

Re: Evening Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction - August 28, 2017

From: "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>
To: "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>
Date: Mon, 28 Aug 2017 21:20:32 -0400

Thanks!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:19 PM
To: Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)
Subject: Fw: Evening Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction - August 28, 2017

From: Ma, Cesue (CAB) <Cesue.Ma@ontario.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2017 9:00 PM
To: @OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management; Bevan, Andrew (OPO); McEachern, Gillian (OPO); Donelson, Philip (OPO); Bossin, Bryan (OPO); Tomney, Genevieve (OPO); Jancik, Mike (OPO); @CAB-Trans CO; Baker, Carys (ENERGY); Berry, James (ENERGY); Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY); Campbell, David (ENERGY); Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY); Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY); Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY); Foster, David (ENERGY); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY); Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY); Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY); Tresise, Landon (ENERGY); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); Walman, Evan (ENERGY); An, Derrick (OPO); Leisk, Madison (OPO); Porter, Maddy (OPO); Whittington, Margot (OPO); Yaquibian, Farnaz (OPO)
Cc: Sumi, Craig (CAB); Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB); Law, Sally (CAB); Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB); Nutter, George (ENERGY); Halford, Gavin (ENERGY); Ma, Cesue (CAB); Electronic Media; Selvadasan, Assumpta (CAB)
Subject: Evening Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction - August 28, 2017

Evening Media Scan: August 28, 2017

MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

August 28, 2017

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Online Coverage

National Post: Some Ontario utilities to test new electricity pricing

National Post

Mon Aug 28 2017

Section: PMN Canada

Byline: The Canadian Press

TORONTO - Three utilities in Ontario will run pilot projects to explore different pricing structures for electricity bills.

The Ontario Energy Board says the projects include testing alternatives to the current time-of-use pricing and giving customers smart thermostats.

Alectra Utilities, which serves the Hamilton and St. Catharines, Peel, Simcoe and York Regions, London Hydro and Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. were selected for the pilots.

The pilot projects include testing having a larger difference in price between off-peak and on-peak periods, which the OEB says will test how customers respond to a higher incentive to shift their electricity consumption to the lower-priced periods.

Other pricing projects include having a lower-priced period from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. year round with higher mid- and on-peak rates; eliminating the mid-peak period for three months each in the summer and winter with a higher critical peak rate for when demand is forecast to be highest.

The utilities are also testing giving customers smart thermostats to help them control electricity usage.

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Hamilton Spectator: Hamilton, Niagara utility selected for electricity

thespec.com

Mon Aug 28 2017

Section: News

TORONTO - Three utilities in Ontario will run pilot projects to explore different pricing structures for electricity bills.

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The utilities are also testing giving customers smart thermostats to help them control electricity usage.

Barrie Examiner is it caused by PC trouble?

By: Bob Bruton, Barrie Examiner
Monday, August 28, 2017 4:03:17 EDT PM

<http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/2017/08/28/or-is-it-caused-by-pc-trouble>

Hiking minimum wage while cutting hydro rates might be turning fortunes around for Ontario Liberals.

The last nine of months of government-commissioned polling, obtained by the Canadian Press through a Freedom of Information request, suggests improving public opinion fortunes for a now somewhat less-unpopular Liberal government.

It found large support for the government's plan for a \$15 minimum wage, general support for carbon pricing, though not necessarily its specifics, and even improving assessments of the hydro file, where the government has been consistently hammered.

But Barry Woods, retired Georgian College political science professor, said he doesn't put much stock in the poll results.

"I don't know if the premier is that popular. I'm a little sceptical," he said. "The people I talk to ... they really dislike her. I think that if the Liberals are up, it's because the Conservatives are down."

This comes less than a year from the next Ontario election in June, 2018.

Woods noted the provincial Progressive Conservatives and their leader Patrick Brown, also Simcoe North MPP, have some issues with their own riding associations and candidates ahead of next year's vote.

"The opposition is looking a little ... wobbly," he said. "I don't think it's because Wynne is a popular person or that people have suddenly started to feel the Liberals are good with the purse strings, which they're not. They haven't been."

The polling was done by the Gandalf Group, and headed by the man leading the Liberals' 2018 re-election bid.

An Angus Reid survey in June put Wynne's approval rating at 15% - up from 12% in March.

"I can remember saying six months ago why doesn't Wynne resign, for the good of the party, let someone else have some time to establish him or herself as someone a little bit different than her," Woods said.

