

Returning Hydro One Dividend Payments to Families

The Ministry has various tools and options for returning or rebating the dividend payment. There are four main options:

- **Increase the 8% Provincial Rebate:** The *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016* could be amended to increase the 8% provincial rebate by an amount that approximates the level of the dividend. This is the simplest and quickest implementation option as the program is already operational.
- **Introduce New On-Bill Credit:** The Ministry could design a new program using new legislation to provide an on-bill credit with a program budget equal to the dividend level. This option would allow for a stronger link between program costs and the dividend level.
- **Introduce New Tax Rebate:** The Ministry of Finance/Treasury Board Secretariat could develop a new direct tax rebate that is delivered directly to homes and businesses. This option would allow for the government to control the timing and communication of the rebate, though would not result in lowering electricity bills.
- **Empower Ontario Energy Board to Set the Rebate:** The *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* could be amended to empower the Ontario Energy Board to include the rebate when setting Hydro One's transmission and distribution rates. This option would allow for the rebate to be returned to customers in proportion to the amount they pay in Hydro One costs.

Within these options, there are eligibility and implementation considerations that will determine final ratepayer benefits.