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Good morning,

Please find below Energy's messaging for the day:

Doug Ford is expected to make a large policy announcement on Hydro One this morning:

Two possible policy options:

a) **Firing Hydro One's board members that the province appoints:**

Key Messages

Doug Ford wants to fire the board members of a publicly traded company because he wants to fire it's CEO.

We recognize that executive salaries are high compared to the vast majority of Ontario salaries and we remain committed to Hydro One's regulation, accountability and transparency through our government's involvement as a majority shareholder.

That said, firing the CEO of Hydro One will do nothing to lower bills, as the company and its rates continue to be regulated by the Ontario Energy Board.

The Ontario Energy Board is our province's independent regulator who have mandate to protect the province's electricity consumers and it continues to deliver on its mandate.

For instance, last fall the Board capped the portion of executive compensation Hydro One electricity customers are required to fund at 10 per cent of base salaries – saving ratepayers $30 million over this year and next.

The Conservative plan will **do nothing** to lower electricity bills for Ontario's families.

And Doug Ford doesn't have a great record on reducing executive pay. From **2010 until 2014** when the Ford brothers ran the city, they gave the **CEO of Toronto Hydro a raise every single year,** resulting in a **28% salary increase.**

Our government understands that affordability is critical for families and businesses, which is why we launched Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan – reducing rates by 25 per cent on average for all residential consumers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms.

And our plan is working—Yesterday's report by the Environmental Commissioner re-confirmed that Ontario's families and small businesses pay less on average here than in many other North American jurisdictions.

Families in cities like New York, Boston, and San Francisco **pay more than double the average Ontario bill** , and consumers in Charlottetown, Regina, Halifax and Moncton are paying more than the Ontario average.

By bringing down prices for customers, we're continuing to **increase fairness** and **create more opportunity** for Ontario families.

b) Divert Hydro One's dividends that the province received, and give them directly to ratepayers to lower bills

Conservative leader Doug Ford is once again showing that his party will choose cuts over care, no matter the cost.

Ford's cuts were already forecasted to grow to $10 billion a year under his watch, with independent economists agreeing that this reckless scheme would lead to - at a minimum - 75,000 public and private sector jobs losses across the province.

Now, he wants to add another quarter billion dollars onto the these cuts by diverting money that the province would otherwise be earning.

With his plan to take away even more government revenues, Ford is doubling down on firing at least 7,000 teachers, early childhood educators, education assistants and fire thousands of nurses, doctors, and personal support workers.

By taking away government revenues and diverting it to the rate-base, Doug Ford is recklessly taking money out of one pocket and putting it in the other—all while taking away funding from hospitals, schools, and essential services that Ontario's families count on everyday.

Our plan is about creating more care and opportunity across the province - and our investments are focused on increasing home care and elder care, investing in our mental health care system and expanding child care. Those are our priorities.

Doug Ford and the Conservatives' priorities are to deliver reckless cuts at a time when we need care.

Fraser Report blames government policies for high electricity prices

Key Messages

Over the last several years people told us that electricity prices had increased too much, and too quickly.

While these increases were due to the **$70 B** invested to clean up the dirty, unreliable system we inherited, we still knew action was needed.

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 and kept to the rate of inflation for four years.

The latest data shows that Ontario families and small businesses are now paying less on average here than in many other similar jurisdictions in the US and in Canada.

These figures don't include savings from our **Ontario Electricity Support Program,** meaning qualifying families are paying even less.

Industrial Rates

Numerous other government programs also help businesses to make electricity more affordable, such as

- the Industrial Electricity Incentive (IEI),
- the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program (NIERP),
- the Industrial Accelerator Program (IAP),
- and the SaveONenergy for Business Program.

Due to this, Industrial electricity rates in Ontario are now lower than the U.S. average industrial electricity rate.

And while other jurisdictions are still burning dirty coal for two-thirds of their power, we have achieved competitive rates while undertaking the largest climate change initiative in North America.

Additionally, Ontario has added almost 40,000 manufacturing jobs since the worst of the recession.

And from February of 2017 to February of 2018, Ontario created more manufacturing jobs than jurisdictions such as California, Texas, Ohio and Quebec.

Closing down Coal

The Fraser Institute also claims that closing down coal plants had little effect on air pollution.

The independent Environmental Commissioner Diane Sax disagrees. Earlier this week she released a report in which she praised our government's early action on eliminating coal, saying: "Taking coal out of the electricity system has dramatically reduced Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions, and has improved air quality and public health".

The overwhelming consensus is clear – from climate and health experts both in government and in independent organizations – that the closure of coal plants in Ontario has resulted in significant reductions in air pollution and improved the lives of Ontarians

Thanks to Ontario's action, smog days have been reduced from 53 in 2005 to ZERO last year, reducing the long-term exposure to poor air quality that created these health risks.

Replacing coal-fired electricity generation remains the single largest climate change initiative undertaken in North America and was the equivalent of taking up to 7 million cars off the road.

Have a great day,

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