McMaster University political science professor Henry Jacek said Wynne sees a way to electoral victory with popular policies, but she is still personally unpopular.

"I can see how she sees the path forward in terms of the policies, but I still think there are so many red flags out there," Jacek said. "When people sour on a leader it's very hard to bring them back. They could have the best policies in the world."

A turning point in the polling came in March, when the Liberals announced a cut to hydro bills; though in perhaps a sign of how poorly the government had been viewed up to that point, the pollsters cheered not an improvement in the numbers, but a lack of further decline.

'Assessment of the government's overall performance and assessment of the government's management of electricity prices have stayed constant from February through March,' reads a report to the cabinet office. 'These are measures that have been consistently eroding over the past several months, so remaining constant is a step in the right direction.'

The worst overall month for the Liberals came in January, with 61% of respondents saying it was on the wrong track. By July, that was down to 49%, versus 43% saying the government was on the right track - a gap that hadn't been that narrow since July 2016.

January's numbers also might point to why the government in March announced a further 17% cut to electricity bills. An 8% cut had already taken effect on Jan. 1, but still 46% of respondents said what came to mind on electricity was increasing costs, versus just 4% who cited the 8% rebate.

After March's hydro announcement, that swung dramatically the other way, with 45% of people citing 'government reducing cost'.

Since then, the government's performance rating on electricity prices increased steadily, with 44% of respondents in July calling it excellent or good, up from 34% in March.

More than three-quarters of respondents – or 79% - said they supported the Fair Hydro Plan, though a much smaller number - 55% - said they actually believed their bill would decrease by the promised 25%.

Woods doesn't buy that either.

"I think the thing about the hydro rates was just kicking that part of the debt down the road a little bit," he said. "I think a lot of people saw that as fairly transparent."

When it comes to the government's cap-and-trade system, the polling suggested Ontarians are very supportive in principle, but less so on the specifics.

In November, when the program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions hadn't yet been implemented, 85% of respondents supported limiting the amount of pollution businesses can emit, though only 52% supported Ontario's system.

And while 60% agreed it was right to encourage businesses to reduce air pollution even if it led to higher costs for consumers, only 46% and 42%, respectively, were OK with cap-and-trade adding four cents per litre on gasoline and \$13 per month to energy fuel costs.

Given this, the pollsters suggest a line of messaging for the government.

Support for cap and trade dropped after the plan was implemented in January, but still had the support of 50% of respondents.

Wynne's most recent major policy, a \$15 minimum wage, among other labour reforms, has been very well received, the polling suggests.

In July, 71% of respondents said they supported the policy.

With files by The Canadian Press

Bay Today Energy Minister announces big energy savings for Can

By: Chris Dawson
August 28, 2017

<https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/energy-minister-announces-big-energy-savings-for-canadore-college-704660>

George Burton admits the cost of hydro to operate the three Canadore College campuses is very expensive.

However, today Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy and MPP for Sudbury, made the announcement today at the Commerce Court Campus, highlighting the benefits many organizations and companies will see, as

a result of recent expansions to the Industrial Conservation Initiative (ICI) under Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan.

"Now that Canadore College has signed up for this program which will save them up to one-third of their hydro costs and they will work with North Bay Hydro on that," said Thibeault.

The Energy Ministers noted the Sault Ste. Marie Hospital will be saving upwards of \$400,000 on their electricity bill by participating in this same program.

"That's savings the hospital can use for front line services, and it's the same here at Canadore College when they participate in this program the money that they are able to save they can put back into front line services so this is one of the programs that we are able to enhance through the Fair Hydro Plan to really help some of our larger sized institutions," said Thibeault.

Todd Wilcox, from North Bay Hydro, says four large businesses in North Bay are also taking part in the program.

"The customers that do participate, they are some of the major employers in town and a major contribution to the local economy so if we get some of those larger customers to participate the savings are quite significant," said Wilcox.

"You have to work to be able to achieve the savings, it is just not automatic, and what you have to do it avoid consumption in your facility during the five peak provincial hours that occur in the year and there is no telling when those five hours will occur so you have to watch the provincial grid, it's easy to do, you just go online and look at it and watch how demand is building, usually that is around hot temperatures i the summer."

Starting July 1, 2017, Ontario has expanded this program to provide electricity bill reductions to more organizations and businesses across the province, including all electricity consumers with average monthly peak demand greater than 1 megawatt (MW), or electricity consumers with an average monthly peak demand greater than 500 kilowatts (kW) and less than 1 MW in the manufacturing and greenhouse sectors.

