

Announcement & Avail: Energy

Purpose

Premier, on Friday, September 16, you will be appearing at an announcement and media availability event in Ottawa. This is an opportunity to focus on residential electricity savings as mentioned in the Throne speech.

The event will highlight the recently proposed rate mitigation measures for residential consumers, with the desired objective of raising awareness of the increased assistance to electricity ratepayers that these measures would provide if passed.

Relevant Policy Issues

- About five million residential consumers, farms and small businesses across Ontario would benefit from the legislation and additional measures, as they would provide a permanent on-bill rebate for 8 per cent, equal to the provincial portion of the HST.
- Rural customers who receive RRRP and consume 750 kWh per month will see an annual benefit of approximately \$130 or a monthly benefit of approximately \$11, before tax.
- Rural consumers would receive an additional benefit from decreasing rural delivery charges.
- A rural customer who consumes 1,000 kWh per month, receives RRRP and is eligible for the increased RRRP support, see an annual benefit of approximately \$540 or a monthly benefit of approximately \$45, before tax, from the proposed rate mitigation measures.

Background

Provincial Tax Rebate

- Ontario is introducing legislation which would rebate an amount equivalent to the provincial portion of taxes from the electricity bills for residential consumers, small businesses and farms eligible for the Regulated Rate Plan (RPP) starting January 1, 2017. This rebate is intended to offset the provincial share of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).
- The RPP is a blended electricity rate set by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for the province's five million residential consumers, small businesses and farms.
- The list below gives details of which electricity consumers would be eligible to receive the benefit:
 - Residential Regulated Price Plan eligible consumers
 - Residential retail consumers

- Multi-unit residential buildings and other facilities used as residential rental units such as long-term care homes and school residences
- Residential Regulated Price Plan eligible farms
- Many small businesses, for example, most coffee and snack retailers, convenience stores, apparel stores, hair salons and small offices.

Updating the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection Program (RRRP)

- While many Ontario electricity consumers are unaware, for the last 15 years the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP) program has reduced electricity delivery costs for eligible customers located in rural and remote areas. The cost of providing electricity service for customers in these low density regions is higher than to customers in more urban or higher-density communities.
- For most recipients, RRRP funding has been frozen at its current level since the early 2000s. As a result, the impact of its assistance has reduced over time as electricity costs have increased to rebuild Ontario's electricity system and close coal-fired power plants.
- Through regulation the government intends to introduce further funding for the program which would result in a reduced bill of approximately \$45 per month for affected customers when combined with the proposed 8% rebate.
- The RRRP is paid to electricity distributors serving rural or remote customers to allow them to reduce the amount they would otherwise have to charge their customers to deliver electricity to them. For an average residential customer, the cost of supporting RRRP is roughly \$1 per month. As a result of the proposed expansion, it is estimated that this cost will rise for the average residential customer by roughly \$0.60 per month.

R2 Customers

- The RRRP is provided to a number of rural residential customers and some of those residential customers are classified as R2 customers. These are customers with low density and are not in urban or medium density areas in the Province. R2 customers face some of the highest electricity costs in the province. There are approximately 330,000 R2 customers in Ontario.

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Biographies

Bryce Conrad, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro Ottawa



Bryce Conrad has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydro Ottawa since 2011. Under his leadership, Hydro Ottawa has become one of the most profitable, innovative and customer-oriented utilities in Canada, regularly winning awards and accolades for customer service and innovation. In addition, Hydro Ottawa has tripled its renewable generation, making it the largest municipally owned generator of clean, green energy in Ontario.

Prior to joining Hydro Ottawa, Bryce served as Assistant Deputy Minister - Program Operations at Infrastructure Canada, where he managed the implementation of the \$4 billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, overseeing the selection and management of 4,000 projects that created more than \$10 billion in economic activity. He was also responsible for the oversight and administration of the Building Canada Fund, the Green Infrastructure Fund and the Gas Tax agreements with provinces and municipalities.

Bryce is fluently bilingual, and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Queen's University, a Master of Public Administration from Carleton University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Ottawa.

Roger Marsh, Chief Energy Services Officer, Hydro Ottawa



With more than 35 years of private and public sector experience in the electrical industry, Roger Marsh is a proficient and people-focused leader. He has held senior positions related to power systems, customer service, metering, project management and energy management.

As Chief Energy Services Officer, Roger oversees the delivery of a full range of expert energy related services to the commercial sector. He also serves on the Board of the Ottawa Centre Eco-District and as a member of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee.

Roger is a Certified Power System Technologist (C.E.T.), is fluently bilingual and holds a General Management diploma from the Sprott School of Business.

Mark Fernandes, Chief Information and Technology Officer, Hydro Ottawa



As Chief Information and Technology Officer, Mark Fernandes provides vision and leadership for the development and implementation of technology initiatives that support the advancement of Hydro Ottawa's business strategy and priorities. In his role, Mark oversees Technology Planning and Governance, Cyber Security, Enterprise Architecture, System Development and Integration and IT/OT Operations.

Prior to joining Hydro Ottawa, Mark worked in the business and consumer software industry for over 16 years managing IT Strategy, Operations, e-Commerce, Web Development, Cloud Infrastructure models, and mergers and acquisitions.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts with majors in Commerce and Sociology from the University of Bombay. He has also completed his post-graduate studies in Information Technology from the Information Technology Institute Ottawa and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Lyne Parent-Garvey, Chief Human Resources Officer, Hydro Ottawa



As Chief Human Resources Officer, Lyne is responsible for leading the development of strategic human resources programs and initiatives which include human resources services, labour relations, occupational health and safety, environment and business continuity management.

A seasoned human resources professional, Lyne has 25 years of experience in human resources, health and safety, and labour relations, where she has held various management positions in the municipal, health care and not-for-profit sectors.

Lyne is fluently bilingual and holds a Master of Industrial Relations from Queens University, as well as a Bachelor of Public Administration from Carleton University. Lyne has been trained in human resources governance practices through the Conference Board of Canada and McMaster University and holds certifications in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Leadership Development.

Lyne is a member of the Canadian Electricity Association's Human Resources Committee and a member of the Human Resources Professionals Association.

Norm Fraser, Chief Customer Officer, Hydro Ottawa



As interim Chief Customer Officer, Norm Fraser is responsible for developing and implementing the customer strategy, transforming the total customer experience, and guiding the direction of the business in terms of customer needs.

The Chief Customer Officer leads the customer service, marketing, product development, communications, public affairs, corporate reputation and brand equity functions.

Norm has more than 36 years of experience in the electricity industry in the areas of power system planning, design and operations. Before joining Hydro Ottawa in 2000, he held senior positions at Hydro One and its predecessor, Ontario Hydro.

Norm holds an Honours bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Manitoba and is a member of the Professional Engineers of Ontario.