

Hansard: MacLaren (Coe) to Thibeault -- Energy Rates

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Date: Tue, 27 Sep 2016 11:41:36 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the **Premier**. Exorbitant electricity bills mean that many Ontarians have fallen into energy poverty. Meanwhile the Liberals are giving their cronies plumb jobs and paying them bloated salaries. David Hurley is the man who co-chaired the **Premier's** election campaign. The **Premier** has awarded -- rewarded him with contracts in which he bills taxpayers an unbelievable \$420 an hour. How does the **Premier** justify granting him millions of dollars worth of government contracts? How does she justify paying her Liberal friends massive salaries when 567,000 Ontario families are in arrears on their hydro bills. 60,000 families have had their hydro cut off?

>> Min. Thibeault: Speaker. I'm very pleased today to rise and talk about the great work that we've done, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to building a safe and clean and reliable system, Mr. Speaker. But what we're doing now, Mr. Speaker, is making sure that we've got a system that's in place that's affordable for as many Ontarians as we can make it, Mr. Speaker. We're investing 8% a rebate that every family will see right across the province on their electricity bills. If you live in a rural or remote or northern community -- community like where I come from, Mr. Speaker, many of those families will see a 20% reduction, Mr. Speaker. So we're making sure that we're finding ways to continue to reduce the rates. Today's announcement, Mr. Speaker, very proud to make the announcement because we're talking about making sure that our system stays clean and reliable and safe and that we're also suspending and conditioning the L.R.T. 2, Mr. Speaker, which will continue to save families money right across this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Coe: Thank you, Speaker. **Back to the Premier**. Evidence mounts each and every day that this government's priorities are not Ontarians' priorities. Just like my Colleague from all parties in this House, I hear from constituents every day about out-of-control costs. Speaker, mothers and fathers in tears who must decide between whether they can feed their families or keep the lights on is unacceptable. Does the **Premier** really believe that ratepayers vote no when they're being bribed with their own money and when she finally stands -- Thank you. Will she finally stand in this legislature and admit that her government has failed Ontario families?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Making sure Ontario families get the single largest electricity bill rebate in Ontario's history is something that we're very proud of, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we've taken action, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And so that's why we've taken action and introduced the Ontario rebate for electricity consumers act. A set of initiatives which add to many of our pre-existing programs for helping customers using their bills, Mr. Speaker. And we also know that we're particularly focusing on ensuring that

vulnerable customers have the resources to help avoid disconnection, Mr. Speaker. Through powers from the province, the Ontario energy board has implemented enhanced consumer protection rules that all local distribution companies must follow, including, Mr. Speaker. Requiring a minimum ten days advance notice of disconnection with the company resources to help customers in arrears, Mr. Speaker. We continue to do the right thing for families, Mr. Speaker.

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