

Hansard: Horwath to Premier -- Hydro 25% Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. My next question is also for the **Premier**. What part of the **Premier's** story that she still clings to is that selling Hydro One is a good idea, once again ignoring the wishes of the vast majority of Ontarians. By returning Hydro One to public hands, we bring in \$7 billion. We bring in \$7 billion over the next 30 years that we can invest in Ontario. Instead of investing in Ontario families and businesses, the Liberal plan gives away an additional 25 to \$40 billion over that same period to bankers, Speaker. When will this **Premier** wake up and realize that continuing with her wrong-headed sell-off of Hydro One is not just unpopular. Vastly unpopular, Speaker. It is absolutely the wrong thing to do for Ontario.

>> **Premier** Wynne: So, Mr. Speaker, just again we put the facts on the table. The proposal that the leader of the third party has brought forwards is -- as parliament of her plan that stop the broadening of the ownership of Hydro One, Mr. Speaker, and buy back Hydro One, none of which would take one cent off one electricity bill in this province, Mr. Speaker. Not a penny. So what we brought forward is a plan that will reduce people's electricity bills, Mr. Speaker, will spread the costs over a 30-year period for an asset and for assets that are going to be used by people for that period, Mr. Speaker. It's only right, only fair that people in this generation would pay part of the costs but people who are going to be using that asset down the road, that they would pay part of the freight for that, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're doing. We're bringing forward relief for people immediately, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, the Liberal plan will cost the people of Ontario more in the long run. That is absolutely the case. And it doesn't solve any, not a single one of the underriding problems in our current electricity system. Nor does it stop the sell-off of Hydro One. For years the **Premier** didn't listen to Ontarians when they were struggling with hydro bills that were far too high and that they could no longer afford. The **Premier** has not learned from that lesson, Speaker. Why isn't she listening to Ontarians who are telling they are that -- her that the right thing to do is stop putting her political career ahead of the people of this province and put an end once and for all to her wrong-headed decision to sell off Hydro One.

>> **Premier** Wynne: Mr. Speaker, it's actually hard to know where to begin. The reality is, Mr. Speaker, that underlying the -- The question from the leader of the third party is an assumption that there was no need to rebuild the electricity system in Ontario, Mr. Speaker. We don't need a

clean electricity grid. We don't need to build all those thousands of kilometres of line, Mr. Speaker, we don't need clean renewable capacity. We don't need -- underlying her question about Hydro One is we don't need to build transit all of which, Mr. Speaker, I think are really surprising assertions coming from the NDP. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, the proposal that she has put forward to reduce electricity costs --

The proposals she's brought forward. Would not take money off people's electricity bills. A practical plan that will reduce people's electricity bill and that's the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, what we don't need is to sell off a vital public asset that generates revenue for the people of Ontario. That's what we don't need. People need more, Speaker, than a desperate attempt to hold on to political power. People need that so much, need so much more than that, Speaker. People need more than a plan that kicks the problems in our hydro system down to our grandkids, Speaker. We need a plan that prioritizes Ontario families and businesses because all Ontarians see that the Liberal plan is an extra \$40 billion going into the pockets of this **Premier's** bankers' friends. When will this **Premier** show Ontarians that she is about more than saving her own political skin. Admit that she was wrong and stop the sell-off of Hydro One.

>> **Premier** Wynne: Speaker, you know, I've been asked a lot about this question of grandchildren and how would we explain to our grandchildren? I have three grandchildren and I'm quite comfortable, Mr. Speaker, talking to Olivia and Claire and Hugh about the reality that their mum and dad need some support in order to be able to, you know, allow them to take skating lessons or swimming lessons, Mr. Speaker. Allowing them to do the things that they want to do for their family now, and that will mean that Libby and -- when they're using those same assets, they'll be helping to pay for -- Libby and claren do will be helping to pay for those assets. Mr. Speaker, for months the leader of the third party has been looking for solutions to actually help people in their daily lives. We're bringing that forward, Mr. Speaker. I would have thought she might have been supportive.

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