

# Re: CBC: Here and Now FW: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Ministry of Energy-B ON)

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**From:** "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <"o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdl)/cn=recipients/cn=mackenzie, rebecca (opo)7a8">  
**To:** David Herle <herle@gandalfgroup.ca>  
**Date:** Thu, 02 Mar 2017 21:43:46 -0500

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Yup. To me, weakest performance of the day. Lost the story telling thread

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

Original Message

From: David Herle

Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 9:21 PM

To: MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)

Subject: Re: CBC: Here and Now FW: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Ministry of Energy-B ON)

That could have been better

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 2, 2017, at 8:33 PM, MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO) <Rebecca.MacKenzie@ontario.ca> wrote:

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> Just got this. Reading now

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> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

> From: Berry, James (ENERGY) <James.Berry5@ontario.ca>

> Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 8:27 PM

> To: MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)

> Cc: Beaudry, Jennifer (OPO)

> Subject: CBC: Here and Now FW: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Ministry of Energy-B ON)

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> Here's the transcript from this afternoon's CBC Here and Now.

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> From: Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)

> Sent: March-02-17 8:19 PM

> To: Berry, James (ENERGY)

> Subject: Fw: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Ministry of Energy-B ON)

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> Sent from my BlackBerry 10.

> From: orders@jamedia.com<mailto:orders@jamedia.com>

> Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 8:18 PM

> To: Campbell, David (ENERGY); Malcolm, Pauline (ENERGY); Moulton, Dan (ENERGY); Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); enecips@densan.ca<mailto:enecips@densan.ca>; enecips2@densan.ca<mailto:enecips2@densan.ca>; Renwick, Meredith (ENERGY); Doig Moore, Jacqueline (ENERGY); Nutter, George (ENERGY); Hendy, Adam (ENERGY); Halford, Gavin (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)

> Subject: Transcripts Delivery from J&A Media (Ministry of Energy-B ON)

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> [J & A Media Services]

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> Transcript Delivery from J&A Media Services

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> To order audio/video clips, please email [orders@jamedia.com](mailto:orders@jamedia.com)<<mailto:orders@jamedia.com>>  
> or call: 416-645-6902<  
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> Program:  
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> Here and Now  
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> HEADLINE:  
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> Interview with Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault  
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> CBC (Gill Deacon, host):  
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> Pay less now, but more later. That is roughly Premier Kathleen Wynne's plan for high electricity bills. It's going to see electricity bills drop by an average of 17% and that is on top of the 8% rebate that came into effect back in January. We've been hearing talk back and email from you listeners to Here and Now all this afternoon and wanted to play one call we got regarding that.  
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> SEAN (caller):  
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> Hi, my name is Sean. And I just want to say that I want to thank Wynne for this parting gift as she exits Queen's Park. It's been a sham. I can't tell you how every windmill that goes up, my hydro bill goes up right alongside it. I don't get it. Twenty years ago, house of five, \$35 a month. Kids are gone, two of us and it's more than double now. Makes no sense. Thank you.  
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> CBC:  
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> Thank you for the calls. These calls have been continuing. This is a hot topic for a lot of people in this province. So this news was, I think, welcome for some people today. But it is going to mean billions in extra interests that are going to be passed on to future hydro customers. So it's not all going over well. Glenn Thibeault is the Liberal energy minister. Minister Thibeault, I guess you've been hearing... The angry caller that we just played there, you've been hearing comments like that for many months I imagine.  
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> GLENN THIBEAULT (Energy Minister):  
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> Yeah, you know, people are associating a lot of the costs to the cost that we had to, you know,

implemented to rebuild our system. And I know we go back a lot of time, but it does take a long time to rebuild an entire electricity grid. But you go back to 2003 and we had rolling brownouts and blackouts because governments of all stripes back then -- and this has been happening for decades -- never invested in our system. And so it came to a head. And we actually, our government, had to do something. And so we invested in renewable energy. We made the conscious choice of not investing in coal, but investing in green and renewable energy to make our system reliable. And that did come with a cost. And we recognize that.

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> CBC:

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> [talking over] My understanding is that the Green Energy Act and the green contracts associated with it are about 6% though of the cost and overall it's more about refurbishing nuclear infrastructure.

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> THIBEAULT:

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> So a lot of our costs come from generating, you know, our capacities. So, yes, nuclear is in there. The renewable piece is in there. Solar is in there. Biomass. But I was relating to that one individual that you did play before we started the conversation where he was saying every time we see a windmill go up, the rates go up. And that's not accurate, right?

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> CBC:

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> OK.

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> THIBEAULT:

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> We've made sure that, you know, we haven't had a smog day in Ontario since 2014. That's something I know everyone in Toronto should, you know, should be very happy with. But that came with a cost. And so we tried some other measures. They were very targeted in scope. They didn't provide as much relief as we were hoping or thought would happen. So today's relief is actually bringing forward, you know, significant reductions for all families, small businesses and farms in the province.

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> CBC:

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> Can you just explain in a simple way as possible how this 17% cut to all residential hydro bills, how's the province going to pay for this?

