

For approval by 8PM: Reply to Facebook Comment

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Date: Mon, 13 Mar 2017 19:01:20 -0400

Hi everyone,

We'd like to try responding to a Facebook comment this evening around 8:30. I've attached the comment we'd like to answer, which was made on yesterday's small business hydro post. I wasn't sure if I should include Phil, but looping him in just in case since this is hydro related.

Here's the response we'd like to post in the thread:

Hi @Takshil Shah. Thank you for your comment. I'm sorry to hear that your business is in deficit. Hydro rate relief is coming this summer. Hopefully that helps your bottom line because we need small businesses to be able succeed in Ontario. They're vital to our communities and the whole economy. So, I'd like to answer your question about why I'm taking action now. We've actually been working to lower hydro bills for a while, doing things like reaching deals with Quebec and cancelling new projects. And in September, I committed to reducing electricity bills by 8% by taking off the provincial HST. But as you know, none of these actions have done enough. Bills kept rising. And that was hurting businesses and families. So we went back to the drawing board and this time looked at making big, system-wide and structural changes to really fix the problem for good. What we found was that we were unfairly putting all the costs of necessary improvements to the electricity system on one generation of ratepayers. In reality, the assets we're paying for are going to last much longer. So we're spreading the costs out over a longer period of time. Combined with some other structural changes it means that starting this summer, bills will drop by an average of 25% for households and small businesses, and then only rise by inflation for at least four years. This plan is expected to help millions of household and up to 500,000 small businesses and farms. You can learn more about this plan here: www.ontario.ca/FairHydroPlan

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

