

MPP SPEAKING POINTS -- FAIR HYDRO PLAN

To be customized per riding demographics

- For too long, governments of all political stripes have made mistakes in the way we've structured Ontario's electricity system.
- That has resulted in rates that are unfairly high. It's time to fix those mistakes, in ways that work for today – and for the future
- We recently announced a plan to lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential households in the province.
- No loopholes, no exceptions, no asterisks
- People with low-incomes and residential customers living in eligible rural communities will also receive even greater reductions to their electricity bills.
- And this is relief that is designed to last.
- Bills won't increase beyond the rate of inflation for at least four years
- Electricity is not a frill – it's an essential part of our daily lives.
- And in [Insert Location/Region], I hear from people worried about the price they are asked to pay for hydro and the impact it has on their household budgets.
- We are taking significant action to address these concerns.
- We are tripling the size of the cut we're making to people's hydro bills from 8 per cent to an average of 25 per cent.
- We will also launch a new Affordability Fund, enhance the existing Ontario Electricity Support Program [and Rural or Remote Rate Protection program] and provide on-reserve First Nations households with a delivery credit.
- Electricity rates in Ontario will come down significantly, they're going to stay down and everyone will benefit.
- This is the largest cut to electricity rates in the history of Ontario. In dollars and cents, the exact benefit will vary by household.
- But if, for example, your monthly bill adds up to \$135, this cut will drop it down to around \$101.
- So, how are we doing this – and why now? First, we need to appreciate that for decades and decades, the electricity system was neglected.
- Because of this, Ontario had to invest in our generation, transmission and distribution assets.

- Between 2005 and 2015, \$50 billion has been invested to ensure the system is clean and reliable.
- In addition, our government made important decisions regarding our energy future that included eliminating the use of coal in order to create clean, renewable power and provide targeted support for rural and low-income customers.
- But the way we financed those investments was a mistake.
- We asked one generation – today’s generation – to unfairly shoulder the burden of nearly all of those costs.
- So we’re refinancing the system and setting a new term that stretches over a longer period.
- Over time, it will cost a bit more. And it will take longer to pay off.
- But it is fairer – because it doesn’t ask this generation of hydro customers alone to pay the freight for everyone before and after.
- The burden will now be shared more evenly and more appropriately.
- There’s no question in my mind that these changes are the right thing to do.
- Bringing down rates by 25 per cent and fixing the system’s structure – that’s the approach that I believe in.
- I think it’s better for Ontario. And I know it’s fairer on families