

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

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Date: Thu, 09 Mar 2017 11:06:43 -0500

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: Thank you, Speaker. Good morning. My question this morning is for the Minister of energy. Last week I asked you, Minister, about the electricity increases. 15% last year alone in 20 health care hospitals. Your announcement last week won't actually roll back any of that. It barely addresses the increased cost of electricity going forward this year. Instead -- Decided with his big Liberal donors in his energy scheme last year, instead of siding with the doctors and staff and patients at 20 health care hospitals. So my question is this. How many billions of dollars in interest is the scheme that you announced last week going to cost electricity customers in the future?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's, you know, very obvious, Mr. Speaker, that they don't have a plan, Mr. Speaker, so they're making it up as they go. And I know last week the Honourable member put out a tweet that he had to correct, Mr. Speaker, on air when he said, you know, Mr. Speaker, what we were saying in that is inaccurate, Mr. Speaker, just like the question, Mr. Speaker, inaccurate information in it, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure, Mr. Speaker, that all people in this province see a 25% reduction. Hospitals, Mr. Speaker, because of the structural changes that we are making to the system, Mr. Speaker, they will see a reduction, Mr. Speaker, between 2 and 4%. That's significant, Mr. Speaker. But hospitals also qualify for many of our programs, Mr. Speaker. The save on energy program for example. My hospital in greater Sudbury Mr. Speaker -- \$400,000 a year by investing in the save on energy program, Mr. Speaker, and they put that back into health care, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Smith: Speaker, the price of electricity and -- at quinte health care hospital has gone up 34% since 2012. That is accurate. Speaker, the Minister had plenty of taxpayer money to throw around last week to bail out his government's bad decisions that they've made on the energy file. And let's call it what it is, a bailout is a bailout and this bailout is trying to save the Liberal hide in the next election. He didn't have a dime, however, last week for the patients and the doctors and the staff at quinte health care hospital. So I ask the Minister again, Mr. Speaker. How many billions of dollars in interest is his scheme that he announced last week going to cost electricity customers in the future of Ontario? How many billions of dollars?

>> Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, we're saving Ontario ratepayers 25%, Mr. Speaker, on all of their bills. The only person that doesn't understand about the billions that they're going to cost is again that party, Mr. Speaker. And they talk about ripping up contracts, Mr. Speaker. I not

Honourable member recognizes that they can't do that because it will cost them billions, Mr. Speaker, because they don't have a plan. We have a plan, Mr. Speaker. We're bringing it forward, Mr. Speaker. We're helping businesses. We're helping municipalities. We're helping ratepayers, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure everyone in this province will see a reduction, Mr. Speaker, on their electricity bills. I know they don't have a plan, Mr. Speaker. The only thing that they want to do, Mr. Speaker, is put a carbon tax on and then tax everything when they bring back coal, Mr. Speaker.

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