

Reactive Statement | McLaren PMB

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Hi Blane,

Below is a statement we propose using reactively if asked about Jack McLaren's PMB tomorrow. Let us know if you have any edits, and we'll run this by Minister Thibeault.

It's important to note that many of Mr. MacLaren's proposals are already addressed in the Premier's 2016 mandate letter to the Minister of Energy, with a focus on affordability and reducing GHG emissions. We have engaged immense effort and expertise to accomplishing the goals of that mandate, while ensuring fairness for the people of Ontario.

Our province now benefits from 96 per cent GHG-free electricity flowing from a diverse supply of generation sources. This incredible achievement is due to the nearly \$70 billion in much needed investments that our government made in our electricity system. These investments to create a clean and reliable grid and eliminate dirty coal-fired generation will last for generations to come, and it's only fair that more than the current generation pays for them.

*That's why we took decisive action by launching Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, lowering rates on average by 25 per cent for **all** residential consumers, and as many as half a million small businesses and farms. Any rate increases will be held to the rate of inflation for four years. Following this period, our Long-Term Energy Plan lays out a path for predictable, affordable electricity prices.*

More of Mr. MacLaren's concerns are also addressed in our 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan. For example, Market Renewal will take a technologically agnostic approach to procuring new electricity generation—this is projected to save ratepayers up to \$5.2 billion.

Our government couldn't disagree more with Mr. MacLaren's misguided call to end investments in conservation. Conservation is good government policy. For every dollar invested in conservation programs, Ontarians have avoided about two dollars in costs to the electricity system.

We will continue to make conservation a policy priority, helping customers save on their bills while reducing system costs for all ratepayers over the long-term. Ensuring that the people of Ontario benefit from clean and affordable electricity has been a top priority for our government, and will continue to be a top priority over the long term.

Thanks,
Colin

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