

Ministry of Energy

Office of the Minister

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MC-2017-1252

Chief Allan Jolly
MoCreebec Eeyoud
PO Box 4
Moose Factory ON P0L 1W0

Dear Chief Jolly:

Premier Kathleen Wynne has forwarded your message regarding hydro service rates to MoCreebec Eeyoud. I appreciate your sharing your concerns and I am pleased to respond.

I understand your concerns about the high cost of electricity, and appreciate the importance of getting assistance to those who need it most. This is why we have introduced Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan that offers a number of programs and credits to reduce your electricity bills.

Starting July 1, 2017, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is reducing electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses, including consumers in MoCreebec Eeyoud.

Those with low incomes, or those who live in rural or remote areas, are eligible for even greater reductions on their bills. This includes customers served by Hydro One in its R1 medium-density and R2 low-density customer classes.

The 25 per cent reduction includes the 8 per cent rebate (equal to the provincial portion of the HST) that took effect on January 1, 2017, and builds on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based rate relief on all electricity bills.

In addition, more people are now eligible for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) and electricity bill credits offered through the OESP have increased by up to 50 per cent through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. Eligible Indigenous consumers could receive higher credits that range from \$52 to \$113 per month. More information about Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, is available at www.ontario.ca/fairhydroplan.

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Northern Ontario residents, including residents in the district of Cochrane, may qualify to receive a Northern Ontario Energy Credit, a tax credit of up to \$148 per year for individuals and up to \$227 per year for families. This credit helps Northern Ontario residents with the higher energy costs they face living in north regions. More information is available at www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/credit/noec.

Energy affordability was a critical concern raised by First Nation leaders at the First Nations-Ontario Energy Table in April 2016. To move this issue forward, I directed the Ontario Energy Board to work with First Nations to research options to address energy affordability on reserve. The Ontario Energy Board, in collaboration with the Chiefs of Ontario and the Chiefs Committee on Energy, engaged extensively with First Nations and prepared recommendations based on these engagements. As a result, the First Nation Delivery Credit (FNDC) was announced on March 2, 2017 and implemented on July 1, 2017. Following this, a Resolution at the All Ontario Chiefs Conference in Lac Seul First Nation was passed in support of the FNDC implementation approach. The FNDC provides a 100 per cent credit of the delivery charge to on-reserve First Nation households that are customers of licensed electricity distributors.

As noted in your letter, First Nation customers who do not reside on reserve are not eligible for the credit at this time. I recognize that energy affordability is an issue that affects First Nation customers living off reserve as well. I hope that your community can take advantage of the other programs available through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan to reduce household electricity costs.

Ontario remains committed to working with First Nations to find ways to help address concerns about energy costs. Thank you again for bringing forward your concerns and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister

c: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier