

DRAFT – letter to the editor

Every government is faced with a set of unique challenges that they must confront. In our case, we inherited an energy system that required significant upgrades just to meet the existing demand of families and businesses in [insert community] and for communities across the province.

For too long, governments of all parties have made mistakes in the way Ontario's electricity system has been structured. A chronic lack of investment by the Harris Conservatives in the 1990s led to brown and black outs or our government's initial incentives that were put into place to encourage green energy production have come at a cost to all Ontarians. These costs have landed in increases to all of our hydro bills.

The good news is that our government has created an electricity system that is clean and reliable. Since 2003, we have invested \$50 billion dollars in electricity infrastructure. These investments have been made across the province in various types of electricity generation, such as wind and solar power, the refurbishing of our nuclear power facilities and in transmission and delivery infrastructure. These infrastructure projects created and are sustaining thousands of jobs, ensuring our businesses and economy continue to grow, and keep the lights are on and your appliances running when you and your family need them.

To help fix the issue of increasing hydro bills, our government is taking a number of significant steps through our Fair Hydro Plan. Starting this summer, residential consumers as well as small businesses [and farms, depending on community] in [insert community] will receive about a 25 per cent cut to their hydro bill. People with low-incomes and those living in rural communities will also benefit from even greater reductions to their hydro bills through the creation of the Affordability Fund and broadening eligibility requirements for the Ontario Electricity Support Program. We are also expanding the Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection to provide additional relief to approximately 800,000 Ontarians. It's important to know that any rate increases over the next four years will be held to the rate of inflation.

These meaningful measures build on our government's previously announced initiatives to deliver relief on your hydro bill, including the eight per cent rebate on all electricity bills that was implemented January 1, 2017.

The benefits of our Fair Hydro Plan will have a significant impact on your monthly bill and will ensure energy is affordable for our neighbours across [insert community]. For more information, check out FairHydroPlan.ca.