

RE: Outreach today - Response statement

From: "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>
To: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>
Date: Sat, 04 Mar 2017 14:52:42 -0500

Thanks James. I'll add that tweak in. Below are the outlets I've identified as having clean hits that could use an inbound statement from us. I will also include the Premier's remarks. Let me know if you would like any added.

North Bay Nugget : Hydro relief plan a 'shell game' - Fedeli; Plan will add \$25 billion in interest payments over the next 30 years, says PC finance critic

Sudbury Star : Hydro relief a 'shell game' - Fedeli; Plan will add \$25 billion in interest payments over the next 30 years, says PC finance critic

<http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/03/04/hydro-relief-a-shell-game--north-bay-mpp>

***Sudbury Star also had a positive story as a result of the echo event at GSU

Orillia Packet & Times : PC hydro plan coming 'soon'

SouthwesternOntario.ca: Pettapiece: 'A desperate shell game.' MPP pans Liberals' hydro move

<http://www.southwesternontario.ca/opinion-story/7171295-pettapiece-a-desperate-shell-game-mpp-pans-liberals-hydro-move/>

SouthwesternOntario.com: Walker: Fixing Kathleen Wynne's hydro mess will cost taxpayers \$14 billion

<http://www.southwesternontario.ca/opinion-story/7168843-walker-fixing-kathleen-wynne-s-hydro-mess-will-cost-taxpayers-14-billion/>

BlackburnNews.com : Bruce Grey MPP Says Taxpayers Are Now On The Hook For The Hydro Mess

<http://blackburnnews.com/midwestern-ontario/midwestern-ontario-news/2017/03/03/bruce-grey-mpp-says-taxpayers-now-hook-hydro-mess/>

SooToday.com: Patrick Brown on PC Hydro plan: Stay tuned

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/patrick-brown-on-pc-hydro-plan-stay-tuned-551197>

Guelph Today: Patrick Brown on PC Hydro plan: Stay tuned

<https://www.guelphtoday.com/local-news/patrick-brown-on-pc-hydro-plan-stay-tuned-551197>

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary

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From: Berry, James (ENERGY)

Sent: March-04-17 12:30 PM

To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); McPhail, Blane (OPO); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Campbell, David (ENERGY)

Subject: Re: Outreach today - Response statement

And one small thing, I'd suggest tailoring the individual responses to be community specific depending on the outlet ie. recognizing that ratepayers in North Bay are struggling...

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2017 12:27 PM

To: McPhail, Blane (OPO); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)

Subject: RE: Outreach today - Response statement

Thanks, will change 'yesterday' to 'Thursday', obviously. As I sift through these I'll identify any responses that require a tweak to the statement.

Colin Nikolaichuk | Press Secretary

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From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)

Sent: March-04-17 12:22 PM

To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)

Subject: RE: Outreach today - Response statement

Hey guys,

We made some edits after further conversations with Bevan/Rebecca. Please use this version:

Yesterday we announced the largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario's history. Recognizing that Ontarians are struggling, we are lowering electricity bills 25 per cent on average for families. Many small businesses and farms would also benefit from the initiative. For those living in rural communities or with low incomes, the break will be even greater. Rate increases over the next four years will also be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

Bringing rates down substantially and fixing the system's structure – that's an approach we believe in. It's better for Ontario and it's fairer for families. And Ontario's strong, growing economy allows us to do it while also delivering a balanced budget this spring.

While our plan provides fast, substantial, wide-spread & long-lasting relief, Patrick Brown and the Conservatives have yet to bring forward anything credible. Their main idea – halting the broadening of Hydro One – won't take one cent off electricity bills. It's both wrong and irresponsible for them to continue to repeat that incorrect information. As they well know, energy rates will continue to be set by the independent Ontario Energy Board, which has a mandate to protect ratepayers. And Brown's push to rip up energy contracts would lead to increased rates, lawsuits, and penalties.

Under our plan, electricity rates will come down, stay down and benefit families and businesses across the province. By providing real, long-lasting relief, our Fair Hydro Plan makes sense for Ontarians.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)

Sent: March-04-17 11:42 AM

To: Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO); @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Berry, James (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY)

Subject: Outreach today - Response statement

Hi all,

I spoke with David, and we think the statement we shared with MPP Hogarth's office yesterday is a good one to work off today. Let me know your thoughts. I'm compiling lists for outreach. Here's the statement.

Yesterday we announced the largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario's history. Recognizing that Ontarians are

struggling, we are lowering electricity bills 25 per cent on average for families, farms and small businesses. Under our plan, electricity rates will come down, stay down and benefit families and businesses across the province.

While our plan provides fast, substantial, wide-spread & long-lasting relief, Patrick Brown has yet to bring forward anything credible. His main idea – halting the broadening of Hydro One – won't take one cent off electricity bills. Energy rates will continue to be set by the independent Ontario Energy Board, which has a mandate to protect ratepayers. And Brown's push to rip up energy contracts would lead to increased rates, lawsuits, and penalties.

Under our plan, the burden will now be shared fairly. Though sharing will put some additional fiscal pressure on us, Ontario's strong, growing economy has allowed us to strengthen our fiscal position and keep our commitment to balance the budget while significantly reducing electricity bills. By providing real, long-lasting relief, our Fair Hydro Plan makes sense for Ontarians.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.