

Fair Hydro Plan Indigenous Initiatives

OESP

Through the Fair Hydro Plan, we are providing relief to everyone and also providing additional relief for those who are most in need of support.

This includes expanding the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), which lowers electricity costs for the most vulnerable customers by providing a rebate directly on their bills. This program — which is income-tested and application-based — uses two scales: basic credits; and an enhanced credit for Indigenous people and for people who use electric heat or certain electrically intensive medical devices.

OESP Enhanced Credit

The OESP enhanced credit is available to all eligible Indigenous customers in the province, regardless of where they live and meet program eligibility criteria. This includes First Nation, Inuit, and Métis customers.

Changes to the OESP would be made through amendments to the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Legislation and Regulations will be required to implement this program. If passed, the government will work with the Ontario Energy Board and affected local distribution companies (LDCs) on implementation details.

On-Reserve First Nations Rate

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The On-Reserve First Nations Rate applies only to First Nation customers living on a reserve in Ontario.

These programs will be treated as distinct, as they are designed to address different energy cost issues. Thus, customers eligible for both programs will receive credits under both programs.

Affordability Fund

The Affordability Fund provides LDCs with an additional tool to help customers who are not eligible for the existing low-income conservation program. The Fund would provide support for energy efficiency improvements to help customers reduce future electricity bills and avoid future disconnections.

We would be helping the most vulnerable consumers by enhancing electricity support programs and shifting cost to government funding.

