

Fw: Transcript: Hydro Rebate Study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CBC Radio - 6:30am)

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* As requested by Jennifer Beaudry

CBC RADIO: HYDRO REBATE STUDY BY THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Date: March 2, 2017
Station: CBC Radio (Toronto)
Length: 1:30 minutes
Time: 6:30 am
Speaker(s): Sheila Block, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
Kenzie Dean (sp), ratepayer

CBC: We are learning high-earners are getting a bigger benefit from the 8 per cent rebate that started on hydro bills in January. That's according to a new study, arguing there's a better way to deliver savings. Natalie Nanowski explains.

REPORTER: Two and a half times more. That's what a new study says the rich are saving on their annual hydro bill. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives looked at the government's new rebate plan, an 8 per cent savings for everyone that started this year. Sheila Block is one of the study's authors.

SHEILA BLOCK, CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES: So what we found was that because rich people use more hydro than those that were poor, there was a lot more benefit for high-income households than low-income households.

REPORTER: The study proposes rejigging the 8 per cent and creating a sliding scale, making your hydro rebate dependent on what you earn. The savings would be anywhere from 6 to 25 per cent for anyone making less than \$176,000.

BLOCK: By redirecting this money, you have a better benefit for the people who need it.

REPORTER: People like Kenzie Dean (sp) who pay about \$170 a month for hydro would save an extra \$20 on the CCPA's proposal.

KENZIE DEAN (SP), RATEPAYER: I don't think that that's a significant amount of money.

REPORTER: Dean says the overall rates are just too high. The government is expected to announce more cuts to hydro bills today. Natalie Nanowski, CBC News, Toronto.