

Hansard: Brown to Premier -- Hydro Rates

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **Patrick Brown: Question for the Premier.** Yesterday was too little too late. This government has ignored the hydro rate prices for too long. It wasn't a crisis when the Minister of finance said his bill was going down wasn't a crisis when infrastructure Minister said hydro rates will remain competitive. Wasn't a crisis when the rookie Minister of energy said he wouldn't use the word crisis. But then the Liberals lose a long held Liberal seat and suddenly they take notice. Will the **Premier** face the member for Scarborough Rouge River for finally opening eyes up to Ontario's energy crisis?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I will welcome the member for Scarborough rouge. I have known Raymond for many years as a city councillor and welcome to the legislature, Raymond. Mr. Speaker, you know, yesterday in the throne speech, the Lieutenant Governor read a speech that was an extension of the work we have been doing for the last two years since we were given a mandate of the people of Ontario in 2014, Mr. Speaker and we have been working to build this province up, working to make sure as we see the results of the investments we have made, see the economic growth, the job creation. That we make sure that everyone in the province shares in that, Mr. Speaker. And so we did make a decision to take the provincial portion of the hst off electricity rates, Mr. Speaker. But that is the next step in the changes that we have been making to deal, Mr. Speaker.

>> **Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, back to the **Premier**, the **Premier** set out this plan all she wants. Let's be clear hydro rates are not going down. In fact, they will go up again on November 1st, before this band-aid solution kicks in. If the Liberals were actually serious about tackling the province's energy crises I wouldn't have given away \$3 billion worth of energy in the last three years and this government wouldn't have just signed another twelve renewable contracts for energy we do not need. And wouldn't have continued with the fire sale of Hydro One. So, Mr. Speaker, will the **Premier** commit to signing no more contracts for energy we don't need and will the **Premier** announce going to stop with the reckless fire sale.

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, as I said in my remarks this morning in the legislature, governing is about making choices, Mr. Speaker. About making choices to make sure that we have clean energy, Mr. Speaker. It's about making choices make sure greenhouses in the leamington area have the power they need. Have to continue to invest. About choices obviously not a choice that the leader of the opposition would make but help people that live in northwestern Ontario get off diesel, Mr. Speaker in order to connect them to the grid. Needs to be continued investment. So we are making a choice to reduce electricity bills, Mr. Speaker. We are taking out the hst, provincial portion of hst off electricity bills. Making sure in remote and rural communities, Mr. Speaker, they will have a 20% relief because of the distribution changes. So Mr. Speaker, we are making a change that's good for the people of the province.

>> **Patrick Brown:** Back to the **Premier**. Says government is about choices. The **Premier** is choosing to

give Ontario hydro away to Michigan, New York, Québec, that is not responsible. I realize a lot of attention on how students are slipping and struggling. I want to know if the **Premier** could pass her own government's test. Can the **Premier** please tell me if you take Ontario hydro bills and first take away the 10% clean energy benefits then add 8% band-aid solution while at the same time raising rates November 1st how does that equal relief. You are raising bills. You are raising hydro rates.

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to be clear, Mr. Speaker, I think the leader of the opposition knows full well as we sell power to other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, on balance that is a profit to the province of Ontario. Overall -- Mr. Speaker, I think the opposition also knows why we are in an agreement with Québec in terms of peak and off-peak hours. Why our officials are talking with Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. I think it makes sense for us to cooperate with other jurisdictions.

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