

Enhancing Electricity Support Programs

Ontario's fair hydro plan will lower electricity bills by X per cent on average for all residential consumers in the province. Small businesses and farms will also benefit from the initiative, with additional relief for people living in rural areas or on a low income.

To help Ontario's most vulnerable electricity consumers, pending legislation, the following electricity support programs will be enhanced:

Broadening Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection (RRRP)

- The RRRP is provided to a number of rural residential customers in Ontario.
- The Province will expand the RRRP to provide delivery charge relief to additional hydro customers with some of the highest rates. About 800,000 customers will benefit from the enhanced RRRP program.
- The Province will also move to fund RRRP costs through the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers. This is projected to cost approximately \$500M in the coming fiscal year.

Commented [BB(1): Be more specific. How many currently?

Expand the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP)

- The [OESP](#) is an income-tested, application based program that lowers electricity costs for the most vulnerable consumers, providing a rebate directly on bills. There are two scales: one with basic credits, and an enhanced credit for Indigenous people or those who use electric heat or certain electrically intensive medical devices.
- Ontario is increasing the OESP by 50 per cent, meaning that single, low-income consumers who receive the lowest credit amount would get an increase from \$30 to \$45 per month (\$540 per year, an increase of \$180), and the lowest credit for the enhanced scale would increase from \$45 to \$68 (\$816 per year, an increase of \$276).
 - Ontario is also moving to enable automatic enrolment in the OESP, subject to approval by the federal government, to ensure people get the rebate they are eligible for without having to apply.
- The Province is also moving forward in having the OESP funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers. This is projected to cost approximately \$185M in the coming fiscal year.

Establish a Local Distribution Company (LDC) Affordability Fund

- The "Affordability Fund" would be established to assist electricity customers who cannot qualify for low-income conservation programs.
- The "Affordability Fund" would provide LDCs with an additional tool to help customers in need. LDCs would use the Fund to provide support to customers for energy efficiency improvements to help reduce their future electricity bills and avoid future disconnections.
- The Province will pay for the LDC Affordability Fund through the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers. This is project to cost approximately \$200M in the coming fiscal year.

First Nations On-Reserve Rate

- In 2016, [The Ontario Energy Board \(OEB\)](#) engaged with First Nations, including remote communities, the distributors serving them, and consumer groups such as the Low Income Energy Network.
- Following the engagement process the OEB recommends:
 - Eliminating the delivery charge for all on-reserve First Nations residential customers and removing the monthly service charge for customers of licensed distributors which charge a bundled rate. The OEB estimates this would provide residential customers an average monthly benefit of \$85.
 - Automatically qualify on-reserve First Nations residential customers (~21,500 customers).
 - Enable greater information sharing between distributors and band councils to identify all on-reserve First Nations customers.
- Government intends to introduce legislation to implement this recommendation.
- The Province is also moving forward in having the First Nations On-Reserve Rate funded by the tax base, reducing regulatory charges for all Ontario ratepayers. This is projected to cost approximately \$20M in the coming fiscal year

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