Wilcox believes the program has its savings but with less than a dozen local businesses able to access the program, he hopes the government will drop those qualification levels even lower.

"Initially only one customer was eligible, they have moved the threshold down to smaller businesses so they can participate and I am hopeful they will move it down even lower so more customers can participate in this program," said Wilcox.

In 2016, ICI is estimated to have reduced peak demand by approximately 1,300 MW. The expansion of this program reduces cost pressures for participants while having the added benefit of deferring the need to build new peaking generation facilities in the longer term.

CTV News Province set to announce 'pick-and-pay' hydro option

By: Joshua Freeman
Monday, August 28, 2017 6:39PM EDT

<http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/province-set-to-announce-pick-and-pay-hydro-options-1.3565596>

The province is set to unveil a pilot project that will allow hydro customers to tailor on and off-peak billing times to their lifestyles, CTV News Toronto has learned.

Likened to pick-and-pay cable packages, the government is looking to help consumers feel like they are saving money by paying in a way that makes sense for them.

Sources told CTV News Toronto that the new hydro packages in the pilot will be tailored to different lifestyles, with peak and off-peak pricing options that accommodate different schedules for cooking, doing laundry and entertaining.

For example, one option dubbed "The Overnight" would allow a customer to implement a "super off peak rate" that would be much lower between midnight and 6 a.m. That package would benefit shift workers

and those who charge electric cars overnight when usage is at its lowest.

An “enhanced” option would allow customers to implement on and off peak prices with a much sharper price discrepancy, so that on-peak would cost about four times as much as off-peak. That option could benefit people who restrict most of their usage to off-peak times.

The “Dynamic P” option would introduce variable peak prices between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., with all other usage times billed at an off-peak price that is 25 per cent lower than the current off-peak price.

Yet another plan being tested involves “seasonal time of use” where consumers would get a single flat rate in spring and fall, and off and on-peak prices in winter and summer.

The time of use pricing in the plans will be set by the Ontario Energy Board.

The plans are also expected to make use of smart meters, smartphones and smart thermostats so that local distribution companies can warn customers before prices are set to rise, allowing customers to remotely adjust their usage.

The \$17.5 million pilot project is set to be announced Tuesday and will begin within the next few months for 18,000 customers in Oshawa, York Region, Barrie and London.

The province will be looking to the pilot to gauge customer acceptance, understanding and willingness to pay for certain price points. If the pilot is successful, the new billing options will eventually be rolled out across the province.

The funding for the pilot project is coming from the conservation fund of the Independent Electricity System Operator. Sources told CTV News Toronto that all the plans are revenue neutral, meaning they won't bring in extra money to government coffers.

- With a report from CTV News Toronto's Paul Bliss

Global News Ontario Liberals on upswing despite Kathleen Wynne government polling shows

By: Allison Jones
August 28, 2017

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3699073/kathleen-wynne-liberals-poll/>

TORONTO – Critics of Ontario's premier wondering why her dismal personal approval ratings aren't prompting her to quit before next year's election need look no further than government-commissioned polling.

The last nine of months of polling that have landed in Kathleen Wynne's lap, and were obtained by The Canadian Press through a Freedom of Information request, suggest improving public opinion fortunes for a now somewhat less unpopular Liberal government.

The polling conducted by the Gandalf Group — headed by the man leading the Liberals' 2018 re-election bid — found large support for the government's plan for a \$15 minimum wage, general support for carbon pricing, if not necessarily the specifics, and even improving assessments of the hydro file, over which the government has been consistently hammered.

McMaster University political science professor Henry Jacek said Wynne sees a path to electoral victory with popular policies, but she is still personally unpopular. An Angus Reid survey in June put Wynne's approval rating at 15 per cent — up from 12 in March.

“I can see how she sees the path forward in terms of the policies, but I still think there are so many red flags out there,” Jacek said.

A turning point in the polling came in March, which is when the government announced a cut to hydro bills, though in perhaps a sign of how poorly the government had been viewed up to that point, the pollsters cheered not an improvement in the numbers, but a lack of further decline.

“Assessment of the government’s overall performance and assessment of the government’s management of electricity prices have stayed constant from February through March,” reads the March report to the cabinet office.

“These are measures that have been consistently eroding over the past several months, so remaining constant is a step in the right direction.”

The worst overall month for the government came in January, with 61 per cent of respondents saying it was on the wrong track. By July, that was down to 49 per cent, versus 43 per cent saying the government was on the right track — a gap that hadn’t been that narrow since July 2016.

