

Hansard: MacLeod to Naqvi (Del Duca)-- Hydro-Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **MPP MacLeod:** Thanks very much, Speaker. My question is again to the acting Premier but I wanted to address that last point. The Ontario Progressive Conservative party built this province. The Ontario Liberal party has -- **Under Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals hydro rates have tripled fact families pay 1,000 more dollars per year than they did in 2003, when they took office.** This government simply does not care about the people. And they certainly haven't been fair to the people of this province, who are struggling between heating their home and eating food. There are still families that are making that difficult choice in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, is this the legacy the government of Ontario wants to leave, the fact that they are forcing people between heating and eating?

>> **Minister Naqvi:** Well, Speaker, it's quite a recollection of events that the party opposite have when they were in government, because if they called shutting down schools all across the province and building province up -- if they call shutting down -- if they call shutting hospitals all across the province and building the province up, if they call cutting welfare rates by 22% as building province up, that's quite a legacy, Speaker. And then,

on top of that, they left a \$5.6 billion deficit, Speaker, on top of all that. So is that Building up? No thank you. We do not want to go back there again. We've seen that movie before.

>>MPP MacLeod: You want to talk about a movie? This is a nightmare watching you guys with the tiller. I'm telling you something, Speaker. That's why 2,000 people showed up to see Doug Ford on Monday night. Because they want fairness. **Premier Wynne** and the Liberals have accepted \$1.3 million in donations from companies who received energy contracts. That meant these insiders resulted in families overpaying \$9.2 billion on their hydro bills. To make matters worse, when Liberals sold off Hydro One, it was a fire sale that rewarded their donors, insiders and fat-cat friends and that's why this government cannot be trusted any more to do anything that is right or fair for the people of Ontario. Doug Ford has said he will reduce hydro rates even further. Why won't this government do what Doug Ford wants?

>>Minister Del Duca: It's adorable to watch the member across talk about Doug Ford and the crowd that showed up to see him, Speaker. I'm guessing those individuals that showed up fully expected, as they should given that party's track record and their new leader's track record, that they were heading out for a night to watch a slasher flick, Speaker. Because that is exactly what that party and that particular new leader, a leader I would suggest notwithstanding the bluster that we hear in that question leader that that party is just a little bit nervous about because we know fully that most on that side didn't support his leadership campaign, Speaker. And in particular as our Minister of energy mentioned just the other day, I think it's really important back on March the 5th, a leading member of Ontario's Conservative caucus said what every single Ontarian fully understands with his -- and I'm quoting here, Speaker, with his erratic and out-of-control behaviour, I worry that if Doug Ford was to lead our party, he would lead us to certain defeat. That would be the member from Prince Edward- Hastings. I would say to proud Ontarians, if Doug Ford ever takes over the leadership of this province, we are doomed, Speaker .

>>MPP MacLeod:

>> Speaker, I just want to address something. Would the Minister call one of his male Colleagues adorable? And does he think that's appropriate? And will he apologize to me? The government's own internal documents and the auditor general have confirmed that if the Liberals are reelected Ontario's electricity rates will skyrocket to the highest that they have ever been. They can't be trusted. They don't care. They are too glib to continue governing this province. Mr. Speaker, the question is simple. Why doesn't this government support long-lasting and real relief for hydro customers across Ontario? Or are they still only concerned with trying to eke out an election win in less than 78 days?>.

Minister Del Duca: Speaker, I would first say to the member asking the question, if I said anything that was taken the wrong way or that was offensive, my apologies. It wasn't intended to be delivered that way so I apologize for that. What I would say, Speaker -- and I want to echo what I did say in the House the other day about this. I think it's perfectly appropriate for leaders of political parties and for political parties to have very strong views about what they should do with the future of the province, if they aspire to become the **Premier**. But I think in 2018, there is a core responsibility that aspiring **Premiers** have, and that responsibility is to have the courage of their convictions and to level with the people of Ontario. And I think it's clear --As I was saying, I think it's abundantly clear that as we've seen so far neither member or their newly minted leader Doug Ford has the courage of their convictions to level with the people of Ontario and

freely admit what kind of damage you would do, who you would hurt, who you would harm and what public services you would eviscerate if you have the chance to form government. And I don't think it's too much to ask for you to have the courage to admit. Exactly what kind of damage you will do should you form --

[Applause] Thank you very much.

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