

Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan

- Electricity is an essential part of our daily life.
- For the past few months Premier made a point of connecting with people who have written to her about this issue.
- People wanted to know three things:
 - First, that relief will be **substantial**
 - Second, that the measures will go to **everyone**
 - And third, that the relief will be **lasting** because it is built on a real change – that bills won't jump back up in a couple months or a couple years.
- That's why we're delivering on all three with the **Ontario Fair Hydro Plan** – starting with bringing down what people pay on their bills and making it **fairer**.
- Last September, we committed to reduce electricity bills with an 8% HST rebate across the board, but it hasn't been enough.
- That's why we are taking **further action** to create a more **fair**, affordable electricity system:
 - Tripling the size of the cut we're making to people's hydro bills from 8% to an **average** of 25% for households, **farms and small businesses**.
 - Smooth the cost of the **global adjustment** over a longer period of time to reflect the true life of the energy asset.
 - Ontarians with the highest **distribution rates** will have their costs harmonized at the lowest level among eligible LDCs, these customers will see upwards of 40% in reductions
 - Create a **\$200M Affordability Fund** to help Ontarians who are not eligible for the Ontario Electricity Support Program
 - Further expanding **Industrial Conservation Initiative** for large consumers and businesses
 - After we bring bills down by 25% we will hold them there with rates rising only with inflation – or roughly 2% - for at least four years
- Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan is the largest cut to electricity rates in the **history of Ontario**.

Opposition Approach = PC

- Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan provides immediate, substantial, wide-spread & long-lasting relief, the PC's are struggling to agree with one another on their own one-off schemes.
- On their biggest idea – ripping up energy contracts – let's be clear: **This will lead to increased rates, lawsuits, and penalties.**
- Even the Leader of the Opposition's own Energy Critic knows this:
- The PC Energy Critic said that renegotiating contracts would "come at a huge cost to taxpayers and we're going to see electricity prices continue to rise." (***CFRA 580's Rob Snow in Ottawa, March 1, 2017***)
- Not to mention that the Leader of the Opposition's other idea, halting the broadening of ownership of Hydro One, **won't take 1 cent off electricity bills.**
- The Toronto Star editorial summed up the PC approach perfectly:
- "As for the PCs and Brown, their response to the real hardship many Ontarians have suffered from their bills is **just sad**. Brown has repeated the lie that Ontario's hydro rates are the highest in North America, they're not and he knows it." (***March 1, 2017, Toronto Star Editorial***)
- While the PCs are focussed on criticizing everyone else they fail to provide a serious or meaningful response; we're focussed on providing the largest cut to electricity rates in the **history of Ontario.**

Opposition Approach = NDP

- Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan provides immediate, substantial, wide-spread & long-lasting relief; the NDP's proposal is riddled with gaps and ambiguity.
- Many of their proposals rely on vague and yet-to-be-determined "expert panel" convened in the future, and negotiations with the federal government.
- Their most expensive idea – buying back more than \$4-billion in shares of Hydro One – let me be clear: **This will not take 1 cent off electricity bills.**
- The Toronto Star editorial confirmed "...there's no evidence that keeping it public would make this particular problem any better." (***March 1, 2017, Toronto Star Editorial***)
- Under the NDP proposal, **low-income Ontarians** are asked to "wait and see" their future plans. We provide relief now.
- Under the NDP proposal, **First Nations** are not mentioned. We provide relief now.
- Under the NDP proposal, scrapping Time of Use pricing will not only dial back conservation savings, but it will lead to larger electricity supply gaps, that could lead to system reliability issues & **increased costs.**
- Under the NDP proposal, ripping up energy contracts would push rates up due to penalties and legal costs. We re-negotiated the Samsung deal and provided relief now.
- Our plan makes the largest cut to electricity rates in the **history of Ontario.**