policies. So I ask the **Premier**, will you commit to taking immediate action to help small and medium sized businesses in Ontario with their crushing hydro bills by stopping the sale of Hydro One and taking real action to lower hydro bills?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very important to note that the I.C.I. Program, Mr. Speaker, actually helps all businesses within, you know, under a mega watt of hour usage, Mr. Speaker, with reducing their bills by up to a third. And I don't know the specifics of that individual business and I'd be more than happy to talk with the Honourable member about that, to find out what programs they do qualify for, Mr. Speaker. Because there are many, many programs that are out there, Mr. Speaker. I was at a great company in Brant, Mr. Speaker, called haematite. We were there giving them an award. They saved \$200,000, Mr. Speaker, by changing their lights, Mr. Speaker. But you know what? They were unaware of the I.C.I. Program so we're working with them to actually help them save a third on their bills, Mr. Speaker. And the way we dropped this, Mr. Speaker, the way we reduced this from one mega watt to kill awatt, thousands of more businesses and medium size enterprises will qualify for the I.C.I.. That's great for business

in this province, Mr. Speaker.

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