

Hansard: Smith to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) <energynews@ontario.ca>
To: "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Alexandra Day (Alexandra.Day@oeb.ca)" <alexandra.day@oeb.ca>, "Anderson, Alexandria (OPG)" <alexandria.anderson@opg.com>, "Andrew Bodrug (Andrew.Bodrug@oeb.ca)" <andrew.bodrug@oeb.ca>, "Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY)" <hillary.armstrong@ontario.ca>, "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "Bernard, Mary (IESO)" <mary.bernard@ieso.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, "Bozzo, John (OEB)" <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Brayden Akers (brayden.akers@opg.com)" <brayden.akers@opg.com>, "Buccilli, Lina (OEB)" <lina.buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Butters, Tim (IESO)" <tim.butters@ieso.ca>, "Campbell, Alexandra (IESO)" <alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca>, "Cannella, John (IESO)" <john.cannella@ieso.ca>, "Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI)" <cheryl.carson@ontario.ca>, "Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY)" <daniel.cayley@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Cooper, Sarah (ENERGY)" <sarah.cooper@ontario.ca>, "Cotter, Adam (ENERGY)" <adam.cotter@ontario.ca>, "Crawford, Paul (OEB)" <paul.crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Dade, Christine (ENERGY)" <christine.dade@ontario.ca>, David Barrett <david.barrett@ieso.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Dow, Andrew (IESO)" <andrew.dow@ieso.ca>, "Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG)" <sandra.dykxhoorn@opg.com>, "Elvira Palermo (Elvira.Palermo@oeb.ca)" <elvira.palermo@oeb.ca>, "Farmer, Chuck (IESO)" <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY)" <diana.gibbs@ontario.ca>, "Gruetzner, Ted (OPG)" <ted.gruetzner@opg.com>, "Ho, Larissa (ENERGY)" <larissa.ho@ontario.ca>, "Hume, Steen (ENERGY)" <steen.hume@ontario.ca>, "Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY)" <serge.imbrogno@ontario.ca>, "Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY)" <patrick.imlay@ontario.ca>, "Johnson, Paul (ENERGY)" <paul.johnson3@ontario.ca>, "Joseph Rosa (Joseph.Rosa@oeb.ca)" <joseph.rosa@oeb.ca>, "Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY)" <jennifer.kacaba@ontario.ca>, "Karen Evans (Karen.Evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca)" <karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Kelly, Neal (OPG)" <neal.kelly@opg.com>, "Kinapen, Donna (OEB)" <donna.kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "King, Catriona" <catriona.king@opg.com>, "Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY)" <matthew.kitchen@ontario.ca>, "Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB)" <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Kuppuswami, Kritika (MOF)" <kritika.kuppuswami@ontario.ca>, "Landmann, Peter (ENERGY)" <peter.landmann@ontario.ca>, Lars Hansen <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY)" <arla.latto-hall@ontario.ca>, "Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY)" <chloe.lazakis@ontario.ca>, "Leckey, Jane (IESO)" <jane.leckey@ieso.ca>, "Leung, Thomas (MOF)" <thomas.leung@ontario.ca>, "Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY)" <ken.lindsay@ontario.ca>, "Linnington, Brenda (MOI)" <brenda.linnington@ontario.ca>, "Mackie, Richard (OPG)" <richard.mackie@opg.com>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "Mandy Usprech (Mandy.Usprech@oeb.ca)" <mandy.usprech@oeb.ca>, "Martine Band (Martine.Band@oeb.ca)" <martine.band@oeb.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Michelle Gregoire (Michelle.Gregoire@oeb.ca)" <michelle.gregoire@oeb.ca>, "Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF)" <kaitlin.montgomery@ontario.ca>, "Murray, Maud (ENERGY/MEDG/MRIS/MOI)" <maud.murray3@ontario.ca>, "Naveed, Fatima

(ENERGY)" <som.fatima.naveed@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Nelms, Scott (MOF)" <scott.nelms@ontario.ca>, "Nucciarone, Michael (ENERGY)" <michael.nucciarone@ontario.ca>, "O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY)" <som.cheryl.o'donnell@ontario.ca>, "Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY)" <bryan.pelkey@ontario.ca>, "Penic, Jordan (IESO)" <jordan.penic@ieso.ca>, "Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY)" <doreen.pitkeathly@ontario.ca>, "Poirier, Linda (ENERGY)" <linda.poirier@ontario.ca>, "Rehob, James (ENERGY)" <james.rehob@ontario.ca>, "Reid, Michael (ENERGY)" <som.michael.reid@ontario.ca>, "Rowe, Jennifer (OPG)" <jennifer.rowe@opg.com>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY)" <martin.schlaepfer@ontario.ca>, "Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY)" <kaili.sermat-harding@ontario.ca>, "Shear, Dan (ENERGY)" <dan.shear@ontario.ca>, "Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY)" <valerie.simmons@ontario.ca>, "Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY)" <marlo.spencelair@ontario.ca>, "Spence, Marcia (ENERGY)" <marcia.spence@ontario.ca>, "Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY)" <andrea.stoiko@ontario.ca>, "Sweet, Edward (ENERGY)" <edward.sweet@ontario.ca>, "Syed, Usman (ENERGY)" <usman.syed@ontario.ca>, "Tara Brautigam (Tara.Brautigam@oeb.ca)" <tara.brautigam@oeb.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Erin (ENERGY)" <erin.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Thouin, Alena (ENERGY)" <alena.thouin@ontario.ca>, "Todd, Brian (MOI)" <brian.todd@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY)" <vanessa.visheau@ontario.ca>, "Wall, Vanda (OEB)" <vanda.wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY)" <lindsay.wright@ontario.ca>, "Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY)" <som.2saurabh.yadav@ontario.ca>, "Young, Terry (IESO)" <terry.young@ieso.ca>

