

Hansard: Horwath to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Length of time isn't a luxury and it should not be priced like a luxury, Mr. Speaker, by giving up the province's majority stake in Hydro One. The **Premier** is guaranteeing that Ontario families will continue to see their hydro bills rise. Why does not **Premier** want to drive up hydro bills for families? Why does the **Premier** want to drive up hydro bills for families, businesses and municipalities?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, very pleased to rise and talk about the Ontario fair hydro plan today. On average, a 25% reduction for families, for small businesses and farms, and guess what, Mr. Speaker ? Those families that live in the Hydro One area, they're actually going to see a 40 to 50% reduction, Mr. Speaker, thanks to our government's plan, Mr. Speaker, bringing forward our fair hydro plan is going to have significant reductions for families and businesses right across the province. Unlike that party, Mr. Speaker ,sp which is telling unnecessarily wrong facts, Mr. Speaker, because when they talk about Hydro One and the broadening of ownership, everybody knows, Mr. Speaker, from the media to folks on the street that the Ontario energy board sets rates, not Hydro One, Mr. Speaker. If they go to their website, they can actually learn about how the Ontario energy board sets rates for the province. Mr. Speaker, we have brought forward a very comprehensive plan that will reduce for every family.

>> Andrea Horwath: How arrogant and out of touch do you have to be to completely ignore 80% of the people of this province? 80% of your constituents. Can the acting **Premier** explain to this House why with no mandate at all and just a year away from being thrown out of office, the **Premier** insists on giving up majority control of our most valuable public asset.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, understanding the system would be important for that party over there, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the electricity system, the oeb sets rates. And I know they have a hard time understanding that Mr. Speaker. I know it's very difficult for them, Mr. Speaker. But Hydro One does not set rates. We, Mr. Speaker, have brought forward a plan that is going to reduce rates, Mr. Speaker, by 25% on average. And I know they can laugh about it, Mr. Speaker, but what we have made sure that families will see this

reduction, that we can see families in our remote parts of our province in our northern parts of our province seeing their rates reduced by 40, 50%. I know they're laughing on that side, Mr. Speaker, because one party has no plan for electricity, has to plan for the province and on that side, Mr. Speaker, they have a plan that is pie in the sky and has no acts of taking one cent off a bill, Mr. Speaker.

>> All this government is doing is kicking their mess down to the next generation to pay for. That's all they're doing. But you know what? It's the same old story on repeat with this **Premier**. She puts the interest of her party and her powerful Liberal friends and insiders ahead of the interests of the people of this province. Every single time, Speaker, every single time. Why won't this **Premier** stop looking out for the people at the top? Stop her wrong headed selloff of Hydro One and finally show the people of Ontario the respect that they deserve.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In talking about dealing with messes, it was this government, it was this party that had to deal with the mess that was left by that party and that party, Mr. Speaker, when they were actually in power, decades ago, Mr. Speaker, they left the system in a mess. We had to rebuild it, Mr. Speaker. We spent \$50 billion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And that's why when we're bringing forward \$2.8 billion from yesterday's broadening ownership of Hydro One, we're making sure that that \$9.6 billion that exceeded our targets, that we're going to make sure that we spend this money on paying down debt and investing in infrastructure in every part of the province or this province, Mr. Speaker. That's what the people of Ontario asked for and that's what they're getting, Mr. Speaker.

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