

Hansard: Yakabuski to Premier -- Hydro Rebate

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Date: Tue, 13 Sep 2016 12:03:38 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Yakabuski:** My question to the **Premier**. The **Premier** knows that for years ratepayers have been crying out for high, help they need on hydro bills. Need to be lifted out of the crisis that this Liberal government has created. Yesterday **Premier** announced going to give them a rebate that amounts to 36 cents per day for the average family. All this during a period of time since 2003 that your government has raised electricity rates by over 400%. Speaker, will the **Premier** simply admit that yesterday too little too late announcement was only a band-aid solution and confirms that they refuse to reverse the damage done by their failed energy policies that are hurting everyone across this great province?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be back in the presence from across the way. Let's talk about he referenced the 2003, Mr. Speaker, when we came into office. Which Mr. Speaker if you remember back to 2003, Brown outs, blackouts, unreliable, dirty system, Mr. Speaker. We have moved away from that. We have made investments, Mr. Speaker. We have rebuilt transmission lines over 10,000 kilometres of transmission lines, Mr. Speaker. Shut down. Clean green electricity grid in Ontario, Mr. Speaker and there has been a cost associated with that. What have we done? We put programs in place. Ontario electricity support program, Mr. Speaker. Eligible low and middle income families \$430 a year. The Ontario energy and property tax credit, individuals and families save up to \$1008 a year, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have put programs in place. We are now taking the hst provincial portion –

>> **MPP Yakabuski:** **Premier**, Speaker. The voters of scar burrow Rouge River sent a clear message to this government that the current chaos in the energy system is all on them. They said in no uncertain terms that your government has failed. The **Premier** promising 8% rebate on their energy bills. Yet last November those bills went up 4.3%. And this may another 2.5%. How long before that rebate is eaten up with continuous energy increases that we know under your own plan are still to come in the years to come in the weeks and months and years to come under your energy policy. Can the **Premier** simply state and admit that she is trying to change the channel but it does not change the fact that more and more Ontario families are facing real energy policies under the failed policies of your government?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, let's look what the we are doing because we are doing more than what the member opposite is suggesting. We are rebating the provincial portion of the hst to reduce bills by 8%. We are doing that. But we are also cutting delivery charges, Mr. Speaker, for the most rural and remote customers in the province, Mr. Speaker. So that will mean actually 20% reduction and Mr. Speaker, I would think that the member opposite there will be many, many constituents of his who will directly benefit from that change of a 20% reduction because of the distribution changes, Mr. Speaker. We are also empowering businesses, smaller businesses to reduce their bills under the ITI, the initiative, can reduce their bills by 30%, upwards of 30%. So, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that associated with the investments we have made to have a clean reliable grid, Mr. Speaker, which is not the case when they were in office, we are making changes to address

those challenges, Mr. Speaker, and I would think that the member opposite would be supportive of those.

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