

Energy Message

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Hey – running this by you giving Brown's comments in the House today.

The last time the provincial Conservatives were in power, they spent \$900 million importing electricity over two years just to keep the lights on. When we came into office, we inherited their dirty, unreliable electricity system and cleaned it up. Now, thanks to those necessary investments, Ontario families and businesses know the lights will go on and stay on when they need them to. Given our position of strength, Ontario is also a net exporter now, benefitting ratepayers to the tune of \$230 million last year (as estimated by the Independent Electricity System Operator).

Considering the net benefit to Ontario ratepayers, it's curious as to why Patrick Brown continues to rail against this practice. Even his Conservative colleagues know better. When the Member for Simcoe-Grey was Energy Minister in 2001, he called these exports "pure profit." He even went further, noting that "if we can make money on surplus power in the United States, we're damn well going to do that."

We agree, which is why we'll continue to put ratepayers first by pursuing the export of electricity whenever there's a net benefit. But on top of regular trade of electricity on the market, Ontario also pursues firm agreements wherever it benefits ratepayers. Ontario and Quebec recently agreed to a landmark, seven-year deal that will help make electricity here more affordable, clean, and reliable. Ontario will import up to 2 terawatt hours of clean hydro power from Quebec annually – enough to power the City of Kitchener. This agreement will reduce electricity system costs by about \$70 million and will offset reliance on natural gas power plants, reducing GHG emissions by one million tonnes each year. This is just one agreement we have entered into with neighbouring jurisdictions - agreements which improve the reliability and affordability of our system. Under a Conservative government, those agreements benefitting ratepayers wouldn't happen.