

Extra support for low-income residents

The bulk of the hikes in electricity costs since the Liberals came to power in 2003 are due to long-term contracts that pay private power producers guaranteed prices for their electricity. Some \$50 billion is being spent on the building of new power plants and refurbishing old ones, including nuclear, hydro, natural gas, wind and solar plants.

- **Why hydro bills are so high in Ontario**

"The way we financed those investments was a mistake," Wynne said during her news conference. "We asked one generation, today's generation, to unfairly shoulder the burden of nearly all of those costs."

Other changes were announced Thursday.

For instance, low-income households will also see a 50 per cent increase in a rebate program designed to make their hydro costs more affordable. The government will expand that program to give an extra rebate to low-income households who heat with electricity.

The changes mean the credits will save low-income households about \$35 to \$60 a month. The low-income support program will cost taxpayers \$2.5 billion over the next three years.