

Hansard: Horwath to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro One

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **Andrea Horwath:** My next question, Speaker, is for the **Premier** as well. Not only do they not have a mandate, Speaker. The government is being sued for its decision to sell off Hydro One. Prior to the Liberals were -- flyers were more about politics than they were about people. Ontarians want to believe, Speaker, that things are going to get better. But the government keeps making decisions that favour the Liberal party instead of people. Will this **Premier** start taking action that puts people ahead of her party's progress?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, the investments that we are making in people's lives around the province, whether it's in transit, Mr. Speaker, whether it's in roads, bridges, whether it's in Hamilton or whether it's in Mississauga or whether it's in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, or whether it's in Thunder Bay. Those investments are about supporting people in their community to allow them to create the jobs, to create the economic growth that we know is necessary for them to thrive and for their community to thrive. We can't do that, Mr. Speaker, if we don't have the resources to invest in that infrastructure. And so that is the decision that we made, Mr. Speaker, and I think the leader of the third party knows full well that the decisions we made that we brought forward in the throne speech to reduce electricity costs. By removing the provincial portion of the H.S.T. Is a recognition, Mr. Speaker, that people need help with their electricity.

>> **Andrea Horwath:** Speaker, the government should be about helping people and working to address their problems absolutely. It shouldn't be about looking after the Liberal party. So my question is will this **Premier** stop any further privatization of Hydro One until the people of this province actually get to have a say?

>> **Min. Thibeault:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member for that question. Obviously I can't comment directly on this as there's a legal process that's now under way and we need to allow that process to unfold. It's also important to note, Mr. Speaker, that the integrity commissioner has already looked into this and has recently confirmed that there is no wrongdoing. But I think it's important to mention, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP Took over \$33,000 from Cupe or its affiliates in 2015 and so far they've reported almost \$12,000 in 2016. Mr. Speaker, now they've -- For a press conference to attack the government's plan to invest in transit, in transportation and other infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. So a top NDP Fund-raisers are launch ago lawsuit, Mr. Speaker. We've even seen Toronto- Danforth electoral district Collect over \$3,100. From various Cupe locals. Mr. Speaker, I beg the question. Is the member for Toronto- Danforth selling access to the media studio?

>> **Andrea Horwath:** Speaker the unmitigated gall of this government and Cabinet Minister s is unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable. Look, in the days prior to the throne speech, Speaker, the government was saying that -- In the days prior to the Liberal throne speech, Speaker,

the government was saying that they finally understood hydro bills were too high. They told people to expect big changes, and people were hopeful, Speaker. Instead what should have been a first step, giving people a bit of a break, was the only step. People hoping for action got **yet another letdown by this government**, Speaker. Why did the Liberals not use the opportunity to make a real difference and stop the sell-off of Hydro One?

>> Min. Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important to mention that we're getting value for the sale and the broadening of hydro ownership and we're investing in transit, in infrastructure. Recently I was able to tour the north part of our province and make announcements in Kapuskasing, in North Bay, out in areas like Cochrane. We're talking about the investments that we're making in this province that are creating jobs and growth, Mr. Speaker, and that's what the people of Ontario want. When you're talking about the three-point plan -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're talking about the three-point plan, the Ontario rebate for electricity consumers act, that permanent rebate that we're putting in is going to help families with an 8% rebate to 5 million families in Ontario. Residential consumers -- Along with small businesses and farms. Mr. Speaker, we're getting the job done and we're working for Ontario families. Thank you very much.

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