

MPP Op-Ed

Over the last few years, Ontario's economy has emerged and recovered from the impact of the global recession, growing by 6.1 per cent and creating 600,000 new jobs. While independent economic analysis projects consistent economic growth for Ontario, some aren't yet feeling the impact of the recovery in their everyday lives. I'm proud to be part of Kathleen Wynne's government, which remains committed to building Ontario up in a way that helps you in your everyday life by taking action to help families with household expenses like electricity.

Our government recently announced a plan to rebate all provincial taxes on electricity costs starting January 1, 2017. That's an 8% rebate right on your bill, and it will mean \$130 more in your pocket each year. This coming January, more than five million families, farms and small businesses would see these reductions.

Ontario can afford to cut this tax because the Province is on track to balance the budget next year. We've carefully managed our books, and we know that families like yours should be the first to benefit.

We also want to make sure that additional help is going where it's needed most. We understand that in rural and remote areas, customers often pay much higher distribution rates. So we're also going to cut distribution rates for eligible rural customers by another 20% - for total savings of about \$45 a month or \$540 annually.

As a province, we're also focused on delivering on our number one priority; creating jobs and growth. We will expand eligibility for programs that empower businesses to reduce their electricity costs, allowing more than one thousand new manufactures and job creators to cut their bill by one third. For many businesses, this will mean tens of thousands in savings each month.

Ontario has done the heavy lifting in rebuilding our electricity grid, and we've shut down the dirty coal-fired power plants that were causing smog days and making our kids sick. We benefit from a grid that has world-class reliability and next to no emissions. But now we've got to focus on ensuring that it's reliable for everyone. And that's exactly what Ontario's government is doing. To learn more visit www.ontario.ca/energy.