RE: Statement

From: "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <"/o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=mackenzie, rebecca (opo)7a8">
To: "Forgione, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.forgione@ontario.ca>, "Killorn, Bill (OPO)" <bill.killorn@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 11 May 2017 14:44:24 -0400

From: Forgione, Andrew (OPO)
Sent: May-11-17 2:39 PM
To: MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO); Killorn, Bill (OPO)
Subject: Statement

Today we introduced legislation that, if passed, would reduce electricity bills by an average of 25 per cent for all households, and about half a million small businesses and farms. These reductions would be held to the rate of inflation for four years.

While we're focussed on implementation of these changes that will make a real difference for Ontario's families, Patrick Brown is desperately trying to justify his opposition to our plan to reduce electricity rates.

Patrick Brown and the PCs have instead decided to share an outdated document with data that is months old, as they try to distract from the fact that they have offered no credible ideas for hydro rate relief. We have been working on this plan for months, and as we worked on it the document and calculations evolved, meaning that numbers shared by the PCs today are completely inaccurate.

As we've said, the Long-Term Energy Plan will provide an update how the Fair Hydro Plan will reduce rates and smooth the cost over the 20 year life of the energy asset.

We have also said from the very start that our proposed Fair Hydro Plan would be like refinancing a mortgage. Our plan would deliver a 25 per cent on average reduction on electricity bills for all residential customers and as many as half a million small businesses and farms across the province starting this summer. We're accomplishing part of what will be the largest rate cut in Ontario history by spreading costs across the life of our electricity infrastructure assets. Current ratepayers would pay less now, and future ratepayers would in turn, help to pay for their fair share of the significant investments we've made to build a clean and reliable electricity system, free of burning dirty coal. The Fair Hydro Act would more fairly share the cost of these investments across the generations of electricity ratepayers who will benefit from them.

In developing the policy for the Fair Hydro Act, we have explored countless projections, and consulted many legal, accounting, and financial experts, and looked to other jurisdictions around North America that have the same plan. We are very confident in the work done to craft this legislation.

Further, we continue to take costs out of our electricity system and save ratepayers money. Initiatives such as market renewal and capacity auctions are projected to take billions out of the electricity system, and build on previous initiatives such as renegotiating the Samsung agreement, deferring new nuclear builds, and the suspension of LRPII, all of which realized significant savings.