

Hansard: Brown to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Patrick Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of energy. Yesterday the **Premier** said of the leaked Liberal Cabinet document, I quote -- not the document on which our plan was built. Mr. Speaker, if this is the case, will the Minister release the document that their plan was built on? The people deserve to know. Yes or no, will they do that?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan was introduced in the assembly last Thursday, Mr. Speaker. The leader of the opposition has already come out and said that he's going to vote against making sure that you know families and farms and small businesses in this province are going to get a 25% reduction. He also said he's going to vote against giving rural and northern families a 40 to 50% reduction, Mr. Speaker. You know, when it comes to making sure that we're acting in the short term, our fair hydro plan is going to bring that relief for families, for small businesses and for farms once we can get this legislation passed, Mr. Speaker. It has been 76 days since they've said that they would have some sort of idea on how to do something, Mr. Speaker. They've actually done nothing since that time. We've brought forward a plan that's going to work. For every single family in this province, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to getting this bill passed through the House.

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of energy. My question was about the document, the Liberal Cabinet document, a graph that showed hydro rates are going to skyrocket in Ontario. We got an answer that was completely irrelevant to the question. So I'm going to ask again. We have the **Premier** saying the document was out of date, that their new plan was built on something else. This is a recent Liberal Cabinet document saying that their plan is going to skyrocket hydro rates. So I would give the Minister of energy another chance. If this was not recent, if this was not the plan -- Speaker, this document was not the one they built their plan on, like the Liberal Cabinet document says. Will the Minister release the graph that will show this is not the case? The people deserve to know. Yes or no, will you release the document?

>> Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, the 2013 long-term -- Our government, with consultation with stakeholders and energy experts, showed where we believed prices were going to go. But what we've done, Mr. Speaker, is we've pulled costs out of the system. The \$3.5 billion renegotiation of the Samsung agreement, the cancellation of Irp2, Mr. Speaker, both took significant billions of dollars out of the system. So, Mr. Speaker, when you look at what the 2013 long-term energy plan said where we were going to be, we've actually reduced that number significantly. This plan that we have brought forward, Mr. Speaker, and are hoping to get passed through this House, we want to see that passed because we're going to bring 25%, on average, a reduction on every single electricity bill for families, small businesses and farms, Mr. Speaker. 76 days, they've done nothing. It just shows, Mr. Speaker, they have no plan for --

>> Patrick Brown: Mr. Speaker, again to the Minister of energy. The Minister of energy quoted a 2013 long-term energy plan. I'm talking about a Liberal Cabinet document for 2017. Let's talk about what we're talking about right now. And right now the Liberal Cabinet have a graph that shows hydro

rates are going to skyrocket and skyrocket and go through the roof. And I know they're doing damage control right now because a whistle-blower from this government exposed this government, that once again every time they touch hydro, they make it worse. Now a third time to the Minister of energy. If the Liberal Cabinet graph is wrong, if hydro rates are not going to skyrocket, will you do -- will you at least be fair to the people of Ontario and provide us a new graph, a new document that your plan is based on? Will we have that disclosure, yes or no?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course. Just like we did with the 2010 long-term energy plan and the 2013 long-term energy plan. We'll be bringing forward the 2017 long-term energy plan, Mr. Speaker. That will show where we were going to project where prices are going to be. And you know where they're going to be right now, Mr. Speaker ? 25% lower than where they were last year and that's thanks to this government, Mr. Speaker, bringing forward a plan going to make sure that we help every single family, farm and small business in this province. Where's their plan, Mr. Speaker ? The last I heard they were joking it was in policy development. But now we know, Mr. Speaker, that they're going to conjure something up on that magic weekend in November. But what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is we're making sure 40 to 50% is coming off for 800,000 families as we make sure that we're helping those in rural and remote parts of our province and 25% coming off for every family, 500,000 small businesses and farms, Mr. Speaker.

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