

RE: Energy Costs @ Hospitals

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To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
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[Some tweaks here](#)

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: March-15-17 2:29 PM
To: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: Energy Costs @ Hospitals

Hey – still waiting on some answers from Health which should be helpful but here's a first crack at how we frame this. Happy to chat.

Ontarians can be proud of their world-class health care system and should recognize that we're continuously working to make it even better.

It's time for both opposition parties to stop misleading Ontarians about it.

Since coming into office, we've increased our investment in the system each and every year, allowing us to treat more patients, provide better care and reduce wait times to some of the shortest in the country.

More doctors, more nurses, better results – that's not a legacy either opposition party can point to.

The PCs and NDP are furiously trying to muddy our record but the facts aren't on their side.

Knowing they can't win bashing our record investments in health care, they're trying to misrepresent the impact of energy costs.

But they're wrong.

Hospitals agree, with the Sault Area Hospital being clear that "increases have not resulted in layoffs" and they have "not made decisions directly tied to the increase in electricity rates."

The reality is that hospitals spend 1.6 per cent on average of their total operating budgets on hydro – less than what the average family or business spends on theirs.

That means well over 90% of hospital budgets go towards the rest – hiring nurses and doctors, keeping wait times low, and ensuring patients have access to the high-quality services they need.

Hospitals are also eligible for a range of programs to help lower their bills by

becoming more energy efficient.

For example, Sudbury's Health Sciences North got help with their efficiency upgrades and now they save over \$500,000 / year on energy costs.

These savings, which build on additional reductions through our Fair Hydro Plan as well as the increased investments we've made in health care each and every year, ensure our hospitals can stay focused on putting patients first.