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Reducing the Cost of Living

Electricity Price Relief for Families

The government has been taking actions to reduce electricity costs for residential consumers. As of January 1, 2016, the removal of the debt retirement charge has been saving typical residential users about \$70 each year, alongside the Ontario Electricity Support Program, which is [currently] helping about 150,000 individuals and families, providing a credit of up to \$50 per month directly on the bills of eligible low-income electricity consumers, and up to \$75 for those with unique electricity requirements, such as:

- Low-income consumers whose homes are electrically heated,
- Those who rely on certain medical devices, and
- Eligible First Nation and Métis households.

In addition, as of January 1, 2017, five million residential, small business and farm electricity users are also receiving a credit on their electricity bills of an amount equal to the eight per cent provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax, with savings estimated at about \$11 per month for a typical Ontario residential consumer.

The existing Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP) program has also been significantly enhanced for Ontario's eligible rural customers, which, combined with the eight per cent provincial rebate, will result in electricity relief for eligible RRRP customers of approximately \$45 per month or \$540 per year.

[Enhanced Price Mitigation Option Placeholder -- TBD]Reducing Electricity Costs for Businesses

The Province continues to provide new measures to lower the electricity costs for businesses and maintain a competitive business environment, including ... [Placeholder for upcoming announcement].

These are in addition to the Province's existing actions to reduce electricity costs for businesses, such as

- Providing a rebate on electricity costs equal to the provincial portion of the HST from the electricity bills of eligible small business, farms and residential users;
 - Expanding the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) program to allow more than 1,000 additional businesses to reduce their bills by up to 34 per cent;
 - Continuing to implement the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate program; and
- Ending the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) for commercial, industrial and all other electricity users as of April 1, 2018.