January’s numbers also may point to why the government in March announced a further 17 per cent cut to electricity bills. An eight-per-cent cut had already taken effect on Jan. 1, but still 46 per cent of respondents said what came to mind on electricity was increasing costs, versus just four per cent who cited the eight per cent rebate.

After March’s hydro announcement, that swung dramatically the other way, with 45 per cent of people citing “government reducing cost.”

And since then, the government’s performance rating on electricity prices increased steadily, with 44 per cent of respondents in July calling it excellent or good, up from 34 per cent in March.

More than three-quarters of respondents — 79 per cent — said they supported the Fair Hydro Plan, though a much smaller number — 55 per cent — said they actually believed their bill would decrease by the promised 25 per cent.

When it comes to the government’s cap-and-trade system, the polling suggested Ontarians are very supportive in principle, but less so on the specifics.

In November, when the program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions hadn’t yet been implemented, 85 per cent of respondents supported limiting the amount of pollution businesses can emit, though only 52 per cent supported Ontario’s system.

And while 60 per cent agreed it was right to encourage businesses to reduce air pollution even if it led to higher costs for consumers, only 46 and 42 per cent, respectively, were OK with cap-and-trade adding four cents per litre on gasoline and \$13 per month to energy fuel costs.

Given this, the pollsters suggest a line of messaging for the government.

“How the policy, cap and trade, is communicated makes a significant difference in support and in willingness to accept personal costs,” they write. “Discussing the result of cap and trade, ‘putting a cap on the amount of emissions that businesses can release into the atmosphere,’ is much more supported than using the term cap and trade.”

Support for cap and trade dropped after the plan was implemented in January, but still had the support of 50 per cent of respondents.

Wynne’s most recent major policy, a \$15 minimum wage, among other labour reforms, has been very well received, the polling suggests.

In July, 71 per cent of respondents said they supported the policy.

“Increasing the minimum wage, along with protection for temporary and part-time workers, serves to increase confidence in government even more than increases to healthcare spending,” the pollsters wrote.

NewsWire Electricity Pricing Pilots Test More Choice for Residents

Aug. 28, 2017

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/electricity-pricing-pilots-test-more-choice-for-residential-consumers-642026863.html>

TORONTO, Aug. 28, 2017 /CNW/ - The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) today announced a number of pilot projects that will explore different ways of giving residential customers greater choice in the price they pay for electricity at different times, and more tools to help them better understand and manage their electricity use.

The OEB has selected Alectra Utilities, London Hydro and Oshawa PUC Networks Inc. to run these pilots, which are part of the OEB's on-going review of the Regulated Price Plan (RPP) under which it sets prices that apply to more than 90% of the province's electricity customers.

The Chair of the OEB, Rosemarie Leclair, says "These projects will allow the real-world experience of an expected 18,000 customers to inform how electricity is priced for RPP customers in the future, unlocking more value for them and the electricity system as a whole in the process."

"Customers want more choice in how they pay for electricity," says Ceiran Bishop, manager of strategic policy for the OEB. "The pilots will help us in our redesign of RPP prices, so they can better match customers' preferences and give them greater control over their electricity costs while also helping to improve system efficiency."

The OEB-approved pilots will test several alternatives to the current approach to time-of-use (TOU) pricing, such as one of the pricing plans that Alectra is testing. It retains the current TOU periods but has a larger difference between off- and on-peak prices. This will test how customers respond to an enriched incentive to shift consumption into lower-priced periods. Customers who wish to opt out of any of the pilots can do so at any time.

Details of the pilots being run by Alectra Utilities will be available tomorrow morning in Barrie from the Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault and the President & CEO of Alectra Utilities, Brian Bentz.

About the Ontario Energy Board

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a sustainable and efficient energy sector that provides consumers with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

Contact Us

For more information, please visit the OEB website at oeb.ca or contact us directly.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

SOURCE Ontario Energy Board

TV Transcripts

CFTO Province Set To Announce 'Pick-And-Pay' Hydro Options

Source: CFTO
Aug 28, 2017 6:12 PM (10)

Anchor: Now, to a story you will see here first. Get ready for a new way to buy your electricity. CTV News has learned the province is starting to roll out hydro pricing plans that are tailored to your lifestyle. Our Paul Bliss with the exclusive details. Paul, how does it work and what is behind this new plan?

Reporter: Well, the impetus is the fact most people are frustrated with smart metres. They felt that the time-of-use pricing wasn't helping them reduce their electricity costs, no to mention they didn't suit their lifestyles. If you're a senior or if you're a single person or if you're a family, you have different needs for electricity at different times of day. So these tailor-made packages are going to help people save more money.

