

We've heard you

Dear Constituent,

Our government has heard your concern that more can be done to reduce hydro costs, and we have taken action.

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.

The plan announced by Premier Wynne will lower electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all residential customers in the province, starting this summer. No loopholes, no exceptions, no asterisks. And this is relief that is designed to last. Your bill won't increase beyond the rate of inflation for at least 4 years.

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.

Those living in rural communities or with low incomes will see even greater reductions. So, how are we doing this – and why now? All governments bear responsibility for that: Liberal, Conservative and NDP. For the better part of 50 years we didn't pay our way. But about a decade ago, it came to a head. The system needed major rebuilding. There was a major price tag. And a lot of that money came in the form of rates – higher bills.

We've invested more than 50 billion dollars in electricity infrastructure – new dams in the south, new towers in the north, 13 billion dollars to refurbish nuclear power plants alone and billions more to ensure new transmission and distribution lines everywhere. These are assets that belong to all the people of Ontario and that will serve us for many decades to come.

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.

These changes are the right thing to do. It's better for Ontario, and fairer for families.

As always, please let me know if you have further questions or ideas to share.