

Hansard: Horwath to Premier -- Hydro Rates

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Families are at a breaking point when it comes to keeping up with their hydro bills. Jane bought groc Eries. Her hydro was cut off. It took a political crisis for the Liberals to take winter disconnections seriously. What will it take for the **Premier** to address the root causes to finally bring hydro prices under control.

>> **Premier Wynne:** I know the leader of the third-party knows winter disconnections should in every part of the province should not be happening. If there's a situation where it's happening, the Minister of energy will want to know about that. I have said that I understand that there are people across the province who are overburdened by their electricity costs. We have moved to reduce their costs by 8%. We know there's more to be done. We'll be bringinh a plan forward. We're looking at all options. We'll be bringing a plan forward to do just that too, further reduce people's electricity costs across the province.

>> Andrea Horwath: Electricity isn't a luxury. It shouldn't be priced like one. People have had bills so high that she's being forced to choose between filling the family's prescriptions or paying to keep the lights on. No mother should have to make that kind of choice. The Liberals have had almost 14 years in government. They have put the interest of a small group of their well-connected friends ahead of Ontario families by selling off Hydro One and selling out people like Rochelle. When will the **Premier** wake up.

>> **Premier Wynne:** The decisions that we have made to clean up the air by shutting down the coal fired plants to rebuild lines that had been neglected by governments of all stripes, Mr. Speaker, investments that have not been made, those were decisions that had the people of Ontario at the heart. Kids with asthma. We have acknowledged there was a cost associated with those decisions. That's hard for people to bear across the province. Electricity prices have gone up very quickly. We have moved to reduce costs already. We're looking at all options to further reduce people's electricity costs. Mr. Speaker, I look

forward to bringing forward our plan in the very near future.

>> Andrea Horwath: People are trapped in a struggle every month to keep their family above water. People like Jane and Rochelle lie awake at night worried sick about how they're going to pay their hydro bill. The Liberals have spent 14 years driving up hydro costs for families. **Premier Wynne** is doing more damage by selling off Hydro One and selling control over our hydro system. Now it's the hydro crisis for families has become a political crisis for the Liberal party, will the **Premier** finally admit her sell-off was a mistake and take real action to lower people's electricity bills?

>> **Premier Wynne**: We have been working to reduce costs in the electricity system for months. We have -- actually years. We have worked with Samsung to make sure we renegotiated that contract. We have made sure that we made a decision not to invest in new nuclear. We put in place the Ontario energy support program to help people on low income. We know there's more to be done. We're looking at all options. I really look forward to the response by the leader of the third-party when we bring our plan forward which will reduce people's electricity costs in the immediate term. I really look forward to her reaction because I think that, Mr. Speaker, she would be very pleased with the response, pleased with the plan that we're going to bring forward.

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