

Hansard: Brown to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

From: "Jonsson, Rachel (CAB)" <rachel.jonsson2@ontario.ca>
To: "Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO)" <beckie.codd-downey@ontario.ca>, "Ernesaks, Andrea (OPO)" <andrea.ernesaks3@ontario.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Glista, Alex (OPO)" <alex.glista@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "Lazarus, Jordan (OPO)" <jordan.lazarus@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 15 May 2017 11:07:48 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the **Premier**. The government has a fictional 25% band-aid solution. Their hydro scheme, Mr. Speaker, doesn't help struggling families. It's all about helping a party with struggling polling numbers. Now the reality, Mr. Speaker, is -- Leaked Cabinet document, it says very clearly that because of their hydro plan, there will be a temporary 25% decrease but it will be matched -- now this is as reported in the cbc as from the Liberal Cabinet document -- it will be matched by a 61% increase after the next election. So temporary borrow, get a temporary decrease then skyrocket 61%. People can't afford their hydro buys right now in Ontario and they put forward a plan that's going to have hydro rates go up 61%? Mr. Speaker, it's unbelievable. When will this **Premier** actually -- Solve structural problems at hydro?

>> **Premier** Wynne: Well, Mr. Speaker, and it is not to be believed because the leader of the opposition is using a document, Mr. Speaker, that was given to the cbc but is out of date, was not the document on which the plan was built, Mr. Speaker. So let's just deal in the facts. The facts are, Mr. Speaker, that the document that the leader of the opposition is referencing is not the document on which our plan was built. Our plan will reduce people's bills across the province by 25%. We were very, very clear, Mr. Speaker, that we were asking right now, this generation, to pay costs of the investments that have been made in our electricity system to upgrade it because it had been neglected and that those costs needed to be spread over a longer period of time. That's what we're doing, Mr. Speaker. That's how people will receive a reduction. And Mr. Speaker -- We came up with it and it will reduce people's bills by 25%.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The government simply can't come clean. There is a recent Liberal Cabinet document -- I realize they're frustrated that there's now whistle-blowers exposing this government, but their numbers do not add up. Their plan doesn't help Ontarians. It's a temporary decrease for a massive increase. Even the Minister of energy said the fair hydro plan will cost more and it will take us longer to pay off. Thank you for that assessment. But the reality is how much more is it going to cost Ontarians? Because every time this government touches hydro, they make it worse. And with projections of it going up 61%, that gives Ontarians a heart attack. And so they say this document is outdated because it is a few weeks or a few months old. My question, Mr. Speaker, is this. If they're saying that graph is not accurate, will you release the most recent graph. Show Ontarians that you don't have a plan to skyrocket hydro rates.

>> Minister Thibeault: I not leader of the official opposition is having a very hard time understanding how a plan works and how a plan evolves because they don't build plans, Mr. Speaker. They wait for a magic weekend in November to actually devise plans for the entire province. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we've been working hard for the last six months on making sure that we can deliver real relief for families in this province and in short, Mr. Speaker, they will see a 25% reduction if this bill passes, Mr. Speaker, on average. As we move past, Mr. Speaker, for the next four years, we

are holding these costs to inflation, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that families have predictability -
- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I was saying we're holding it to the cost of inflation for the next four years and then after that, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to find ways to pull costs out of the system to ensure that we can keep rates as low as possible. I know they're waiting for their magic weekend to make things magically appear. We're acting now, Mr. Speaker.

>> Patrick Brown: [Speaking in French] Voice of Translator: Once again, people deserve to know the truth. If the document is not precise, what are the real figures? Mr. Speaker, how will we know that the tariffs will not increase and how will families pay?

>> Minister Thibeault: [Speaking in French] Voice of Translator: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government here works very hard to reduce costs for Ontarians by 25%. For us, for the government, Mr. Speaker, it's very important to change it, because the party opposite of us has not changed anything.

[End of Translation] Making sure we're acting and we're bringing forward legislation. If passed, we'll make sure that we see a 25% reduction.

[Speaking in French] Voice of Translator: But the opposition forgets people in the rural province.

[End of Translation] See reductions between 40 to 50%, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely no idea on how to deal with that on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker. We're acting -- Mr. Speaker.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.