

Hansard: Thompson to Premier (Murray) -- Hydro Rebate, Cap & Trade

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Thompson:** January 1st is a big day for this government. It's the day this government band-aid solution will be applied to Ontario Toronto hydro bill. Also happens to be the day that this government hit the pocketbooks of Ontarians. According to this government starting January 1st average House hold will begin to save \$130 a year on their hydro bills. Wait a second, Speaker, the government's own projections say the cash grab I should say cap and trade cash grab will cost the family \$156 a year. The money is simply going in one pocket and out of another. What a shell game. Speaker, why is the **Premier** trying to Ontario families and what is she trying to hide?

>> **Premier Wynne:** You thank you very much. I know the Minister of environment and climate change will want to weigh in the supplementary. Let me just be clear what the member opposite is talking about is not giving people relief electricity on their electricity bills and fighting climate change. The choices we are making to fight climate change because we believe all of us on this planet should be taking responsibility for fighting greenhouse gas emissions, that's what cap and trade is about. I know the party opposite does not have a coherent position on that, Mr. Speaker. Does not believe fighting climate change is what we should do but Mr. Speaker, we are working with leadership across the country and around the world to find ways to tackle climate change and will continue to do that. At the same time, Mr. Speaker we believe that reducing people's electricity bills continuing on the path that he we have been on because put other programs in place, this is the next step in reducing people's electricity bill. We believe he that's the right thing to do to help people every day in their lives, Mr. Speaker.

>> **MPP Thompson:** This government can't wait for the hst band-aid solution to slow up as a line item on hydro bills across the province. But it's interesting to note, Speaker, this government also refuses to show the cost of cap and trade on natural gas and energy bills. As the member from Trinity Spadina once said, this government supports and I quote, openness and transparency but at the right time. Sadly, Speaker, that right time is only when it's convenient for this government's political survival. I must say it's rather self-serving that the throne speech explicitly said that the reductions will be seen on electricity bills yet cap and trade costs will be hidden from natural gas and energy bills. Frankly, Speaker that's not acceptable. Speaker, will the **Premier** commit today that she will mandate the cost of cap and trade to be shown on energy bills in this province is this delete

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>> **Min. Murray:** Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the member opposite and her leader for being so consistent, consistently inconsistent in favour and then opposed to it. On carbon pricing. In favour of it and then opposed to it and then in favour of it and then opposed to it. It is mind-boggling, Mr. Speaker. So the member opposite listed all of the reductions and measures we're taking to reduce expenditures and she is right. What she doesn't say, Mr. Speaker. Supports tax only system costs \$150 increasing costs seven times. At the same time revenue neutral cut all the

programs farmers, families, apartments, the electric vehicle subsidy program, investments in public transit, cut \$8 billion in subsidies to help families charging \$150 a tonne for carbon compared to a tax rate.

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