

Ministry of Energy

Office of the Minister

4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tel.: 416-327-6758
Fax: 416-327-6754

Ministère de l'Énergie

Bureau du ministre

4^e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Tél. : 416 327-6758
Téléc. : 416 327-6754



MC-2017-521

Mr. Rory Ring
Chief Executive Officer
Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce (SSMCOC)
1–369 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1Z4

Dear Mr. Ring:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to SSMCOC members on March 10, 2017.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce campaign, Small Business: Too Big to Ignore, has helped drive our thinking. Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan would reduce bills by 25 per cent for a typical consumer under the Regulated Price Plan (RPP). The plan would benefit up to half a million small businesses and farms that are eligible for the RPP, namely those with a peak demand up to 50 kilowatts (kW) or an annual consumption up to 250,000 kWh.

Additionally, we are proposing to expand the existing Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) to include smaller manufacturing facilities with average peak demand between 500 kW and 1 megawatt. The ICI allows industrial consumers to reduce electricity costs by shifting demand away from peak hours. Your members can find additional information about the ICI expansion on Ontario's Regulatory Registry at www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=23851&language=en.

Ontario has a suite of programs in place that help small business energy consumers reduce their energy consumption and manage their energy costs through the installation of energy savings measures.

I'd like to ensure that you are aware of Ontario's Five-Point Small Business Energy Savings Plan to help conserve energy, manage costs, save money and realize clean energy alternatives.

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The Five-Point Plan is described in Helping Small Businesses Save Energy, a guide that provides energy saving tips, information on available programs and financial incentives, as well as case studies on small businesses that have benefited from participating in conservation programs and renewable energy projects. You can view the guide at www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/saving-energy-for-business/helping-small-businesses-save-energy. For more information about the programs and services described in the guide, I encourage you to contact your local electricity and natural gas utilities.

Your work, and the work of all of Ontario's chambers of commerce, is vital to ensuring that our government takes into account regional perspectives when planning and implementing policies. I look forward to continuing to work together as this input is especially valuable to the Ministry of Energy.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister