

Hansard: Hillier to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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Date: Wed, 22 Mar 2017 11:31:02 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP Hillier:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the **Premier**. Speaker, many constituents are sending me their hydro bills and letters expressing their outrage and their concern. **The Calberrys are a retired couple on a fixed income in Hardington. They followed every S P laid out by this government to help conserve energy. They schedule their lives by their time of use meter. A 17% reduction is not enough for them and many others in my riding. In the words of the Calberrys, these so-called reductions being rolled out are nothing but a case of giving with one hand but taking with two. Speaker, when will this government stop giving with one hand and hurting so much with the other two?**

>> **Premier Wynne:** Minister of energy.

>> **Minister Thibeault:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased that the member knows about the fair hydro plan and the 25% reduction that is coming to the seniors. Mr. Speaker, and it is important to know, Mr. Speaker, that I'm assuming that these individuals are Hydro One customers. Mr. Speaker. That means that they're also going to see a significant reduction from the rrrp. That will actually reduce their bills between 40 and 50%, and on top of that, Mr. Speaker, on top of that, they can also apply for the Ontario electricity support program which, through the Ontario fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, is actually going to give them an additional reduction on top of that, Mr. Speaker. So you know what? We need to ensure that couples like the seniors that have been mentioned by the Honourable member ensure they know about the fair hydro plan and know about the reductions that are coming, Mr. Speaker. Because we actually have a plan like that party, they do not, Mr. Speaker.

>> MPP Hillier: I'll try again to the **Premier**, Speaker. The Taylors are another retired couple in my riding in Carleton Place who have to spend their retirement living by the schedule of the time of use. They do all their chores on the weekend. They make it in the dark during the week. The Taylors believe retired people should not have to go to such extremes, and I fully agree. The fact is that no matter how hard people try, hydro is just too expensive. Their last bill was over \$400. Speaker, I'm going to send these letters over to the **Premier**. Her responses have not been adequate. Will the **Premier** commit to reading these letters so that she fully understands the hurt she has caused and respond directly to the Taylors and the Taylors?

>> Minister Thibault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're more than happy to continue to respond to the needs of Ontarians. That's why we acted, Mr. Speaker, with the fair hydro plan. Something that we have brought forward, Mr. Speaker, to help every family in the province with a 25% reduction, Mr. Speaker. That also goes to family farms and to small businesses, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we have the Ontario electricity support program which actually will help many, many families as well, Mr. Speaker. We want to ensure more families, more individuals that actually would qualify for this program get on it, Mr. Speaker, because they can actually see their bills reduced even more. And to help families even further, Mr. Speaker, we brought forward the affordability fund. It is a trust that will be in place, Mr. Speaker, to allow families to access dollars to actually increase their installation reduce them even more. The fair hydro plan is the single largest reduction in electricity bills in Ontario's history and it's a plan we're very proud of.

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