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> THIBEAULT:

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> So the 17% is coming from two things. Very quickly, we are moving social programs that are currently on the rate base to the tax base. So things like Triple-R P that everybody that is an electricity ratepayer pays for is helping folks that are in rural or remote parts. That should be on the tax base. That's a government social program. Same thing with the Ontario Electricity Support Program and the Affordability Fund which is new. We're putting that on the tax base. The big thing that we're talking about is the global adjustment and the smoothing as we call it. I know the premier used the language of, you know, "extending our mortgage," which is what we're doing on our asset. So if we're looking at that, how we, we front-end loaded all of our generation. So building those windmills and those solar mill--you know, solar farms and all of our generation, that we front-end loaded. We said we're going to pay this off in 20 years.

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> CBC:

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> Right, but in the extension of that amortization to continue with the mortgage analogy, you know, the premier said this is going to cost a bit more for Ontarians over time, but how much more will this longer amortization of costs add to bills down the road?

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> THIBEAULT:

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> So we're looking at \$25 billion over 30 years, but that is now being, you know, shared among all people who will be utilizing these assets. So the people who will be living in the house, which is us, but the way we had set it up with the 20-year contract, with that 20-year mortgage, we were all having to pay for this now, even though these assets, like our hydroelectric dams, for examples, they're going to last a lot longer than 20 years.

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> CBC:

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> [talking over]: So is it accurate--

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> THIBEAULT:

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> So let's amortize over the life, let's amortize that over the life of these generating stations and the transmission.

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> CBC:

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> Do I understand when you say that the people who claim, a lot of people from the opposition today saying, oh now my children are going to be paying for this government's choices. You know, are you passing on to the backs of children today?

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> THIBEAULT:

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> No because what we've done is we've built a system that our children can actually breathe clean air and there's lots of benefits to it. But our children when they're adults will actually be utilizing the generating stations that we've built today because they're still going to be operating when they're actually, you know, having their first home or living in their apartment or wherever it is. The generating capacity that we've now, you know, put out over the 30 years, we're actually all paying for its use.

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> CBC:

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> So how's this decision going to affect the taxes in the spring budget?

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> THIBEAULT:

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> So, you know, it's, in terms of our fiscal plan, you know, we're in a great place right now to ensure that, you know, this fits within our fiscal plan. We're still going to balance our budget and we're also making sure that we're bringing forward relief on these, you know, moving those social programs that I mentioned earlier from the rate base to the tax base. And that's part of how we get down to, you know, the 25% on average because when you pull that off the rate base, the regulatory rate line on your bill will actually come down significantly because of we're moving these programs from the rate base. They should be shouldered, you know, by everyone because these are government decisions to help people who are more vulnerable.

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> CBC:

> Your party as you well know facing an election in a little more than a year, what do you make of a lot of reaction today to, from, people saying, look this is a political move but it's too little too late. It's a desperate plan to buy back our votes with our own money.

> THIBEAULT:

> You know it's never too late to do the right thing. And I think the premier has, you know, identified that. You know we've been working hard on trying to reduce rates for Ontarians for, even before I became minister of energy eight months ago. You know we started with, you know, renegotiating the Samsung agreement. So through the, you know, the Green Energy Act, that saved \$3.5 billion. You know we suspended the large renewable procurement, the second round of that, which, again, saved billions of dollars and save ratepayers, you know, dollars on their bill. We brought in the 8% rebate and, you know, that started as of January 1st. So we've been bringing forward measures that we were hoping were going to help people with their bills, but we recognize that they were very targeted in source and not always necessarily bringing the relief that they needed.

> CBC:

> [talking over]: And if I can use a word that the premier herself used many times today in her announcement, there's a lot of mistakes that have been made. Would you agree? That's there's been a lot of error around hydro rates?

> THIBEAULT:

> From every government of, you know, colour and stripe, from conservatives to the New Democrats, two Liberal governments. You know the electricity grid, the electricity sector, was something that was kicked to the curb as the premier said for fifty years. And it came to that boiling point in 2003 where we constantly had rolling brownouts and that major blackout. And our system needed to be rebuilt. And as you rebuild that system--

> CBC:

> But would you agree that mistakes were made in the process of trying to solve that problem?

> THIBEAULT:

> One of the things that I've even talked about last week was, you know, the hindsight being 20/20. On some of those renewable contracts that we started in 2009, you know, I said it wasn't the what that was the problem. You know bringing forward renewable contracts and renewable power was the right thing to do. it was how we did it.

> CBC:

> [talking over] I'm going to have to--

> THIBEAULT:  
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> It was sole source contracts and a few other things. And I know we got to go--  
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> CBC:  
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> We do.  
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> THIBEAULT:  
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> --but you what, we've found ways to actually bring forward a fair hydro plan--  
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> CBC:  
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> [talking over] Alright.  
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> THIBEAULT:  
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> --that is giving us right now the biggest rate reduction in Ontario's history.  
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> CBC:  
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> Thank you, Minister. Great to speak with you.  
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> THIBEAULT:  
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> Nice talking to you.  
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> CBC:  
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> Glenn Thibeault is Liberal energy minister. I did speak earlier in the program with Progressive Conservative leader Patrick Brown about this. You can find that conversation up on Twitter @cbchereandnow. Tune in tomorrow morning. Premier Kathleen Wynne will be on Metro Morning with Matt Galloway at 7:10 as this conversation continues.  
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