

Fraser Institute messaging

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Date: Mon, 31 Jul 2017 08:09:56 -0400

Hi all,

Below is the statement we drafted in response to the Fraser Institute report. I'd suggest we share this with the Sudbury Star in response to the op-ed.

It's no surprise now to see the right-leaning Fraser Institute argue that Ontario shouldn't have invested in clean energy. At no point does the report recognize the value of the investments we made to eliminate coal and clean up the dirty, unreliable system we inherited from the previous Conservative government. The end of coal has helped to virtually eliminate smog days in our province, and it remains the largest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America. These efforts are already having a tangible impact – a 2016 Toronto Vital Signs report shows premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23 per cent and 41 per cent respectively since 2004. These are benefits that the Fraser Institute completely neglects to mention.

The report also fails to account for the 25 per cent on average reduction to electricity bills thanks to our Fair Hydro Plan. Under that plan, families, small businesses and farms across the province now have lower bills. For those facing the largest burden from electricity costs, either in hard-to-serve areas or on a low-income, the savings are even larger – as much as 40 to 50 per cent. And our plan will hold any increases to bills to the rate of inflation for four years, ensuring predictability for Ontarians.

This plan was built on taking some of our significant investments over the last decade, and spreading them over a longer period. This reflects a more fair allocation of the investments we have made to build a cleaner, more reliable system for decades to come.

The Fair Hydro Plan represents real action and is already providing real relief across the province. Even so, both the Conservatives and NDP irresponsibly voted against providing this relief for families and businesses. Unlike them, we're going to stay focused on what's important – making sure our electricity system is clean, reliable, and affordable for all Ontarians.

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