

Hansard: Tabuns to Premier -- Throne Speech -- Hydro Rebate

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Tabuns:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker my question to the **Premier**. For centuries there was no provincial sales tax on electricity in Ontario. Liberals introduced tax in 2010. Then with an election looming the Liberal government brought in a hydro rebate. Then the election is over. They took it away. And now with another election on the horizon, government has introduced another rebate. This rebate will disappear after the next election as well. And since playing games with temporary rebates will the government make electricity permanently exempt from the hst in Ontario?

>> **Premier Wynne:** First of all, Mr. Speaker I would suggest from that rendition that the member from Toronto Danforth would be happy with the move that we announced in the throne speech yesterday. Mr. Speaker, we will be introducing legislation that I hope given the stance that the third party has taken they will be eager to support and will not stand in the way of getting the legislation passed, Mr. Speaker. But we'll bring in legislation that would allow us to take the provincial sales tax off the, as I say I think something the member very supportive of.

>> **MPP Tabuns:** I'm sure, Speaker we'll see many wonders in this chamber. Mr. Speaker, this temporary rebate will save Ontarians 8% on their hydro bills next year. The problem is each year hydro rates has been rising by more than 8%. This in part is because we have a massive energy surplus here in Ontario. This government has been on a spending spree. Contracting for energy we don't need, can't use and have to pay for. And bills will rise even higher as Ontario -- as Hydro One new private owners demand their profits. What will the government do to stop privatization and rein in surplus so savings won't be immediately wiped out by rate increases?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, let me get this straight. Member of the NDP railing against green energy. Member of the NDP railing against a stable clean electricity grid. Member of the NDP railing against extending power and the grid to people who are first nations people who are on diesel power, Mr. Speaker. This is a member of the NDP who doesn't think that we should be finding ways to partner with Manitoba, with Québec to make sure we have clean energy, Mr. Speaker. Really, everything that the member has said runs counter to my understanding of how we have a Progressive, clean, green energy system in Ontario. That's what we support, Mr. Speaker.

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