

Impact of Electricity Costs – Municipalities

- I want to begin by saying that since we became government, the average municipality has seen a 264% increase in provincial support from our government.
- Unlike the previous Conservative government, which downloaded billions of dollars of costs onto the backs of municipalities and residential property tax payers, we are alleviating the financial burden off of our municipal partners.
- We have uploaded costs back to the province, giving municipalities more room in their budgets to invest in local priorities.
- In 2017 alone municipalities will benefit from \$4 billion in ongoing, annual provincial support through our initiatives like: uploads, OMPF, OCIF and provincial transit funding.
- That's an increase of almost \$3 billion per year since 2003.
- And now residents in every single one of Ontario's 444 municipalities will benefit from the Fair Hydro Plan.
- Starting this summer, electricity bills will be reduced by 25% on average for households across Ontario.
- It's important to note that social housing (TBC), coop housing, community agencies and some libraries are also going to benefit from our plan.
- We also have a number of programs available that also provide support to municipalities manage energy costs.
- For example, the Ontario Municipal Energy Plan Program provides funding to municipalities to help them plan for more efficient energy usage.
- We also announced that \$92 million from the Green Investment Fund will be used to retrofit social housing to take advantage of the economic opportunities in clean technologies, improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- And in some municipalities that support represents upwards of 50% of the municipal budget, for example:
 - For Prescott, the combined OMPF, provincial uploads and OCIF funding represents 67% of municipal taxes collected.

Quotes from municipal leaders:

- We are taking pressure off of municipal residents and municipal leaders have welcomed this support.
 - Grey County Warden Alan Barfoot said, "At the end of the day, (the hydro plan) will help everybody on their hydro bills moving forward"
 - Tecumseh Mayor Gary McNamara welcomed what he called "immediate relief".
 - "The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) released a statement that read. "[We] would like to commend the Minister of Energy, Glenn Thibeault and the provincial government for announcing today that they will lower electricity bills by 25 percent on average this summer for all residential customers."
 - Mayor Alan Spacek of Kapuskasing and President of FONOM continued "We are pleased that electricity ratepayers will see the positive benefits of this announcement in the near future and for the commitment that rates will not increase beyond the rate of inflation for the next four years."
 - Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger thanks government for listening to Ontarians and implementing what he calls "dramatic" reductions.