

Re: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

From: "McPhail, Blane (OPO)" <blane.mcphail@ontario.ca>
To: "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 20 Jul 2017 13:02:19 -0400

We're comfortable, thx David

From: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 12:25 PM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

Here is the updated statement:

Statement on the Fraser Institute's report, "Evaluating Electricity Price Growth in Ontario"

It's no surprise now to see the right-leaning Fraser Institute argue that Ontario shouldn't have invested in clean energy. At no point does the report recognize the value of the investments we made to eliminate coal and clean up the dirty, unreliable system we inherited from the previous Conservative government. The end of coal has helped to virtually eliminate smog days in our province, and it remains the largest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America. These efforts are already having a tangible impact – a 2016 Toronto Vital Signs report shows premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23% and 41% respectively since 2004. These are benefits that the Fraser Institute completely neglects to mention.

The report also fails to account for the 25 per cent reduction to electricity bills thanks to our Fair Hydro Plan. Under that plan, families, small businesses and farms across the province now have lower bills. For those facing the largest burden from electricity costs, either in hard-to-serve areas or on a low-income, the savings are even larger – as much as 40-50 per cent. And our plan will hold any increases to bills to the rate of inflation for four years, ensuring predictability for Ontarians.

This plan was built on taking some of our significant investments over the last decade, and spreading them over a longer period. This reflects a more fair allocation of the investments we have made to build a cleaner, more reliable system for decades to come.

The Fair Hydro Plan represents real action and is already providing real relief across the province. Even so, both the Conservatives and NDP irresponsibly voted against providing this relief for families and businesses. Unlike them, we're going to stay focused on what's important – making sure our electricity system is clean, reliable, and affordable for all Ontarians.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: July 20, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

Worth reaching out to BlogTO to walk them through this as well:

<http://www.blogto.com/city/2017/07/toronto-has-highest-hydro-rates-canada/>

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: July-20-17 11:57 AM
To: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

Chatted internally – let's go straight into the second paragraph:

It's no surprise now to see the **right-leaning** Fraser Institute ~~that argue~~ **e** that Ontario shouldn't **have** invest **ed** in clean energy.

From: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Sent: July-20-17 11:48 AM
To: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: RE: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

Thx. Also Adding Bill.

Some edits from me below. I like referencing the earlier coal report but we could also jump straight in with the next para if people prefer.

For the highlighted line about health benefits, do we want to add in the Toronto Vital Signs about deaths/hospitalizations dropping because of cleaner air? I think it's a more tangible example people will understand.

From: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Sent: July-20-17 11:24 AM
To: McPhail, Blane (OPO)
Cc: Forgione, Andrew (OPO); Berry, James (ENERGY)
Subject: Draft Statement on Fraser Report

Hey Blane,

See below a statement for review on your end, responding to the Fraser Institute's report today. FYI, the Minister is planning to go on Global to respond via taped interview and Bliss is looking for a taped interview as well from Sudbury. We would give him these notes to prompt his comments.

Thanks,
David

Statement on the Fraser Institute's report, "Evaluating Electricity Price Growth in Ontario"

Earlier this year, the Fraser Institute published a report authored by a climate change denier that claimed the closure of coal plants had a negligible effect on Ontario's air quality. The report was widely criticized by actual climate scientists and experts.

So it's no surprise now to see a follow up report from the **right-leaning** Fraser Institute ~~that argue~~ **ing** that Ontario shouldn't **have** invest **ed** in clean energy. ~~In 2003, our government inherited an electricity system desperately in need of investment. Blackouts and brownouts were common, and the system relied on dirty coal generation for a significant amount of our power. —~~At no point does the report recognize the value of the investments ~~our province has~~ **we** made to eliminate coal and clean up ~~the dirty, unreliable~~ **our system we inherited from the previous Conservative government** . The end of coal has helped to virtually eliminate smog days in our province, and it remains the largest climate change initiative ever undertaken in North America. **It is projected to deliver \$4.1 billion in health and environmental benefits** – benefits the Fraser

Institute completely neglects to mention.

The report also fails to account for the 25 per cent reduction to electricity bills thanks to our Fair Hydro Plan. Under that plan, families, small businesses and farms across the province now have lower bills. When it comes to electricity prices, there is no doubt that prices in our province had been allowed to become too high. Our government recognized this, and we acted. Our Fair Hydro Plan is now in effect, reducing electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential customers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province. For those facing the largest burden from electricity costs, either in hard-to-serve areas or on a low-income, the savings are even larger – as much as 40-50 per cent. And our plan will hold any increases to bills to the rate of inflation for four years – ensuring predictability for Ontarians.

This plan was built on taking some of our significant investments over the last decade, and spreading them over a longer period. This reflects a more fair allocation of the investments we have made, which have to build a cleaner, more reliable system for decades to come.

The Fair Hydro Plan represents real action was a significant step, and is already providing real relief across the province. Even so, both the Conservatives and NDP irresponsibly voted against providing this relief for families and businesses. But neither the Conservatives nor the NDP supported us in providing this relief. Unlike them, we're going to stay focused on what's important – making sure our electricity system is clean, reliable, and affordable for all Ontarians.