

Fw: lines for yasir - energy

From: "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" </o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=killorn, bill (opo)0f4">
To: "Francis, Melanie (OPO)" <melanie.francis@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 20 Mar 2017 10:42:52 -0400

From: Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO) <Beckie.Codd-Downey@ontario.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Killorn, Bill (OPO); Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Bromm, William (CAB); MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)
Subject: lines for yasir - energy

Energy Lines

- Mr. Speaker, the Government respectfully submits that there the advertising in question does not rise to a prima facie case of contempt against this House on two grounds.
- The first is with respect to the issue of members' abilities to perform their duties, and the second is with respect to the Government's implementation of policy.
- Firstly, it is of the utmost importance that the definition of privilege in this case deals with interference with the proceedings of the Legislature, as laid out in the October 17, 1980 ruling by House of Commons Speaker Sauve. There is no proceeding in this House upon which the Member for Simcoe-Grey may state as being obstructed.
- If there is to be a bill on this matter, that would be a different situation. The examples stated by the Member are all cases in which there was already a bill before this House.

- We have no such bill before the House, Mr. Speaker, and accordingly there is no proceeding to obstruct.
- The question is whether, should a bill be introduced, that the members in this House would feel constricted in their abilities to duly debate the matter before the House. That is a question for the future and not privilege, Mr. Speaker.
- Given that there is no bill or proceeding before the House, the very premise of privilege does not exist. I do believe that you will find yourself in the summary of the May 11, 1998 ruling of this House, in which The Speaker said that such advertising does not amount to an, “attempt by improper means to influence members in their parliamentary conduct.
- They do not impede freedom of speech in this House, nor in fact do they relate to a particular proceeding currently before us.“
- Secondly, the Government reserves the right to implement its policies as it so chooses. Should a sudden change arise and the Government can enact its measures without legislation, then the government is free to do so. The intention to table legislation is not the same as the requirement to table legislation.
- As announced On March 2nd, the government is committed to a plan that will lower electricity bills by 25% on average for all residential customers across the province, and will also benefit half a million small businesses and farms. An initiative we had hoped the opposition would support.
- As part of its function, the government has a responsibility to

raise awareness and communicate information about programs and services that affect Ontarians, this includes informing Ontarians of changes to their electricity bills so that they can use this information to plan for the future as they manage their household budgets.

- In the alternative, I submit that the member's timeline is not entirely complete.
- From his own submission, the content online and on social media were dated March 2nd. Accordingly, the member's first opportunity to bring forward this claim would have been shortly thereafter.
- We humbly request the opportunity to give detailed submissions in writing.