

Hansard: Horwath to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro 25% Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Speaker. My question's for the **Premier**. The **Premier** has dubbed her band-aid solution to the hydro crisis in Ontario the fair hydro plan. Odd because she didn't even mention the completely unfair mandatory time of use pricing that Ontario families and businesses have been suffering under. How can the **Premier** claim her plan is fair when it leaves seniors and young parents at home with their kids to pay more, while lining the pocket of her friends on bay street?

>> **Premier Wynne**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I not men sterl of energy's going to want to speak to the work that he's doing to look at the market pricing and to look at there are ways of providing options to people. But, Mr. Speaker, the fair hydro plan in Ontario is about taking an average of 25%, Mr. Speaker, off the bill of every one of those people that the leader of the third party identified, Mr. Speaker. That is fair. It's also fair, Mr. Speaker, that people who are living in rural and more remote areas and are paying disproportionately high distribution charges, Mr. Speaker, that they would have relief as well. It's also fair, Mr. Speaker, that people who are living on low income would have extra supports. That's what makes the fair hydro plan fair, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, last week I visited versatile inn in Sarnia and spoke with the owner a woman marlu Malik. She told me about her nearly \$8,000 hydro bill. She wants relief but the Liberal government doesn't fix problems like mandatory time of use pricing. When will this **Premier** deal with the important issues in our electricity system, like ending mandatory use pricing instead of focusing on her political well-being?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise again to talk about the fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, that's going to be helping every ratepayer across the province with a 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker, as soon as we can get this legislation passed through the House, Mr. Speaker. It is important to know, Mr. Speaker, that time of use is something that we've been working on for months, Mr. Speaker. We've recognized that, you know what? A senior couple living on a fixed income in northern Ontario shouldn't be on the same retail price plan, Mr. Speaker, as a single condo dweller living here in downtown Toronto. So that's why, Mr. Speaker, we asked months and months ago the ieso to start work on this, Mr. Speaker. To start looking at bringing forward some other options besides time of use, Mr. Speaker. But while they're doing that, Mr. Speaker,

we continue to act. We've brought forward other reductions. Last week, Mr. Speaker, a 25% reduction for every family across this province.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker senior sitting at home in Sudbury shouldn't have to wring their hands worrying about turning the lights on and turning the stove on during the day. That's not fair, Speaker. That's not fair. The woman in Sarnia that runs this motel told me that she washes her own towels and pillowcases for the hotel -- washes, to save a bit money but even that isn't very helpful because her staff have to do the laundry during the day so that they won't wake up the guests and that forces her to pay peak electricity prices, Speaker. Why didn't this **Premier** address the unfair time of use pricing in her desperate attempt to save her own political skin?

>> Speaker, the one thing that's very important to also highlight, Mr. Speaker, about our government's fair hydro plan is it delivers a 25% reduction for not only every House hold in the province, Mr. Speaker, but to a half a million small businesses and farms, Mr. Speaker. That is something we should all be proud of. Not only, Mr. Speaker, the Ontario chamber of commerce has highlighted the importance of the small business and the challenges they face and, you know, many regional Chambers have spoke to us about that so we listened, Mr. Speaker, and we took action. Every ratepayer who pays time of use prices in Ontario. Will receive the 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker. This includes House holds. Farms, businesses and more, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of the fair hydro plan.

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