

Ministry of Energy

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Mr. Rory Ring
Chief Executive Officer
Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce (SSMCOC)
1-369 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie ON P6A 1Z4

Dear Mr. Ring:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to SSMCOC members on March 10, 2017.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce campaign, Small Business: Too Big to Ignore, helped drive our thinking. Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan (FHP) will benefit up to half a million small businesses and farms. Under this plan, small businesses that receive a time-of-use bill similar to residential customers, will be eligible for the full 25 per cent benefit.

Additionally, we are expanding the existing Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) to allow for hundreds more small manufacturing and industrial facilities to qualify for the program. Your members can find additional information about the ICI at www.ieso.ca/sector-participants/settlements/global-adjustment-class-a-eligibility.

I'd also like to ensure that you are aware of Ontario's Five-Point Small Business Energy Savings Plan to help conserve energy, manage costs, save money and realize clean energy alternatives.

The Five-Point Plan is described in Helping Small Businesses Save Energy, a guide that provides energy saving tips, information on available programs and financial incentives as well as case studies on small businesses that have benefited from participating in these programs and renewable energy projects. You can view the guide at www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/saving-energy-for-business/helping-small-businesses-save-energy. For more information about the programs and services described in the guide, I encourage you to contact your local electricity and natural gas utilities.

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Your work, and the work of all of Ontario's chambers of commerce, is vital to ensuring that our government takes into account regional perspectives when planning and implementing policies. I look forward to continuing to work together as this input is especially valuable to the Ministry of Energy.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thibeault
Minister