

RE: [PC RELEASE] Minister Thibeault must face Sudbury ratepayers over hydro increase: Brown

From: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>
To: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2017 12:04:10 -0400

Thanks Blane. Here's our revised statement with your feedback. Let us know what you think and we can put it to the Minister for his approval.

"It's hard to take Patrick Brown and Vic Fedeli's grandstanding seriously when it's been more than three months since the Progressive Conservatives said they were going to share their plan on reducing electricity rates – we're still waiting. MPP Fedeli showing up to an Ontario Energy Board (OEB) public meeting is simply a distraction from the fact that the Progressive Conservatives have not presented a single credible idea on how to help Ontarians. The icing on the cake is that Patrick Brown, Vic Fedeli and the Progressive Conservatives voted against our Fair Hydro Plan – a plan that is delivering a 25 per cent on average reduction for all Ontario households beginning July 1st.

And for many Hydro One customers, the Fair Hydro Plan is delivering even more relief. Again, real and meaningful relief for rural and Northern families that the Progressive Conservatives voted against. Distribution rates for 800,000 households will be coming down significantly – bringing savings as much as 40 to 50 per cent. This includes eligible rural and Northern Hydro One customers in communities like Wanup and Mikkola. With distribution rates capped for these customers, they will no longer be directly impacted by Hydro One's rate applications, even if approved by the OEB.

The OEB is the energy sector's independent regulator, and its job is to protect consumers and ensure appropriate investments are made to maintain long-term reliability in our electricity system. The OEB works hard to keep rates as low as possible, and utilities rarely get all they ask for. In the last eight years, the OEB has reviewed over 100 major rate applications and reduced requested rate increases by an average of about 40 per cent.

This week's public meeting in Sudbury is an example of the Board going directly to Ontarians to gather feedback to inform the rate application process. This process is based in transparency and accountability, and is a key part of protecting electricity consumers across the province."

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: June-28-17 11:42 AM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Subject: FW: [PC RELEASE] Minister Thibeault must face Sudbury ratepayers over hydro increase: Brown

From: Warda Nasir [<mailto:wnasir@liberal.ola.org>]
Sent: June-28-17 11:38 AM
To: Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); Ernesaks, Andrea (OPO); Bevan, Andrew (OPO); Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Andrew Rudyk; cbanas@liberal.ola.org; Codd-Downey, Beckie (GHLO); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Bossin, Bryan (OPO); Clare Buckley; Foerster, Carly (OPO); Walsh, Chad (OPO); Jack Davidson; Tomney, Genevieve (OPO); McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Mahbod Haghighi; jgomez@liberal.ola.org; Lazarus, Jordan

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Cc: Williams, Emily (MOL); Moore, Brynne (MOF); Prins, Sebastian (TBS)
Subject: [PC RELEASE] Minister Thibeault must face Sudbury ratepayers over hydro increase: Brown

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POSTED ON JUNE 28, 2017

Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown is calling on Energy Minister and Sudbury MPP Glenn Thibeault to attend the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) hearing in Sudbury this evening and justify why he won't direct the OEB to reject an application from Hydro One for a \$141 per year hydro rate hike.

"While families and seniors struggle to put food on the table, Hydro One gave their CEO a nearly 4 million dollar raise. Now they want to pay for these egregious executive salaries by raising hydro rates even higher," said Brown. "It's unfair, it's unaffordable, and it has to be stopped."

Earlier this month the Ontario PCs launched a campaign to stop the rate hike, including delivering more than 2,200 letters to the OEB urging them to reject the rate hike until executive compensation is reined in. Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown also wrote a letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne asking her to order the OEB to stop the hike, but the Wynne Liberals have refused to act.

"We knew all along that Kathleen Wynne and Glenn Thibeault would raise rates after the next election, but we didn't think they would be so out of touch to rubberstamp even more massive rate hikes a year out from an election," added Brown. "Minister Thibeault should go to tonight's hearing and listen to what his own constituents have to say about even higher hydro bills, and tell them why he won't stop this rate hike."

The Ontario PCs have sent representatives to hearings throughout the province, with Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli attending in Sudbury.

"Only the Ontario PCs are fighting for affordability. We want Ontario families to pay less and get ahead, and will continue fighting until this rate hike is stopped and egregious hydro executive salaries are reined in," concluded Brown.

BACKGROUND

Despite claiming otherwise, the Wynne Liberals have the power to stop Hydro One's application for an unfair and unaffordable rate hike:

- As a part of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, at any point in time, the Minister of Energy can issue a directive to the OEB. Since 1999, both Liberal and PC Ministers of Energy have issued 20 directives to the OEB, including three from Minister Thibeault himself.
- On top of that, Minister Thibeault has previously requested the OEB to lower rates. As recently as April 2017, Minister Thibeault wrote to the Ontario Energy Board telling them to lower electricity prices before the Legislature passed the "Unfair" Hydro Plan. Coincidentally, this was to the benefit of the Ontario Liberal Party.

https://www.ontariopc.ca/minister_thibeault_must_face_sudbury_ratepayers_over_hydro_increase_brown