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Smith: Thank you, Speaker. We'll try this again with the Minister of energy today. The people's guarantee lays out an additional 12% off families' hydro bills, but it doesn't stop there, Speaker. It will rein in ridiculous executive salaries like the ones at Hydro One. We know the Liberals won't because they're the ones who signed the contracts in the first place for \$4.5 million for the C.E.O. in Hydro One. Mr. Speaker, the P.C.S will rain in the \$4.5 million salaries that the Liberals are doling out. Will the Liberals keep handing out millions in salaries that Ontarians can't afford?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Liberal government will continue to act on behalf of the people of Ontario and keep electricity affordable as possible, as clean as possible and reliable as possible, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the opposition that has a plan to rip up contracts, Mr. Speaker. Rip up contracts that are signed. You know what, Mr. Speaker? At the end of the day, that really makes this province a banana republic so it actually makes you think about what they've done, Mr. Speaker, when they're putting in -- So, Mr. Speaker, again it begs the question, what are they going to continue to cut? Talked about the \$575 million for social housing repairs. Are they going to cut the Ontario electricity support program? Are they going to cut the triple R.P. Which helps hundreds of thousands of people right across our province especially in rural and northern parts of the province.

>> MPP Smith: Mr. Speaker, the members of the Liberal government keep fabricating these tales. They're just not believable. Withdraw. Mr. Speaker, they're making it up as they go along. It's a word

that starts with "L" and ends with "S." They cannot continue to do this. They can't continue -- Thank you, sir. Withdraw. Withdraw. Referring to Liberals, Mr. Speaker. \$4.5 million salaries -- Thank you, Speaker. \$4.5 million salaries are the legacy of this Liberal government in Ontario. They're the reason, one of the reasons, one of the many reasons. Why Ontario has astronomical hydro prices. Speaker, dot Liberals not think Ontario need long-lasting relief on their hydro bills instead of their cynical borrowing schemes?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 25% reduction is something that we've seen in this province, Mr. Speaker, over the last few months that they voted against, Mr. Speaker. When you're wanting to talk about how we're helping families, this this is significant savings for families but also begs the question as to how they're going to explain the \$12 billion in cuts, or what about the \$1,200 that families will see in annual costs thanks to their carbon tax scheme, Mr. Speaker ? And that is more. That is absolutely more than any tax cut that they're proposing, Mr. Speaker, or even to be offering. Unlike our cap and trade on greenhouse gas solutions from business, their carbon tax would even not ensure that emissions would be reduced either, Mr. Speaker. So you know the Conservatives are also hiding the fact that -- Cut over \$6 billion in green projects that help fight climate change and the important thing about energy and environment, Mr. Speaker, is these two work hand in hand.

>> MPP Smith: Thanks, Speaker. Again I'm talking about electricity prices in Ontario. The Minister just doesn't understand or he wants to talk about something else. But if he wants to talk about cap and trade, we will keep hundreds of millions of dollars from leaving Ontario for Hollywood, California, and Québec city, Québec, keeping that money here in Ontario to provide tax relief in this province. Instead of spending money elsewhere. You know the government's own internal documents and the auditor general has confirmed that if the Wynne Liberals are reelected Ontario's electricity rates are going to skyrocket to the highest that they've ever been. They can't be trusted, Speaker. That's why the people's guarantee is a plan for long-lasting hydro relief here in Ontario. So, Mr. Speaker, the question is simple this morning. Why doesn't the government support real long-lasting relief for Ontario electricity customers?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Long lasting relief was brought to the people of Ontario and they voted against it, Mr. Speaker. Their record shows that they could care less about making sure that the people of Ontario actually get a break and actually worry about making sure that they can put a glossy magazine that people will recycle as quickly as they will when they read it, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure that we're helping families with a 25% reduction. We're making sure we're helping our first nations individuals. We're making sure that we help our individuals who live in northern and rural parts of our province, Mr. Speaker. We know that the fine print in the back of their document talks about \$12 billion in cuts. This includes over \$6 billion of across-the-board unspecified cuts. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker ,? Thousands of teachers being fired? You know thousands of registered nurses without a job. That's what their legacy is, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House, our legacy is building this province up.

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