

as discussed

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I believe it is unacceptable that some Ontarians have to choose between their rent, their grocery bill and their hydro bill. People shouldn't have to make the tough choices like those we heard about today in Peterborough. And before the holidays I took responsibility for this problem and I publicly committed to finding more solutions.

10 years ago Ontario's electricity system was a mess. We had a broken system and regularly faced blackouts and smog days. Today, the system is clean and it's reliable because of the work we have all done to rebuild it. In a little over a decade, over \$50 billion has been invested to upgrade Ontario's transmission and generation infrastructure. But the cost of the changes has burdened people in every corner of Ontario.

We've already taken some action to help them, including removing the Debt Retirement charge from bills, permanently rebating the provincial portion of the HST to reduce bills by 8%, cutting delivery charges for the most rural customers even further for a total savings of 20%, putting off new generating projects and offering financial support through initiatives like the Ontario Electricity Support Program.

However I know it's not enough.

While we're meeting with experts – like the Ontario Energy Board and local utilities – I am also reaching out to people who have written to me to express concern, frustration and anger. I want to hear from them directly.

People are hurting and I have promised we're going to do whatever we can to help them.

Rebecca MacKenzie

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