

MPP Todd Smith in the Media Studio

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Good morning,

This morning Todd Smith is scheduled to speak in the media studio about 'hydro power concerns' – a topic the Conservatives have been eager to mislead the public and media on, all while demonstrating little understanding on how electricity is traded.

We have been absolutely clear in our position that we would only agree to a new electricity agreement with Quebec if it saved money for Ontario ratepayers and reduced GHGs – and the negotiations to meet those core objectives remain active. As a reminder, I've attached the letter from July 27, 2017 that outlines the rejected offer.

Previous discussions with Quebec have benefitted Ontario ratepayers. In December 2016, a new electricity trade agreement was announced between the two provinces which will reduce GHG emissions and lower costs to Ontario ratepayers by \$70 million by importing 2 TWh of hydroelectric power from Quebec each year between 2017 and 2023.

While the Conservatives pay lip service to reducing electricity rates, it's been 202 days since Conservative Leader Patrick Brown said he would release his energy policy. Since then, Todd Smith and the Conservatives voted against the Fair Hydro Plan, which is now in effect and has reduced electricity rates by an average of 25 per cent for all residential customers, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. They voted against immediate hydro relief for the most vulnerable, rural and Northern customers, who are seeing reductions in the range of 40 to 50 per cent.

We will continue working to bring reliable, clean electricity to Ontarians at the most affordable price possible. We would certainly be interested to hear how Todd Smith and the Conservatives plan to do that.

Cheers,
Colin

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