

Facts Still Matter in Ontario

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Good afternoon,

Patrick Brown was in Peterborough yesterday talking about hydro prices. But instead of highlighting the action the government has taken to make electricity more affordable – like permanently rebating the provincial HST to reduce bills by 8% and cutting delivery charges for the most rural customers even further for a total savings of 20% – he chose to misrepresent the facts (again). He clearly doesn't understand that facts still matter in Ontario.

Patrick Brown said: *"we've seen many brownouts."*

FACT: There's a big difference between the blackouts and brownouts caused by a faulty grid under the Conservatives and those caused by extreme weather today.

Let us remind him that the electricity system we inherited from the previous Conservative government was a mess. Families and businesses remember the smog days and blackouts we all had to suffer through. The system needed to be rebuilt – and we've done that, investing over \$50 B in infrastructure to make it clean and reliable.

While we can't control the weather, we can control the strength and reliability of our electricity system.

Patrick Brown said: *the "fire sale" of Hydro One was a decision that's costing citizens dearly.*

FACT: Not true. Broadening the ownership of Hydro One allows the government to significantly invest \$4 billion in critical infrastructure without raising taxes, increasing debt, or recklessly cutting public services. Every dollar is being reinvested in new infrastructure, unlike when the Conservatives gave away the 407 in a fire sale. And broadening ownership has led to an improved organization – we're already seeing the benefits of a renewed, better run utility.

Rates will also continue to be set by the independent Ontario Energy Board, which has a mandate to protect ratepayers.

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