

## Remarks – Transportation Fuels Review Announcement

**Sault Ste. Marie, September 30, 2016**

- I'm happy to be here today in Sault Ste. Marie.
- Our main priority at the Ministry of Energy is to provide Ontarians with clean, reliable and affordable energy.
- One thing that we hear a lot about from the public is gasoline prices. Across Ontario, there is concern about rising costs at the pump.
- There are three main issues that we hear about with respect to gasoline/diesel prices in Ontario:
  1. **Regional Price Variations** – the prices are not the same across all parts of Ontario
  2. **Price Volatility** – as the markets change the price of gasoline and diesel does too and it's difficult to predict costs
  3. **Lack of Transparency** – the public doesn't always understand how the prices at the pumps are set
- We know that more can be done to better inform Ontarians about how gasoline prices are set.
- We understand that cost of electricity is rising and we understand that consumers, both residential and commercial, are concerned about rates. We are determined to find efficiencies that will keep electricity costs down.
- We want to do more to improve affordability for all Ontarians.
- We have added price mitigation measures to the programs already in place that help consumers manage their electricity costs.
- We removed the Debt Retirement Charge from residential bills.
- In January, we launched the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which provides ongoing monthly bill payment support to low-income households.

- Most recently we introduced the Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, which will lower electricity bills for people and businesses across Ontario.
- We're doing this because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living.
- We are working hard to reduce costs for consumers and want to hear from the public about what we else we can do.
- That's why we are beginning consultations on Ontario's next Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP 2017) this fall.
- This LTEP will take a big picture approach to all the different types of energy we need to keep Ontario operating, including electricity, natural gas, heating and transportation fuels.
- Gas and diesel prices are a big part of that picture – oil products account for approximately 40 per cent of Ontario's energy use.
- We understand the public is concerned about rising gasoline prices and we want to help.
- That's why today I'm happy to announce that Ontario will be undertaking a review of gasoline and diesel prices in the province.
- This morning, I sent a letter to Rosemarie Le Rosemarie Leclair, Chair and Chief Executive Officer at the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), asking the OEB to examine Ontario's retail transportation fuels market.
- I have asked the OEB to consult with the public and key stakeholders and report back to the Ministry with its findings.
- The government intends to review the OEB's report in detail and will use the information to inform decision making going forward.
- I look forward to reading this report in the coming months.
- Thank you.