

Hansard: Gelinas to Thibeault -- Northern & Rural Energy Rates

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Gelinis: Thank you. My question is for the Minister of energy. People from northern and rural Ontario have been told by this Minister that they are going to get a 20% reduction on their hydro bill. The Minister stood in this House on September 27. He said and I quote from Hansard -- a 20% reduction for families in rural, reap moat and northern communities like in my part of the province will actually be a significant saving for many families, end of quote. The Minister lives in the riding of Sudbury and not one of his constituents will qualify for the 20% savings. -- For the 20% savings. Will the Minister correct his record and tell the people in his riding that they are not and will not be eligible for the 20% in savings?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very happy to rise and answer this question because, as we do live in the city of greater Sudbury, Mr. Speaker, many of the people that live in her riding will qualify for that 20% reduction like the 330 families right across the province, Mr. Speaker. So I'm very happy to rise up, Mr. Speaker, and talk about the great work that we're doing when it comes to making sure that we're putting an 8% reduction. For those families right across the province - Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of the 20% reduction is make sure, Mr. Speaker, that those that do live in rural, remote or northern community get that benefit that are under our two, Mr. Speaker, to make sure they can actually have some savings on the delivery costs which is high, Mr. Speaker. Northerners are very happy to have this benefit, Mr. Speaker, and I wish that the NDP Would be too, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Gelinis: Thank you, Speaker. Well, the people of Sudbury are in the only ones. The great majority of the 1.8 million people who live in remote, rural and northern Ontario do not qualify for the 20% in saving off their hydro bill. I get phone calls daily from people from Nickel Belt and Sudbury who are struggling with their hydro bill and they want to know if they will be eligible for the 20% savings or not. You see, Speaker, we have the member from Sudbury, the Minister of energy, telling them that northerners will get a 20% saving on their hydro bill, but then they call Hydro One, and Hydro One tells them that they do not qualify for the savings. It would be helpful if the Minister could correct his record and tell the people of his riding that they do not qualify, and frankly, Speaker, neither do most of the people in Nickel Belt. We don't qualify either for savings. Will the Minister correct his record?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I think what the NDP Need to do is understand the electricity system, Mr. Speaker, because they don't have a plan. They don't have any clue as to how this process is working, Mr. Speaker. 20% is going to 330,000 families -- The 20%, Mr. Speaker, is going to 330,000 families right across the province, Mr. Speaker. Those families that are actually seeing their costs a lot higher than most folks in urban centres, Mr. Speaker, but we wanted to make sure that families right across the province, right across the province will benefit, Mr. Speaker. They get 8%, Mr. Speaker. Those that are in the rural or remote areas, Mr. Speaker, they get 20%. That is something, Mr. Speaker, that we should all be proud of because this is significant savings, Mr. Speaker, for families coming from the opposition that has no plans on

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