

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

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the **Premier**. Since I can't get an answer on the taxpayer-funded Liberal election ads, I'm going to ask another question, and that is I'm going to read a quote from Mark Nansis, the president of the Canadian vehicle manufacturers association. And he said -- the Ontario government appears to do nothing to address the climate of investment uncertainty related to what has been their number one request, to deal with electricity rates that can be as high as two to three times higher in Ontario than competing auto jurisdictions. These manufacturer leaders say the government has done nothing when it comes to hydro. Mr. Speaker, is this government going to risk the jobs of over 124 thousand people employed in auto manufacturing in Ontario?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister of energy is going to want to comment on this question in the supplementary. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to just say that the record amount of investment that we have seen in the auto industry over the last six months, Mr. Speaker, really speaks to the reality that the auto sector in Ontario is extremely important. It's extremely strong, and, Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue to support it. We are going to continue to work with the auto sector, and not just the plants, Mr. Speaker, but the supply chain, making sure that that supply chain is in place and that it's strong, making sure that we have the highly educated work force that we need to be innovating in the auto sector, Mr. Speaker. You know the whole issue around automated vehicles and artificial intelligence. That's very much the cutting edge. That's the frontier of the auto sector. That's why we're investing in those technologies, Mr. Speaker. And we are doing very well in terms of North American investment in the auto sector.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The **Premier** says that the government's helping the auto sector but the Canadian vehicle manufacturers association says their number one request about protecting these jobs in Ontario is being ignored, so the facts seem to be very different than what the **Premier's** suggesting. Let me ask another question, Mr. Speaker. The Liberal caucus Q&A that was given out to Liberal members before their hydro scheme, question 29 said -- will this rate decrease supply to current hospitals and schools?, Mr. Speaker, you know what the answer is? No. There's not going to be row leaf. Mr. Speaker, why won't this scheme keep curling clubs and rinks open? They can barely keep these recreational services open. Hospitals are struggling. Public institutions are struggling because of the Liberal hydro crisis. So my question to the **Premier** is when can we expect relief for hockey rinks, curling rinks? When can we expect relief for hospitals and schools? They're struggling with these hydro increases.

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, you know I understand, I understand the intensity behind the question that's coming from the leader of the opposition because, Mr. Speaker, in fact we have a plan that is going to reduce people's electricity bills across the province. We understand that electricity bills have been a burden for people, Mr. Speaker, and we are taking action. Mr.

Speaker, the leader of the opposition seems to suggest that he supports our plan, but he thinks that we should do more, Mr. Speaker, and that's fine. We're going to continue to work with municipalities. We'll continue to work with people across the province, with businesses. The Minister of energy is well aware, Mr. Speaker, that there are groups who are still -- But, Mr. Speaker, the reality is people in Ontario will see a 25% reduction. In their home electricity bills come the summer, Mr. Speaker. That's something that I hope the leader of the opposition is tactically saying he's supporting.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the **Premier**. The **Premier** says that we should -- I said that we should do more. I absolutely agree. We need to do more by not paying the Hydro One C.E.O. \$4 million a year. We need to do more by stop signing these ridiculous green energy contracts. 1,100 more when we don't need it. Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York. This government's continuing to charge Ontarians to give energy away. Water tower. I want it to stop. Absolutely we have to do more. Our small businesses can't afford it. Our seniors can't afford t.this isn't enough. This is a band-aid on a wound this government created. They're borrowing money to pay for their own mistakes and Ontarians have had enough of it. So my question is, my question to the **Premier** is when can we have real relief? When can we see these contracts stop being signed? When can we see relief --

>> **Premier** Wynne: Minister of energy.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise and talk about our plan that is going to help every family, every small business and every farm in this province, Mr. Speaker. And while they stand up and yell and shake their fists, Mr. Speaker, they actually have no plan, absolutely no plan, Mr. Speaker. So I know it's a very touchy subject for them, Mr. Speaker, but they have no plan. The member even stood up to the media and laughed when asked where was his plan? He said in the policy department, Mr. Speaker. Our -- Mr. Speaker our plan bringing forward. 25% -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ur plan will deliver results for Ontario families, businesses and farms. They don't have one. We have one, Mr. Speaker, and it's working.

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