

Auditor General – FHP Accounting

- Families in the province asked for real and immediate relief on their electricity bills and that's what we delivered.
- We made a **policy choice** to ensure that we continue to have a clean, reliable and affordable electricity system for the ratepayers of today, and the ratepayers of tomorrow.
- The Fair Hydro Plan keeps the cost of borrowing within the rate-base, not the tax-base, **because that's the logical thing to do.**
- Electricity financing should remain within the electricity system.
- The policies and implementation process for the Fair Hydro Plan were designed and extensively reviewed by senior staff from the:
 - Ministry of Energy,
 - Ministry of Finance,
 - Treasury Board Secretariat,
 - Office of the Provincial Controller,
 - Cabinet Office,
 - the Ontario Financial Authority,
 - the Independent Electricity System Operator,
 - Ontario Power Generation,
 - And we worked with third-party experts from firms such as KPMG, E&Y, and Deloitte.
- Through this work we considered a range of implementation options, and ensured due diligence was completed
- These are **policy choices** we made to ensure that we continue to have a clean, reliable affordable electricity system.
- That's exactly what the Fair Hydro Plan has done, and what it will continue to do into the future.

OPPO (PC)

- The Conservatives will say anything to get elected.
- The Conservatives are criticizing the Fair Hydro Plan, but meanwhile included it in their People's Guarantee magazine... only after voting against it when it really mattered.
- Now they're back to no plan except a chaotic scheme to fire people, which will do absolutely nothing to lower anyone's bills.

Our Energy Story:

- With our **Fair Hydro Plan**, bills are now **25% lower** on average for families and as many as half a million small businesses and farms.
- Low-income families and those in rural and remote areas are seeing decreases as high as 40-50% as well.
- **Ontario families and small businesses are now paying less on average here than in many other similar jurisdictions.**
- Families in cities like **New York, Boston, and San Francisco** pay **more than double the average Ontario bill.**
- Residents in other U.S. cities, like **Detroit, Chicago, Nashville, Seattle** and **Miami** pay more than we do too.
- This difference isn't limited to U.S. cities – families in **Charlottetown, Regina, Halifax and Moncton** are **paying more than the Ontario average as well.**
- These figures don't include savings from our **Ontario Electricity Support Program**, meaning qualifying families are paying even less.
- Not only that, but the latest Ontario Energy Report shows that **industrial electricity rates across the province are now lower than the U.S. average,** helping to improve the competitive edge that Ontario's businesses have over their US counterparts.
- Many of these jurisdictions continue to rely on dirty fossil fuels too, meaning the necessary cost of shifting to clean power is still to come.
- The bottom line is that **we acted** when we heard from families who said they can't handle the sharp increases that were taking place in previous years.
- By keeping energy prices down, we're **increasing fairness** and **creating more opportunity** for Ontario families.

If asked about providing Information to AG:

- The System Operator has assured the Ministry of Energy that they have made every effort to be forthright and fully responsive to the Auditor General's requests for information.

If pressed on providing information:

- The IESO has made every effort to accommodate the Auditor General's requests by:
 - Making accommodations to extend the duration of the Auditor General's staff on IESO premises from the initial two weeks requested, to seven weeks.
 - During this time, the IESO **received and responded** to over **200 information requests** from the Auditor General's staff.
 - The IESO accommodated every meeting request; **about 40 meetings took place between IESO and OAGO staff.**
 - IESO accommodated the AG's requests to meet with their Board and Audit Committee; and,
 - Throughout their audit, the Auditor General's staff had direct access to the IESO's staff.

If asked about Kim Marshal leaving:

- I want to thank Ms. Marshal for her professionalism and leadership during her time at the province's System Operator.
- We wish her well as she pursues new opportunities.
- I understand our System Operator will be hiring a new Chief Financial Officer imminently
- That said, The policies and implementation process for the Fair Hydro Plan were designed and extensively reviewed by senior staff from the:
 - Ministry of Energy,
 - Ministry of Finance,
 - Treasury Board Secretariat,
 - Office of the Provincial Controller,
 - Cabinet Office,
 - the Ontario Financial Authority,
 - the Independent Electricity System Operator,
 - Ontario Power Generation,
 - And we worked with third-party experts from firms such as KPMG, E&Y, and Deloitte.

If asked about consulting fees:

- Families in the province asked for real and immediate relief on their electricity bills and that's what we delivered.
- We wanted to get this policy right—and our plan is working.
- Just last week the Ontario Energy Board announced that on May 1st, rates will remain virtually unchanged—actually going down 0.1 cents per Kilowatt hour.
- Ontario families and small businesses are now paying less on average here than in many other similar jurisdictions.
- We acted when we heard from families who said they can't handle the sharp increases that were taking place in previous years.
- By keeping energy prices down, we're **increasing fairness** and creating more **opportunity** for Ontario families.