

Hansard: Tabuns to Thibeault -- Long-Term Energy Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, my question to the Premier. Last week's release of the Premier's long-delayed long-term energy plan confirmed what the NDP Has has been saying since March. The Premier is forcing ratepayers to take out a massive payday loan to artificially and temporarily praerl lower bills before the election. -- Temporarily. After the election the bulk of Ontario families will rise even higher and faster because they have to pay back an extra \$40 billion in interest and principal. But even I was surprised by the sharp rise in hydro rates for industrial consumers, which the Premier had excluded from her quarter billion-dollar borrowing scheme. Will the Premier explain why, under her plan, northern industrial hydro rates will rise almost 40%. Between 2019 and 2025.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important for us to continue to talk about the long-term energy plan, the fair hide rode plan and of course, Mr. Speaker, large industrial consumers. We recognize the importance of electricity prices for businesses and this is reflected in many government programs that help businesses make electricity more affordable such as the I.C.I. Program, save on energy for business, industrial electricity incentive, Mr. Speaker, the northern industrial electricity rate program ant industrial accelerator program just to name a few. As well, Mr. Speaker, the long-term energy plan, the 2017 long-term energy price plan, outlook for industrial consumers reflects average increase in line with inflation, Mr. Speaker. In line with inflation going

through right until the end of this long-term energy plan, Mr. Speaker. You know what? This plan is working for our large industrials. We'll continue to offer these programs to help to lower their rates even more.

>> MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. And again to the Premier. Under the Premier's hydro plan, rates for manufacturers, automakers, steel mills and other large power consumers will rise by 30% in just six years. Northern industrial customers will be hit even harder. Their rates will rise almost 40%. Instead of getting private profits off hydro bills and bringing Hydro One back under public ownership, the Premier's putting even higher burdens on Ontario's manufacturing sector and northern industries. Will the Premier tell us how many industrial jobs will be lost because of her privatization plan for our hydro system?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to see job growth in our industry, Mr. Speaker, thanks to the leadership of the Minister of economic development and growth and the Premier, Mr. Speaker. We also have just set to momentarily that the long-term energy plan price outlook for our large industry reflects an average increase in the line with inflation. It's also important to say, Mr. Speaker, that the electricity price for electricity or industrial electricity consumers in Ontario is lower than the average price in the great Lakes region as reported, Mr. Speaker, by the US Energy information administration. Rates in Ontario remain competitive with other Canadian -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be clear rates in Ontario remain competitive with other Canadian and American jurisdictions with prices in northern Ontario in particular among the five most affordable jurisdictions on the continent, Mr. Speaker, and that's thanks to the northern Ontario industrial electricity rate protection program, Mr. Speaker. Something that we continue to work with all of our northern industries on. Mr. Speaker, we're working for all consumers large and small in the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker .

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