

**Avail BPs –Meeting with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson
Monday, March 6, 2017**

- Hello, thank you Jim [Watson] for our meeting today, great to have you back

Mayor Watson and I believe government can be force for good in people's lives

- Conversation today began with our plan to lower electricity costs for ratepayers
- Challenging economic time, families have trouble getting and staying ahead
- Hydro rates have gone up a lot and quickly — it's unfair and up to us to act

Starting this summer, rates will come down — an average of 25 per cent

- We're holding rates there, raising them only by inflation for at least four years
- Largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario's history

Decades of underinvestment had undermined our electricity system

- We made a decision to rebuild — \$50 billion worth of new energy infrastructure
- Right decision, today the grid is clean and reliable — no blackouts, no smog days
- But today's ratepayers shouldn't pay for mistakes of past and subsidize future

That wasn't fair — we heard that across Ontario, including in Ottawa

- We're restructuring the system — spreading costs out over a fair time frame
- [Nous prenons davantage de moyens pour restructurer et refinancer le système. Le résultat sera des tarifs d'électricité en Ontario grandement réduits. Les tarifs vont demeurer bas et tout le monde en profitera.]

We can absorb the costs of this plan because Ontario's economy is strong

- Our budget will be balanced — allows us to share our province's prosperity
- For example, we can keep building infrastructure at a record pace

Mayor Watson and I also talked about that today, projects like Confederation LRT

- Part of our work building fair, inclusive communities
- So thank you Jim, I'll now turn it over to you