

RE: Gallery follow-up: OESP signups

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 25 Sep 2017 13:25:50 -0400

Got it, thanks Blane.

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: September-25-17 1:24 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: Gallery follow-up: OESP signups

Thx – think there are just a couple words missing from that line though

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: September-25-17 1:13 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: Gallery follow-up: OESP signups

232K accepted out of 358K applications since the inception of the program.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: Gallery follow-up: OESP signups

Is it 232k accepted out of 358k? Or 232k accepted with another 358k applied?

From: Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:40 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)
Subject: Gallery follow-up: OESP signups

Hi Blane,

CP is asking for updated OESP signup numbers following today's scrum. Below is what I suggest sending, in addition to other media who scrummed the Minister on ads (CTV, QPB, RC, CBC). We'll need to send this ASAP.

As Minister Thibeault stated, the Ontario government has a responsibility to raise awareness and communicate information about programs and services that affect Ontarians. This includes informing Ontarians of changes to their electricity bills so that they can use this information to plan for the future as they manage their household budgets. All ads direct Ontarians to a dedicated website (www.Ontario.ca/fairhydroplan) where they can learn more about what these changes mean to them.

The Ontario Electricity Support program, for example, has seen signup numbers increasing as a result of advertising and other communications efforts. Latest numbers from the Ontario Energy Board 232,115 have been accepted to the program of a total 358,906 applications submitted.

The OESP is an income-tested, application based program that lowers electricity costs for the most vulnerable consumers and families, providing a rebate directly on bills. There are two scales: one with basic credits, and an enhanced credit for Indigenous people or those who use electric heat or certain electrically intensive medical devices.

For an illustrative example, through the Fair Hydro Plan Ontario increased the OESP by 50 per cent, meaning that a single, low-income consumer who receives the lowest credit amount would get an increase from \$30 to \$45 per month (\$540 per year, an increase of \$180), and the lowest credit for the enhanced scale would increase from \$45 to \$68 (\$816 per year, an increase of \$276). Ontario is exploring automatic qualification for customers who are enrolled in other provincial low-income social programs, however the program currently needs applicants to provide a wet signature to qualify for the program.

Colin Nekolaichuk | Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | Minister of Energy
T: 416-325-2690 C: 647-504-4928
colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca