

Hansard: Qaadri to Thibeault -- Hydro 25% Reduction Plan

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Date: Thu, 09 Mar 2017 11:15:26 -0500

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Qaadri: Voice of Translator: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Minister of energy.

[End of Translation], Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of energy along with my Colleague the MPP For Etobicoke-lakeshore, Minister Albanese and Minister Sousa, with the multicultural press of Ontario. That announcement of course the government's energy plan generated an extraordinary amount of excitement. 25% of reduction for hydro bills for all Ontarians, otherwise known as Ontario's fair hydro plan. Speaker, as you can imagine such significant savings for House hold costs. The program initiative not just for today but for a sustainable program going forward. In my own district, the exceptional riding of Etobicoke north, we are blessed by a huge number of condominiums. So Minister, I ask you, how will my condo residents benefit from the government's announcement of its 25% reduction in hydro costs?

>> Minister Thibeault: Voice of Translator: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

[End of Translation] I want to thank the member for Etobicoke North for that important question and also for all of his work on this file. He and I were together the other night talking O constituents about this. So ensuring that all Ontario House holds receive this benefit is important to me and this government, Mr. Speaker. So I think it's important that we clarify. If you pay an electricity bill for a resident you will receive this benefit, Mr. Speaker, regardless of whether you live in a House, a condo or an apartment. In fact if your condo has facility costs that are shared among the residents, these shared electricity costs will be also receiving this reduction. This is an essential part of our plan to increase the fairness of our electricity system in Ontario, Mr. Speaker. That's why not only, Mr. Speaker, will you see your bill reduced, but costs will be held to inflation for at least the next four years, Mr. Speaker. We are proud of Ontario's fair hydro plan and the significant lasting relief it will provide.

>> MPP Qaadri: I begin, Speaker, by thanking the Minister not only for this program and your stewardship resulting in the 25% reduction of Ontario's hydro costs, but also physically crisscrossing Ontario to explain the details to Ontarians. Speaker, as you'll appreciate after decade of neglect of our electricity system, yes, by parties of all stripes, it is heartening now to see that government's taking steps to secure an energy future that is clean, reliable and most importantly affordable to all. Speaker, I know that the 25% reduction in hydro bills applies to everyone more of the 4 million

House holds in Ontario and especially welcome in my area of Etobicoke north. The Minister 's previously mentioned many small businesses as well as farms will benefit from that reduction as well. And I understand there are even more group that is will qualify. So my question is this, Speaker -- will the Minister please share with the House. How this announcement will benefit other House holds and other sectors of our economy?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I want to thank the member for this question, and the opportunity to clarify this important point, Mr. Speaker. The 25% reduction through the fair hydro plan will not only apply to House holds but to many other small ratepayers as well, Mr. Speaker. This includes hundreds of thousands of small businesses, the vast majority of farms, Mr. Speaker, that I know the Minister of agriculture works with day in and day out with, Mr. Speaker. Small offices of all kind including not profits, Mr. Speaker, and charities, retirement homes, long-term care homes, housing co-ops, community agencies. Those on retail contracts are with sub meters, Mr. Speaker. More and more, Mr. Speaker, will qualify for this rebate. The simplest thing to remember is, Mr. Speaker, your bill includes the time-of-use prices, Mr. Speaker, you will be receiving the full benefits of this plan. Mr. Speaker, this I going to mean major savings for these cross-sections of Ontario, Mr. Speaker, and we're happy to be implementing the plan.

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