

Hansard: Vanthof to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Vanthof: Thank you, Speaker. My question is to the **Premier**. Like to tell a little tale about Henry fiset and sons limited in elk lake. Pillars in that community. They run a machine shop. Their hydro usage in January 2011 was 391 kilowatt hours per day. They made huge changes in their business. And in January 2017 their kilowatts per day were 220. So that was a 43% decrease. They have done their part. Yet the bill, the overall bill went up. It went up. Actually the cost per kilowatt hour went up by 66%. Will you finally admit that your hydro plan for people like Henry fist and sons has been a disaster for the last –

>> **Premier** Wynne: Minister of energy.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pleased again to rise and talk about Ontario's fair hydro plan that is specifically looking after folks that live in the rural and remote parts of our province, Mr. Speaker, because we have heard over the last nine months that I've been in this portfolio and even longer, Mr. Speaker, that there were concerns by businesses, by families that we're in the ruling in northern parts of our province. And so, Mr. Speaker, we brought forward rebates at those times but they were very targeted in source, Mr. Speaker, and didn't necessarily provide the necessary relief that they were looking for. That's why the Ontario fair hydro plan actually reduces those bills by 25%. And for businesses, Mr. Speaker, if they're time of use businesses they will qualify for this. There are also other programs out there that actually help businesses lower their rates. I know the member talked about some of the programs that they were using. Lowering their bills which is great, Mr. Speaker. Because that actually helps everyone across the province lower their energy consumption which allows us not to build generation, Mr. Speaker, and lowers our costs.

>> MPP Vanthof: Speaker, this government has been in power for 15 years and now they're in danger their numbers are going down, their poll numbers, so now they implement the fair hydro plan. Where were they thinking about the people like Jerome and Terry and all the

other business people and all the other residents all these years with their long-term energy plans? They never took the actual people who were paying the bills into account. Plau it's a little too late now.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We took action, Mr. Speaker, when we took over as government rebuilding a system, Mr. Speaker, that was left in Tatters by previous governments that cancelled programs, froze rates and never invested in a system. We mad sure that folks in northern Ontario had access to power, Mr. Speaker, because before we were having an unreliable system that were never invested in by the previous governments and they know it, Mr. Speaker. So as we rebuild the system, as we eliminated coal, we invested \$50 billion, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we have a clean system, a reliable system and now, Mr. Speaker, we're working to make it as affordable as possible. The ontar fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, will bring forward a 25% reduction for all families. Even more in rural areas, Mr. Speaker.

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