

Re: Ming Pao Daily Qs

From: "Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)" <jennifer.beaudry2@ontario.ca>
To: "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Cc: "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Chan, Wilson (OPO)" <wilson.s.chan@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 02 Mar 2017 15:57:44 -0500

I'm adding wilson who may be able to help with this outlet.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 3:54 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management
Cc: Campbell, David (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: Ming Pao Daily Qs

Any concerns with the answers below? Pulled from pre-existing docs.

From: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Sent: March-02-17 3:50 PM
To: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Subject: RE: questions for hydro rate cut

Borrowed from the QAs and from the Premier's speech

1. Why this issue was raised at this moment? Is this for provincial election?

Our efforts over the past decade to rebuild our electricity system have put rising pressure on Ontarians. Prices simply rose too much, and too fast. Our government has taken a series of steps to try to reduce rates, including most recently by implementing an 8% rebate directly onto peoples' bills. But it had become clear that it wasn't enough. People needed substantial relief, that would be available to everyone, and that would be long-lasting because it was tied to structural change.

That's exactly what our plan delivers. We determined that the policy which had guided the electricity system was wrong, and had focused too much of the costs of rebuilding our system onto current ratepayers. We have an obligation to set the policy right, and that's what this plan does.

2. Are we expecting more cut in the near future?

For now, our government is focused on implementing this plan. In the coming weeks, we will be putting forward major legislation – we hope we can count on the support of the Opposition parties' support in getting this legislation passed quickly and relief onto Ontarians' bills.

Going forward, we are working on a number of longer-term initiatives to bring down the cost of power in Ontario. We are working with the Independent Electricity System Operator on comprehensive market reform, that will change how we procure new generation and how we pay for it, among other changes. And the Ontario Energy Board is currently running pilots on alternatives to the current "Time Of Use" pricing model, in order to offer consumers more choice in our electricity market. These and other initiatives will help us continue to lower costs and increase the modernization of our electricity system.

3. Some financial experts said, the plan is cutting the bill we pay every year, but taxpayers will have to pay more in total by the end. What the government would say about this critics?

In the past few years we have invested more than 50 billion dollars in electricity infrastructure, and today we have a system that is second-to-none. But the way we financed those investments was a mistake. We asked one generation – today's generation – to unfairly shoulder the burden of nearly all of those costs. We had to play catch-up and we asked today's ratepayers to cover nearly the whole tab.

We financed our investments over a certain term, but found that the terms we chose were too short and put too much pressure on our costs today. So much like refinancing a mortgage, we are refinancing our investment and setting a new term that stretches over a longer period. Over time, it will cost a bit more. And it will take longer to pay off. But it is fairer – because it doesn't ask this generation of hydro customers alone to pay the freight for everyone before and after. The burden will now be shared more evenly and more appropriately.

From: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Sent: March-02-17 3:27 PM
To: Campbell, David (ENERGY)
Subject: FW: questions for hydro rate cut

Do you mind using issues Qs & As/HBN to draft up responses to below? Deadline is 5.

From: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Sent: March-02-17 3:21 PM
To: Singh, Gurvinder (OPO)
Subject: FW: questions for hydro rate cut

Have a second to discuss below?

I'm at 416-327-3551.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Sent: March-02-17 2:36 PM
To: Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)
Cc: Berry, James (ENERGY)
Subject: Re: questions for hydro rate cut

Thanks Natasha. I'm copying James who can help out here. I'm getting on a plane shortly.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: FW: questions for hydro rate cut

Working on responses for him.
Natasha

From: Frank Lan [<mailto:franklan@mingpaotor.com>]
Sent: March-02-17 2:12 PM
To: Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)
Subject: questions for hydro rate cut

Dear Natasha

This is Frank from Ming Pao Daily, a Chinese community newspaper in Toronto. I have three questions for

the Hydro rate cut.

1. Why this issue was raised at this moment? Is this for provincial election?
2. Are we expecting more cut in the near future?
3. Some financial experts said, the plan is cutting the bill we pay every year, but taxpayers will have to pay more in total by the end. What the government would say about this critics?

Thanks for your time and have a nice day.

Frank Lan
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