

Hansard: Pettapiece to Matthews --Hydro Rate reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Pettapiece: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Deputy **Premier**. Conroy shell --Haas owns the forest motel and woodland retreat outside of Stratford. Conroy has a problem. His hydro bills are out of control and his costs keep going up and up. Last year he paid over \$21,000 for hydro. That's despite investing over \$90,000 in energy efficient upgrades, including almost \$12,000 on the L.E.D. Light bulb retrofit program. My question to the Deputy **Premier** is -- why is the government paying small business to conserve energy only to push their bills even higher?

>> Minister Matthews: Well, Speaker, I'm sure this constituent will be very happy when he learns about the steps we're taking to take down those electricity costs, Speaker. Because we do know that people across this province are welcoming the changes that we are making, the 25% reduction. So, Speaker, I think just to recap, we reduced bills by 8%. We cut delivery charges to the most rural customers by 20% starting in January 1st. Our new agreement with Québec will reduce electricity system costs for consumers by about \$70 million from previous forecasts, Speaker. We've introduced programs like the Ontario electricity support program. The rural and remote hydro rate protection program. We've suspended the second round of the large renewable procurement process. That saves us up to \$3.8 billion. In costs, Speaker. We reduced feed-in tariff prices through annual price reviews and that's saving ratepayers.

>> MPP Pettapiece: Thank you, Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Conroy isn't alone in paying more for using less hydro. In November I asked the **Premier** about Mike Carter, owner of Millwood and foodtown. He's paying more she double for the hydro delivery charge because he isn't using enough hydro. It's the same story with Conroy, whose hydro bill has seen a double-digit increase over the last four years while his energy consumption has dropped 9%. That's a 9% energy saving and a double digit increase in hydro costs. Speaker, while we're waiting for an answer to the question -- Speaker, we're still waiting for an answer to the question I asked in November. How can this government justify something so stupid?

>> Speaker, if you think 25% reduction is stupid, I simply beg to disagree, Speaker. I think we are making the important -- taking the important steps to reduce those hydro prices. People across this

province are benefiting from that, Speaker, and will continue to benefit from that. Speaker, I guess my question to the member opposite is we are still waiting for your plan. We are still waiting to hear what you would do, what your best advice is. We hear lots of criticism, but 29 days ago your leader said that the plan was only days away. I don't know how many days he was talking about. But 29 days, we're still counting.

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