

RE: Electricity Price Mitigation - status update

From: "Patel, Lesley (MOF)" <lesley.patel@ontario.ca>
To: "Ingram, Kelsey (MOF)" <kelsey.ingram@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Ize-Dukuze, Marilyn (MOF)" <marilyn.ize-dukuze@ontario.ca>, "Moore, Brynne (MOF)" <brynne.moore@ontario.ca>, "Nguyen, Marianne (MOF)" <marianne.nguyen@ontario.ca>, "Kearney, Heather (MOF)" <heather.kearney@ontario.ca>, "Morier, Rebecca (MOF)" <rebecca.morier@ontario.ca>
Date: Wed, 14 Sep 2016 13:00:44 -0400
Attachments: Additional QAs - Price Mitigation_v5.docx (19.76 kB)

Hi Kelsey,

Attached are the additional QAs as requested — we've shared them with MOE but have not heard back. I will continue to follow up with them.

MOE did share some messaging based on inquiries I made yesterday. They are as follows:

- 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.
- Given current pressure on ratepayers, the government has decided to rebate the provincial portion of the HST. There is no planned end to the proposed program.
- There is no monthly consumption cap associated with the proposed rebate, to address the need to provide certainty for consumers. Some electricity consumers with electric heat, including many in northern Ontario, have substantial consumption requirements in the winter months. Some of these consumers live in communities that do not have access to other heating fuels.
- As well, the proposed legislation would allow approximately 400,000 of Ontario's small businesses to receive the rebate on all of their electricity consumption, permitting these businesses to remain competitive while creating the conditions for long-term economic growth.

From: Ingram, Kelsey (MOF)
Sent: September-13-16 12:39 PM
To: Patel, Lesley (MOF)
Cc: Ize-Dukuze, Marilyn (MOF); Moore, Brynne (MOF); Nguyen, Marianne (MOF)
Subject: Electricity Price Mitigation

Hi Lesley,

Could we add the following Q to the QA:

1. How long will this electricity price mitigation exist?
2. How does this differ from the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit (beyond the 10% vs. 8%)?
3. Why would we not just go with a straight HST rebate?
4. Why would you not cap it so the benefits are directed towards those who really need it?

5. Aren't you just making the taxpayer subsidize the ratepayer? And won't that be even more expensive once interest rates are taken into account?

The Minister was pushed hard on these q's today and I think he will continued to be pressed in the coming days. If we could see some bullet/KM responses by 9:30am tomorrow (so we can brief him for QP), it would be helpful.

Thanks!

Cheers,

Jelsey

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.