Reporter: We can pick our television cable packages to fit our viewing habits and that's exactly the principle behind the new hydro customer plans to be unveiled Tuesday. Pilot projects starting this year will lay ground work for an eventual province-wide roll-out. Here's a sample of some of the plans. "The

Overnight." It adds a super off-peak rate between midnight and 6:00am. This is designed for customers who work shifts, charge electric vehicles, and use electricity mostly overnight when the cost to the system is low. "The Enhanced." A much bigger difference between on-peak and off-peak prices. The spread would be a whopping 4 to 1 differential instead of 2 to 1 difference now for on-peak to off-peak. "The Dynamic." Variable peak prices between 3:00pm and 9:00pm, with all other times being off-peak. That off-peak would be 25 per cent lower than time-of-use off-peak we get now.

Reporter: People complain smart metres don't work because they feel they're not saving money, but these new price packages are tailored to your lifestyle, adjusting the peak and off-peak prices for when you do things like laundry, entertain, and cooking. The technology in smart metres, smartphones, and smart thermostats will also allow you to interact with your local distribution company. They can warn you before your prices are set to rise, allowing to you cut back remotely.

Reporter: Another plan being tested involves seasonal time-of-use. Consumers would get a single flat rate in spring and fall and off and on-peak prices in winter and summer. These are just a few of the pick and pay type hydro packages being tested by thousands in the coming months. Well, the trial periods are going to take place for people in Barrie, London, Oshawa, and York Region to start, but eventually they are going to be suited to individuals and your distribution company, your hydro utility, is essentially going to let you know this package might be suitable for you. The government is also promising that these will not cost you more, that they will at least be revenue neutral or help you save money. Reporting live, I'm Paul Bliss.

CKCO Province to Roll Out Hydro Pricing Plans Tailored to Co.

Source: CKCO
Aug 28, 2017 6: 42 PM (19)

Anchor: Now to a story you will see here first. Get ready for a new way to buy your electricity. CTV News has learned the province is starting to roll out hydro pricing plans that are tailored to your lifestyle. CTV's Paul Bliss explains.

Reporter: We can pick our television cable packages to fit our viewing habits, and that's exactly the principle behind the new hydro customer plans to be unveiled Tuesday. Pilot projects starting this year will lay ground work for an eventual province-wide roll-out. Here's a sample of some of the plans. "The Overnight." It adds a super off-peak rate between midnight and 6:00am. This is designed for customers who work shifts, charge electric vehicles, and use electricity mostly overnight when the cost to the system is low. "The Enhanced." A much bigger difference between on-peak and off-peak prices. The spread would be a whopping 4 to 1 differential instead of 2 to 1 difference now for on-peak to off-peak. "The Dynamic." Variable peak prices between 3:00pm and 9:00pm, with all other times being off-peak. That off-peak would be 25 per cent lower than time-of-use off-peak we get now.

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CKVR Province to Roll Out Hydro Pricing Plans Tailored to Con:

Source: CKVR
Aug 28, 2017 6:13 PM (11)

Anchor: Get ready for a new way to buy your electricity. CTV News has learned the province is starting to roll out hydro pricing plans tailored to people's lifestyles. Our Queen's Park specialist Paul Bliss has the exclusive details.

Reporter: We can pick our television cable packages to fit our viewing habits and that's exactly the principle behind the new hydro customer plans to be unveiled Tuesday. Pilot projects starting this year will lay ground work for an eventual province-wide roll-out. Here's a sample of some of the plans. "The Overnight." It adds a super off-peak rate between midnight and 6:00am. This is designed for customers who work shifts, charge electric vehicles, and use electricity mostly overnight when the cost to the system is low. "The Enhanced." A much bigger difference between on-peak and off-peak prices. The spread would be a whopping 4 to 1 differential instead of 2 to 1 difference now for on-peak to off-peak. "The Dynamic." Variable peak prices between 3:00pm and 9:00pm, with all other times being off-peak. That off-peak would be 25 per cent lower than time-of-use off-peak we get now. People complain smart metres don't work because they feel they're not saving money, but these new price packages are tailored to your lifestyle, adjusting the peak and off-peak prices for when you do things like laundry, entertain, and cooking. The technology in smart metres, smartphones, and smart thermostats will also allow you to interact with your local distribution company. They can warn you before your prices are set to rise, allowing to you cut back remotely. Another plan being tested involves seasonal time-of-use. Consumers would get a single flat rate in spring and fall and off and on-peak prices in winter and summer. These are just a few of the pick and pay type hydro packages being tested by thousands in the coming months.

