

Ministry of Energy

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Dear Concerned Ratepayer:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about electricity prices with our government. I am writing today to assure you that we have heard your concerns and have taken action to address them.

This week we announced Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, which introduces new measures to lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential customers.

People with low incomes and those living in eligible rural communities would receive even greater reductions to their electricity bills. In addition, any rate increases over the next four years will be held to the rate of inflation.

Building on previously announced initiatives to deliver broad-based rate relief, these measures will deliver the single-largest reduction to electricity rates in Ontario history.

Recently, electricity prices have increased because of much needed investments to modernize the system to ensure it is clean and reliable. Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will help relieve the burden of financing these system improvements on today's ratepayers by significantly restructuring the system to address long-standing policy challenges and ensure greater fairness.

In addition to the 25 per cent break on hydro bills, some of the other measures we are introducing include extra relief for people with low incomes through expansion of the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP); broadening the Rural or Remote Rate Protection (RRRP) plan for those living in eligible rural communities; and establishing an Affordability Fund for customers who do not qualify for low income conservation programs.

We are also shifting the OESP and RRRP programs from being paid for through electricity bills to being paid for through government funding. This will reduce bills for everyone and ensure these programs continue to serve those in need.

For more information on Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, I encourage you to visit the webpage at ontario.ca/fairhydroplan.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your concerns about electricity prices. Hearing directly from Ontario's citizens helps to inform our government's thinking and decision-making processes and I appreciate your input.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister