

Re: Both Gillian and I expect you to return with treats....

From: "Donelson, Philip (OPO)" <philip.donelson@ontario.ca>
To: "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>
Cc: "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>
Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2017 16:31:40 -0400

Chocolates that were included in "Oscars Celebrity Gift Bags" to boot!

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Phil Donelson
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From: Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 4:04 PM
To: Donelson, Philip (OPO)
Cc: McEachern, Gillian (OPO)
Subject: Both Gillian and I expect you to return with treats....

Simcoe.com Premier Wynne visits Barrie to promote Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan
By: Sara Carson

<http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7189616-premier-wynne-visits-barrie-to-promote-ontario-s-fair-hydro-plan/>

The delicious aroma of chocolate greets those who enter J'adore Fine Cheese and Chocolate in Barrie's downtown. But the hydro bill that arrives each month isn't so sweet.

"We're like a \$600, \$700, \$800 bill a month," said co-owner Bekki Martin.

It's their second highest monthly bill after rent, and Martin said as summer heat approaches, the price will only go up.

"We haven't been here when it's hot yet, so I know that (hydro bill is) just going to double, if not triple," she said.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and Barrie MPP Ann Hoggarth popped into J'adore Fine Cheese and Chocolate March 14 to promote Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, which will lower electricity rates for households and small businesses by an average of 25 per cent beginning this summer. This includes the eight per cent rebate from the provincial portion of the HST on hydro bills, which began in January.

Martin said the rebate is fantastic, but she's unsure how she feels about her children paying the consequences. In order to cut hydro costs today, the Liberals spread the cost of electricity investments over 30 years. This will cost Ontarians \$25 billion in interest payments.

"Being a young mother, I know that (my kids are) going to be paying that coming up, but I don't know what the other solution is. That's why I'm a cheese and chocolate shop and I'm not a politician," Martin said.

She added: "It is something that (Wynne's) trying to do, so I give her props for that. I don't know what the other solution would be."

Electricity costs have gone up quickly because of the province's \$50 billion in investments in the electricity system in the last decade, Wynne said. She added: these investments were made to create a clean, reliable electricity grid.

Ontario has shutdown coal-fired plants, rebuilt thousands of kilometres of transmission line and jump-started a renewable industry, she added.

“What we determined was that we need to spread those costs over a longer period of time,” Wynne said.

In addition, Wynne said the province will reduce distribution charges for those in rural and remote areas, who pay a disproportionately high rate. This includes InnPower in Innisfil.

“We’re going to tackle that as well and reduce those distribution charges because that can often be 50 per cent, or more of a bill,” Wynne said.

And the province will expand a program to support low-income consumers, she added.

Ontario’s Fair Hydro Plan has been criticized as a short-term fix.

Wynne said she is “quite comfortable” telling her grandkids (aged seven, five, and three) they will have to pay a higher rate for electricity in the future in order to help their parents today.

“I’m quite comfortable saying that to them because otherwise their parents are not able to care for them in the way that they want to (today),” she said.

Wynne said she hopes the 25 per cent reduction gives businesses, like J’adore Fine Cheese and Chocolate, a bit more flexibility to grow.

“We want to make sure that the conditions are in place for you to succeed, for you to thrive,” she said.

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Andrew Teliszewsky

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