

Minister Thibeault Remarks | Alectra's Regulated Price Plan (RPP) Pilot Launch
**Residence of Alectra customer Barbara & Alex Armstrong | 25 Napier St.,
Barrie**

- Good morning.
- It's terrific to be here in Barrie with my Caucus colleague Ann Hoggarth [*MPP for Barrie*].
- I'm looking forward to getting back to work with her at the Ontario Legislature in a couple of weeks.
- Ann is an incredibly passionate and effective champion at Queen's Park for her constituents
- And speaking of constituents, we're all extremely grateful to have Barbara [*Armstrong, home owner, Alectra pilot project participant*] hosting us this morning
- I want to share my sincerest thanks to Barbara and her husband Alex for sharing their front lawn with us.

- As Minister of Energy, I've had the opportunity to travel all across this province to meet with people and listen to Ontarians on how to make our province a better place to live and grow in.
- I've also heard the concerns people have around their electricity bills.
- That's exactly why Premier Kathleen Wynne and our government committed to taking action.
- On January 1st, our government reduced residential electricity bills by 8 per cent across the board – the equivalent to the provincial portion of the HST.
- We then took significant action this Spring through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan...
- Tripling the size of the cut we delivered to people's hydro bills from 8 per cent to an average of 25 per cent.

- We're also holding any rate increases to the rate of inflation for four years
- Our Fair Hydro Plan is the largest cut to electricity rates in the province's history.
- Reducing electricity costs has provided immediate relief for all residential electricity consumers across the province and as many as half a million small businesses and farms.
- Families across Barrie saw the full Fair Hydro Plan savings on their electricity bills this month.
- And now our government, with the leadership of the Ontario Energy Board and Brian [*Bentz, President & CEO*] and his dedicated team at Alectra, are turning to the need to give consumers greater flexibility and choice in their electricity price plans.

- Because empowering today's electricity consumers is another way of evolving our electricity sector for the road ahead.
- I'm of the opinion – and I know many with us this morning agree – that Ontarians should be able to purchase electricity based on the pricing plans that best suit their lifestyles.
- A retired couple living in Barrie, should be offered a different pricing plan than the young professional condo-dweller in downtown Toronto.
- In order to better understand the landscape as it relates to providing greater flexibility and choice, the Ontario Energy Board is undertaking a comprehensive revamping of the Regulated Price Plan, or RPP.
- The OEB is launching pilot projects, such as Alectra's, to test innovative time-of-use price plans as part of its review of the RPP.
- Ontario offers time-of-use electricity prices to most of its residential and small business electricity customers.

- Time-of-use pricing has enabled customers to better manage their costs by reducing or shifting their consumption to off-peak times when electricity is less expensive to produce.
- Time-of-use pricing also ensures that the price consumers pay for electricity better reflects the cost of producing it at peak and off-peak times.
- Alectra's pilot project aligns with our commitment to deliver fairness and more **choice** to electricity consumers in Ontario.
- Not only will this project test multiple price plans and assess their impact on consumer behaviours, energy use and costs...
- It will help guide future OEB decisions on potential new price plans that better match a customer's lifestyle and give them more control over their electricity costs.
- As we move forward with modernizing Ontario's electricity system...

- Local distribution companies – like Alectra – will be taking the opportunity to engage with customers and gain a better understanding of their needs and preferences.
- And by promoting innovation in Ontario's electricity system by offering new pricing plan options, we're taking the next step in providing greater choice for all Ontarians.
- Thank you.
- I'd now like to introduce Brian [*Bentz, President & CEO, Alectra*] to say a few words