

Hansard: Sattler to Premier (Thibeault) -- Energy Costs

From: "Jonsson, Rachel (CAB)" <rachel.jonsson2@ontario.ca>
To: "Appave, Priscilla (OPO)" <priscilla.appave2@ontario.ca>, "Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO)" <beckie.codd-downey@ontario.ca>, "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>, "Lazarus, Jordan (OPO)" <jordan.lazarus@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 28 Feb 2017 11:19:15 -0500

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Sattler: My question is to the **Premier**. Kristen and Robena live with 5 children. Like too many working families they're struggling to keep the lights on. Anytime they fall behind on their hydro bills they must pay hefty fees and a larger deposit leading to bills as high as 1,000 dollars forcing them to cut back on necessities. This vicious circle gets worse. Why is the **Premier** ignoring the crisis faced by families like this and refusing to act now to keep hydro costs affordable?

>> **Premier** Wynne: We have already begun to take action and we are bringing forward a plan that will continue to take action in the immediate term. The document the NDP brought out yesterday lays out a number of initiatives most of which wouldn't reduce electricity prices and none of which would reduce prices now. Some of them, I have no idea how they would do it. In terms of asking the federal government to forego revenue. We're going to bring forward a workable plan. We're going to bring forward an initiative that builds on the acts we've already taken. A real plan that will reduce electricity prices immediately.

>> MPP Sattler: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, Chris and Rubena are doing everything they can. They have had to use the food bank multiple times. They've removed their children from extra curricular activities. Does this government think it's fair to make children pay the price for their failure to take real action on hydro rates?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everyone in this House would agree that's unacceptable that any family would have to do that. That's why we're continuing to act. When we brought forward the 8% reduction, that's helping 5 million families across the province with small businesses and farms included in that. But we know that more needs to be done. So that's why we're continuing right now to work and continue to find ways to help families because we know, Mr. Speaker, that we have to rebuild that system. It was paramount for us to eliminate coal, to make sure we can have a clean and reliable system. We'll take it to the next level. We'll work hard to ensure we make this as affordable as possible for every family, for every business across our province from Windsor and Ontario and everyone in between.

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