

Hansard: Horwath to Premier - Energy costs - Hydro One sale

From: "Pichette, Marc (MOF)" <marc.pichette@ontario.ca>
To: "Bugajski, Tomasz (OFA)" <tomasz.bugajski@ofina.on.ca>, "Chinchon, Francisco (OFA)" <francisco.chinchon@ofina.on.ca>, "Clarke-Darshanand, Jamille (MOF)" <jamille.clarke-darshanand@ontario.ca>, "Elamin, Mohamed (MOF)" <mohamed.elamin@ontario.ca>, "Georgakakos, Angie (OFA)" <angie.georgakakos@ofina.on.ca>, "Hay, Jenna (MOF)" <jenna.hay@ontario.ca>, "Inglis, Liane (MOF)" <liane.inglis@ontario.ca>, "Ingram, Kelsey (MOF)" <kelsey.ingram@ontario.ca>, "Ize-Dukuze, Marilyn (MOF)" <marilyn.ize-dukuze@ontario.ca>, "Kearney, Heather (MOF)" <heather.kearney@ontario.ca>, "Kwan, Ronald (OFA)" <ronald.kwan@ofina.on.ca>, "Lone, Dianne (MOF)" <dianne.lone@ontario.ca>, "Mayman, Gadi (OFA)" <gadi.mayman@ofina.on.ca>, "McGrath, Tara (MOF)" <tara.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "McLean, David (MOF)" <david.mclean@ontario.ca>, "Mendes, Elizabeth (MOF)" <elizabeth.mendes@ontario.ca>, "Milana, Natale (MOF)" <natale.milana@ontario.ca>, "Moore, Brynne (MOF)" <brynne.moore@ontario.ca>, "Morier, Rebecca (MOF)" <rebecca.morier@ontario.ca>, "Patel, Lesley (MOF)" <lesley.patel@ontario.ca>, "Pearce, Christopher (MOF)" <christopher.pearce@ontario.ca>, "Sinclair, Mike J. (MOF)" <mike.j.sinclair@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Scott (MOF)" <scott.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Tiburcio, Daniel (MOF)" <daniel.tiburcio@ontario.ca>, "Young, Gwendolynne (MOF)" <gwendolynne.young@ontario.ca>, "Zhang, Christina (OFA)" <christina.zhang@ofina.on.ca>
Date: Mon, 03 Oct 2016 11:07:10 -0400

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Last week I was in Niagara Falls where I met a couple named Laura and Fran. They were in their House. They had invited me to come and speak to them about their hydro bill, Speaker. Laura and Fran have seen their hydro bill increase over the last two years by more than \$300. But as it happened I arrived at their home at the very same time as the mail carrier, who happened to have their new hydro bill with him at the time. The bill was more than \$600, and as much as the government wants to jeer, the fact of the matter is that put Laura into tears that morning, Speaker, because they were already struggling to be able to make their buys. Now Laura and Fran can't afford a privatized hydro system, Speaker, where the bills keep going up. Hydro costs are going up because of the privatization of Hydro One and everyone knows it. Will this Liberal government stop making further --

>> Premier Wynne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On this side of the House we are very concerned that people have the support to be able to pay for the things in their lives that they need and that are -- that are necessary to their -- necessary to their quality of life, Mr. Speaker. Obviously including electricity and so that's exactly why we've put in place the Ontario energy support program much it's exactly why, Mr. Speaker, we took the debt retirement charge off people's bills and it's why we're doing more. It's why we're taking the provincial portion of the H.S.T. Off people's bills, which I would remind the leader of the third party is something that she thought was a good idea along with other people around the province. She thought that was a good idea. We are doing that, Mr. Speaker. We're also increasing support for people in rural communities. Mr. Speaker, we're acutely aware of needing to support people in their lives every single day. And that's why we put these

programs in place,. Speaker.

>> **Andrea Horwath:** Speaker, later that day I was in Hamilton and I met a woman named Hannah. Hannah is a single mom. She's got two kids, and like every other mom she wants her kids to have every opportunity, Speaker. A few years ago her hydro bill was around 100 bucks. Her last bill was \$324. Her bills are so high, Speaker, that this single mom has had to stop putting money in her son's resps. That mean as tougher future for her son, Speaker. Hannah and her son can't afford privatization and higher bills. **Will this Premier stop the privatization of Hydro One?**

>> Premier Wynne: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the leader of the third party wants to make this false connection that she continues to make about Hydro One and the changes that we've made at Hydro One and electricity prices. The reality is we have made significant investments in our electricity system, Mr. Speaker. We inherited a dirty, up reliable system, Mr. Speaker. We have built more than 10,000 kilometres of transmission line. We have moved to a renewable system, Mr. Speaker ,f 90% emissions-free electricity grid, all things that I would have thought the NDP Would have supported, **Mr. Speaker. and at the same time we know we need to invest in infrastructure. We need to invest in transportation infrastructure. That's what the expansion of the ownership of Hydro One is about, not the link exception the leader of the third party is making.**

>> Andrea Horwath: Executive -- consecutive Liberal governments have been privatizing our electricity system and that's why the rates are out of control, Mr. Speaker. That's the reality. The next day I met another woman named Kristin and she was in Kitchener. She had just finished university. She's got two kids and she's paying \$1,300 a month for child care. She has \$40,000 in student loans, and herh most recent hydro bill was three times higher than at the same time as last year. She doesn't know what to do, Speaker. The government isn't making child care any more affordable but they're profiting off of her student loans, and they're planning to privatize even more of Hydro One, Speaker. Kristin and her husband are on the edge, like 80% of Ontarians they don't want hydro to be sold off. They want to give their kids a great life but it's getting harder and harder. Not easier, Speaker. So will this Premier stop any further sell-off of Hydro One?

>> **Premier Wynne: Mr. Speaker .. And I have an enormous amount of sympathy for the people that the older of the third party. Kristin and Hannah and Fran and I think I've miss add name but I have enormous sympathy for them and I hope. Mr. Speaker. that the leader of the third party in her conversations with them that she talks about the programs that are in place. I hope she talks about the Ontario electricity support program. I hope she talks about the Ontario energy property and tax credit, Mr. Speaker. I hope she lets people know -- I hope she lets them know that there were options.** Also the leader of the third party has mentioned postsecondary education a couple of times in terms of costs. Mr. Speaker, we are moving to make tuition free for low and -- So, you know, I appreciate that the leader of the third party doesn't want to acknowledge that but that is just one of the things that we're doing to help people in their lives every single day.

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