

Hansard: Singh to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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Date: Thu, 13 Apr 2017 10:56:43 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Singh: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The question is to the **Premier**. The NDP Recently received a letter from Lenny in Burlington. In January Lynn got a hydro bill for a trailer in burk's falls with nearly a \$500 delivery charge. She wrote to us because she was concerned that she received at the same time the delivery charge for her home in Burlington was just \$135. Out-of-control rural delivery charges mean that Lynn could lose her trailer, the place where she spends time with her partner to relax in the summer. Why has the **Premier** done nothing to address the outrageous delivery charges, the outrageous prices when it comes to hydro bills? And why is she leaving people line Lynn wondering if she can keep her trailer?

>> **Premier** Wynne: I not Minister of energy is going to want to comment in the supplementary. But I hope that when the member opposite got the letter from Lynn, he responded to her and let her know that she will see a 25% reduction come summer, Mr. Speaker. The 17% on top of the 8% that she already has. And I don't know the specifics, but I imagine from the location of her home, Mr. Speaker, the trailer, that she may also be eligible for up to a 40 or 50% reduction, Mr. Speaker, because the distribution charges will be reduced. So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the member opposite - if he didn't have all that information, we would certainly be happy to provide it to him so that he could get back to this constituent and give her the good news about the reductions that she's going to see, Mr. Speaker .

>> MPP Singh: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian transport museum in Kingsville has also reached out to the NDP, similar to my Colleague the member from Essex. The museum is facing bills so high that staff don't know they can keep the museum afloat. They're not sure they can keep a community museum afloat. They cannot hire the needed staff. They can't grow their children's education program, and they're putting exhibition designs and capital projects on hold because they don't have the resources. The museum needs help now, not months from now, not years from now. They need help now. Why has the **Premier** done nothing?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So now that organization can actually call their local utility and get one of the many programs through the save on energy program, Mr. Speaker,

that will actually help them save their money now, Mr. Speaker. But on top of that, on top of the programs that we already have in place that help thousands of businesses across the province, we're also bringing forward Ontario's fair hydro plan. Our fair hydro plan will help many businesses, 500,000 of them, small businesses and farms in this province, Mr. Speaker, actually see 25% reduction or more, Mr. Speaker. And on top of that, if these businesses are larger, Mr. Speaker, they can qualify for the I.C.I. Program. But when it comes to our museums, Mr. Speaker, there are numerous programs in place that will help them, Mr. Speaker. We have done that before the fair hydro plan and when you take that into consideration, Mr. Speaker, many of these places will actually see significant reductions in their mail come summer.

>> MPP Singh: Mr. Speaker, families like Lynn's, small community museums, hospitals, municipalities, Ontarians. Everyone is waiting for the **Premier** to actually act. P.R., press releases, paid government ads are N a plan. They are a desperate the attempt to salvage the **Premier's** dismal approval numbers. That's all they are. Why is the **Premier** prioritizing her political career over the people of Ontario?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Families, individuals, small businesses, farms, large manufacturing, greenhouse growers, Mr. Speaker. They will all be seeing significant reductions on their electricity bill by summer, Mr. Speaker. We have made sure that everyone is going to see significant relief, that's going to last, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that they can plan. On that side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we've got one party that has no plan, that has no idea on what to do with electricity and another one that makes a pamphlet that actually relies on some pie-in-the-sky negotiations with some determined committee, some day to be determined that is, Mr. Speaker, and I know this expert panel hasn't really reported back anything yet, Mr. Speaker. And they also want to have negotiations with the federal government. When he's touring around Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, maybe he can have a conversation with them and see if they'll actually help, Mr. Speaker.

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