

Hansard: Fedeli to Premier (Sousa) -- Throne Speech - Hydro Rates & Budget

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Date: Tue, 13 Sep 2016 11:29:40 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Fedeli:** My question for the **Premier**. Yesterday the government squandered an opportunity to provide families and seniors with meaningful relief from skyrocketing hydro rates. Instead, they introduced a billion dollar band-aid that does nothing to reduce hydro costs. What they didn't tell us how they intend to pay for it. Let's face it borrow another billion dollars to do this. And that's money that has to be paid back, Speaker plus interest. So either adding this to the provincial debtor they are adding it to our hydro bills. So Speaker, I ask the **Premier**, how are you paying for this? Are you adding it to our tax bills or to our hydro bills?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the member opposite should know that as we see the results of the plan that we have put in place, we see the economic growth that's happening, Mr. Speaker, we are in a position to put these dollars into relief for people on their electricity bills, Mr. Speaker. So you know, the member opposite is absolutely wrong when he talks about borrowing to do this. That's not the case, Mr. Speaker. We have made changes. We have put the Ontario energy support program in place, Mr. Speaker. And we are now able to take the 8% provincial portion of the hst off people's electricity bills and the member opposite will see as the public accounts come forward province is in much better shape than it was three years ago, Mr. Speaker. The economic growth has (Inaudible). Outstripping the growth in the United States and other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker and we are very happy that we are going to be able to help people across the province.

>> **MPP Fedeli:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back to the **Premier**. The government has also squandered an opportunity to address the sad state of Ontario's finance. The financial accountability officer confirmed attempting to artificially balance the budget through one-time sale of assets only to plunge us back into deficit immediately after the next election. **Mr. Speaker, the throne speech does nothing to address the government's structural deficit. Nothing to address the fact that Ontario is the largest subnational borrower on the entire province. Nothing to address the more than 1 billion a month spent on interest payments. Speaker, now they are adding additional billion dollars without explaining how they are going to pay for it. I ask the Premier how do you intend to pay for your government's waste, mismanagement and scandal?**

>> **Min. Sousa:** Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has had a difficult time try to understand how it is that we are coming to balance because we are. We are taking the necessary steps to balance the books next year. We are growing the economy.... Manufacturing are growing and outpacing not only Canada but around the United States in comparison. We have more jobs. And our borrowing over the next year is

lowest since 2008. Mr. Speaker. Because of the that's we have taken. The member opposite doesn't understand the degree of reserve and contingencies so we account for waste making like more affordable for Ontarians and as we are succeeding we are providing for more relief Mr. Speaker, and efforts of this Premier and caucus has taken to improve the economy. Now contrary measures that enables us.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.