MCTV Province To Roll Out New Hydro Pricing Plan

Source: MCTV
Aug 28, 2017 6:11 PM (10)

Anchor: From Queen's Park comes the story from the provincial government having a new plan for all hydro customers, including residential. It is going to be released tomorrow. CTV's Paul Bliss got the details early and has this exclusive report.

Reporter: We can pick our television cable packages to fit our viewing habits and that's exactly the principle behind the new hydro customer plans to be unveiled Tuesday. Pilot projects starting this year will lay ground work for an eventual province-wide roll-out. Here's a sample of some of the plans. "The Overnight." It adds a super off-peak rate between midnight and 6:00am. This is designed for customers who work shifts, charge electric vehicles, and use electricity mostly overnight when the cost to the system is low. "The Enhanced." A much bigger difference between on-peak and off-peak prices. The spread would be a whopping 4 to 1 differential instead of 2 to 1 difference now for on-peak to off-peak. "The Dynamic." Variable peak prices between 3:00pm and 9:00pm, with all other times being off-peak. That off-peak would be 25 per cent lower than time-of-use off-peak we get now. People complain smart metres don't work because they feel they're not saving money, but these new price packages are tailored to your lifestyle, adjusting the peak and off-peak prices for when you do things like laundry, entertain, and cooking. The technology in smart metres, smartphones, and smart thermostats will also allow you to interact with your local distribution company. They can warn you before your prices are set to rise, allowing to you cut back remotely. Another plan being tested involves seasonal time-of-use. Consumers would get a single flat rate in spring and fall and off and on-peak prices in winter and summer. These are just a few of the pick and pay type hydro packages being tested by thousands in the coming months.

MCTV Minister Thibeault Announces ICI Program Expansion In

Source: MCTV
Aug 28, 2017 6:07 PM (6)

Anchor: The Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault was in North Bay today, and he was talking about the provincial government's expanded industrial conservation initiative. He says it will help businesses like Canadore college. North Bay Hydro is welcoming this initiative, but it hopes to see it be expanded even further.

Reporter: Canadore college is one of the four businesses in North Bay participating in the industrial conservation initiative that hopes to cut hydro costs by a million dollars.

George Burton, Canadore College President: We'd like to reach savings over the next two years, and we would like to have it annualized. If you look at the multiples for us, if we can save \$250, half a million dollars a year in utility costs that money goes back into the institution. So for us, over the lifetime of the institution, that's significant.

Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Energy Minister: The way it actually works is you have to be able to say you are over one megawatt of power. But we actually changed the program to help manufacturing as well. Through the Fair Hydro Plan we lowered the criteria for certain manufacturing companies; they can qualify if it's 500 kilowatts.

Reporter: With the baseline of monthly peaks lower, North Bay Hydro CEO says the city went from having one participating employer to four with the potential for up to 50 in total. But he doesn't think it should stop there.

Todd Wilcox, North Bay Hydro CEO: [inaudible] any small business, which is 50 kilowatts. That would open up to three, four hundred businesses here in North Bay. If you can have that kind of saving, it is quite significant.

Reporter: With no plans to lower the wattage usage rates announced, Wilcox says he will continue to lobby for smaller businesses. In the meantime, he hopes eligible business will take advantage of the program.

MCTV Minister Thibeault Announces ICI Program Expansion In N

Source: MCTV
Aug 28, 2017 12:01 PM (2)

Anchor: In other news, the Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault was in North Bay this morning. He was there to announce the expansion of the province's Industrial Conservation Initiative. Originally designed to help heavy-using industries, the plan now offers businesses using as little as 500 kilowatts per hour as monthly peak a break of up to 30 per cent on hydro bills. Thibeault says he believes this initiative will benefit many sectors right across northern Ontario.

Glenn Thibeault, Ontario Energy Minister: The Sault Ste. Marie hospital will be saving \$400,000 on their electricity bill by participating in this program. So that's money that they can then put back into front line services. It's the same thing here with Canadore College. When they participate in this program, the money they save can be put into front line services so this is one of the programs that we're able to enhance through the Fair Hydro Plan to really help larger-size institutions.

Anchor: And North Bay Hydro says right now, four businesses are currently enrolled in this initiative from the province and Hydro believes four more will qualify under the new expansion.