

Media Call Summary: March 2, 2017

From: "Demetriades, Natasha (ENERGY)" <natasha.demetriades@ontario.ca>
To: "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.whittington@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.barbaro@ontario.ca>, "Katona, Keley (ENERGY)" <keley.katona@ontario.ca>, ted.gruetzner@opg.com, martine.holmsen@ieso.ca, alexandra.campbell@ieso.ca, "@ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations" <energy-comm-issues_and_mediarelations@msgov.gov.on.ca>, karen.evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca, mary.bernard@ieso.ca, john.cannella@ieso.ca, neal.kelly@opg.com, Sylvia Kovesfalvi <sylvia.kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, John Bozzo (OEB) <john.bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca>, Chuck Farmer <chuck.farmer@ieso.ca>, "Martin, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.martin@ontario.ca>, "Berg, Denna (ENERGY)" <denna.berg@ontario.ca>, "McGoey, Eric (ENERGY)" <eric.mcgoey@ontario.ca>, "Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY)" <jeet.chatterjee@ontario.ca>, "Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY)" <alexa.pagel@ontario.ca>, "Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY)" <lauren.maguire@ontario.ca>, "Biggs, Megan (ENERGY)" <megan.biggs@ontario.ca>, Lars Hansen <lars.hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca>
Date: Thu, 02 Mar 2017 18:11:29 -0500

Media Call Summary

Ministry: 7 Inquiries

Topic: Interview request

Reporter & Outlet: Devon Peacock, AM980 CFPL (London)

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

"Would Minister Thibeault be available for an interview on my show today to talk about the plan announced this morning to cut hydro rates?"

Response:

TBD

Topic: Costs associated with Fair Hydro Plan

Reporter & Outlet: Graham Richardson, CTV News

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

“The Premier mentioned \$2.5 billion over 3 years in terms of costs. The backgrounder quotes \$2.5 billion a year for 10 years.”

Response:

The overall fiscal impact of this relief will cost the government up to \$2.5 billion over the next three years.

Under current forecasts, the immediate reduction in the Global Adjustment would be about \$2.5 billion per year on average over the first 10 years.

Topic: Small business

Reporter & Outlet: Shawn McCarthy, Globe and Mail

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

“Can you tell me how these changes impact small business/commercial? Do their rates come down too? Do they pay a different rate than residential?”

Response:

TBD

Topic: Fair Hydro Plan impact on institutions

Reporter & Outlet: Bob Bruton, Barrie Examiner

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

“Can you please tell me how today's announcement about reducing hydro rates will affect institution users - The City of Barrie, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH), Georgian College, etc.”

Response:

TBD

Topic: Fair Hydro Plan

Reporter & Outlet: Frank Lan, Ming Pao Daily News

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

- 1. Why this issue was raised at this moment? Is this for provincial election?**
- 2. Are we expecting more cut in the near future?**
- 3. Some financial experts said, the plan is cutting the bill we pay every year, but taxpayers will have to pay more in total by the end. What the government would say about this critics?**

Response:

TBD

Topic: \$1.4B interest costs

Reporter & Outlet: Maciej Onoszko, Markets reporter at Bloomberg News

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

“What I'm not sure of is whether the increase in annual interest costs of up to \$1.4 billion is included in the calculation of costs that the province will incur (\$2.5 billion over the next three years).”

Response:

TBD

Topic: Hydro relief for small business

Reporter & Outlet: John Crupi

Response Type: Ministry Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

“Need clarification on what small businesses would qualify for hydro relief.”

Response:

Small businesses, if eligible for the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Regulated Price Plan (RPP), will benefit from most of the changes announced in Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. In order to be RPP-eligible, a consumer's annual consumption must be below 250,000 kWh/year or peak demand must be below 50 kW.

This would generally include smaller businesses such as dry cleaners, convenience stores and small restaurants and retail stores, but would exclude

businesses such as larger restaurants, welding shops, medium and large office buildings and big box retailers.

Minister's Office : 1 Inquiry

Topic: Small business

Reporter & Outlet: Greg Lawson, Automotive News Canada

Response Type: Minister's Spokesperson

Reporter's Questions:

"When government says small business when referring to the 25 per cent on average cut, what is the definition of small business (generally, who would be eligible and who wouldn't be)."

Response:

TBD

Agency: 0 Inquiries