

Hansard: Horwath to Matthews (Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, my question's for the acting **Premier**. The **Premier** is trying to sell the public a bill of goods here. Leaked documents show that she knows that her hydro plan will end up causing hydro rates to soar, Speaker. But in a few months that she's been bragging about this plan, she's never mentioned that fact, know a once. Why is the **Premier** trying to hide the real cost of her hydro plan, Speaker ?

>> Minister Matthews: You know, Speaker, we really want an Ontario where everybody has an even chance, where there's a level playing field. And we know, Speaker, that when you're worried about your hydro bill, you're not able to focus on those other things, Speaker, that will make your life better. So that's why we are reducing electricity prices by 25%, Speaker. We have a plan. It's an important plan. It will provide relief for people. We are still waiting -- Speaker, we have had a plan, if you want to call it that, from the NDP And I'm happy to see that they're actually starting to execute that plan because one piece of that plan, Speaker, was to get the federal government to pay for -
- Hydro prices. Now we're one step closer to having the member from Bramalea- Gore- Malton elected leader. Elected Prime Minister and then --

>> Andrea Horwath: I saw the Deputy leader over there prepared to vote for jagmeet Singh for the leadership of the NDP Who knew she was a closet new Democrat, Speaker. She certainly doesn't act like one. Look, we know that this document was leaked last week, Speaker. It's a document that this government continues to claim is a document that's out of date. In fact the **Premier** uses that language. The Minister uses that language but I have to say that sounds more like, and I quote, the gas plant will only cost \$40 million, or I promise we won't sell Hydro One. Or nobody tries to bribe everybody in the Sudbury by-election. S that how the **Premier** and her Liberal party govern. They move from one scandal to the next, Speaker. Will this **Premier** stop the cycle of scandal and just come clean with the people of Ontario about the real cost of her borrowing scheme. That the people cannot afford?

>> Minister Thibeault: Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise and talk about our fair hydro plan and of course, Mr. Speaker, the plan that is actually going to bring forward a 25% reduction to help all families, all small businesses, 500,000 of those small buses and farms across the province, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we've acted to make sure that we have this legislation to get through this House because, if it passes, we're also going to help 800,000. 800,000 families in rural and northern parts of our province, Mr. Speaker. And I know the NDP And the P.C.S have already said that they're going to vote against this, Mr. Speaker. They're going to vote against giving families relief now, relief in the midterm, Mr. Speaker, and relief in the long term. Mr. Speaker, our plan is making sure that we build Ontario up, make sure that we create jobs, build the infrastructure we need and at the same time find ways reducing rates for all people right across this province.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker the bottom line is that the people of Ontario deserve the facts. They deserve the facts. The **Premier** needs to tell families and businesses what the real cost of this borrowing scheme will be, and they deserve to know how much **Premier** Wynne intend to increase the hydro bills, and they deserve to know now. They deserve to know now, Speaker, before the next election. That's when people need the information. So will this **Premier** and this Minister do the right thing and tell Ontario families and businesses, tell everyone that's sitting in this chamber right now what the real cost of their plan is going to be?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So let's talk about facts. 25% reduction for all families. 500,000 small businesses and farms in this province. Another fact, Mr. Speaker, 800,000 families in rural or northern parts of our province will see a 40 to 50% reduction, Mr. Speaker, once we can get this legislation passed. The Ontario electricity support program, fact, Mr. Speaker. Increased by an additional 50%. New line items including more people to qualify for that. Fact, Mr. Speaker, 192,000 families are currently on the oesp program. Nor fact, Mr. Speaker, is that we've reduced the delivery line for first nations, on reserve first nations. That's an \$85 savings, Mr. Speaker, to those families. That's a fact that we're making a difference in their lives. Another fact, Mr. Speaker, is both the NDP And the P.C.S have said they are voting against this, Mr. Speaker. The other fact is that's going to hurt every family in this province.

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