

RE: Request for comment

From: "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>
To: "Xavier, Katrina (ENERGY)" <katrina.xavier@ontario.ca>, "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
Cc: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 13 Sep 2016 13:03:27 -0400

The reporter references the announcement yesterday in his question. I made just a quick edit below to reflect that.

Also do we want to mention the DRC coming off bills? The premier was ask about timing in her avail today. I can flip you that response.

I would also edit this line: I think you'd agree it is and remains an urgent issue.

To this: This is and remains an urgent issue.

I now defer to Blane.

Cheers,
Jenn

From: Xavier, Katrina (ENERGY)
Sent: September-13-16 12:58 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Cc: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Subject: FW: Request for comment

Hi Blane, added in the program messaging:

We received the following request from Global News, we are proposing to send the following statement from a spokesperson. Their deadline is 2 pm.

As you know, yesterday our government took unprecedented action to reduce electricity costs in Ontario by rebating the provincial portion of the HST on electricity bills. We've also announced a modernization of relief programs for rural and remote customers, reducing bills by 20%, and expanding eligibility for the Industrial Conservation Incentive, empowering businesses to reduce their costs by one-third.

We recognize that families need help with the cost of everyday living. Despite consistent economic growth since the global recession, many families aren't feeling Ontario's resurgence in their everyday lives. Our government currently has programs in place to assist low-income families, or families in a crisis, including the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) and the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). We encourage customers to contact their local utility to find out what programs are available to them. This rebate an additional program that is geared to help all Ontarian's.

Minister Thibeault was appointed on June 13th as Energy Minister with a mandate to address affordability in Ontario's clean, reliable electricity system. Given how quickly he and his team at the Ministry of Energy have moved to implement a plan to help people with the cost of everyday living – I think you'd agree it is and remains an urgent issue.

The Ontario Energy Board is an independent, quasi-judicial body that determines electricity prices in Ontario. The Minister engages regularly in discussions with the OEB on a variety of work they have undertaken, including the

implementation of the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which provides eligible low-income families with up to \$75 to reduce monthly electricity costs.

The Minister remains focused on doing everything we can to keep costs low and help Ontarians in their everyday lives.

Katrina

Katrina Xavier
Press Secretary
Office of the Hon. Glenn Thibeault | MPP Sudbury
D: 416 325-2690 | C:416 953-3858

From: Andrew Russell [mailto:Andrew.Russell@globalnews.ca]
Sent: September-13-16 10:26 AM
To: Moulton, Dan (ENERGY)
Subject: Request for comment

Hi Dan,

I'm a reporter with Global News and I was hoping to get a comment from the Ministry of Energy regarding an FOI we filed regarding all correspondence between the Minister and the OEB on rural hydro/rate/prices and charges between January 1 2016 to June 2016.

We received a response saying that no records were located in response to this request.

I wanted to know

- 1) If prior to Kathleen Wynne calling hydro rates an "urgent issue" the Ministry of Energy had been in contact with the OEB at all?
 - a. If yes, what was discussed?
 - b. If no, why not?
- 2) When did hydro rates become an "urgent issue" for the government?
- 3) Apart from removing the HST, what is else is your government doing to lower the cost of hydro?
- 4) Has Glenn Thibeault reached out to the OEB or had been briefed on the issue of rural hydro bills when he assumed the position as Minister
- 5) What has changed since July when the Ministry of Energy and the Wynne government said high hydro prices weren't an issue

This is for an online piece and I was hoping to get a response by 2 p.m. ET. If you could send me an email or call me at 416-263-4938 it would be very much appreciated.

Thanks,

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