

General Key Messages on Bill 13

- On Sept 15, 2016, the government introduced legislation that, if passed, would bring into force the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act* which would provide an eight per cent (8%) rebate on monthly electricity bills for nearly 5 million residential consumers, small businesses and farms.
- This measure will give Ontario's residential and business consumers more ways to manage their electricity costs while we continue to make the critical investments needed to maintain our energy system
- We're doing this because we know that families need help with the cost of everyday living. Despite consistent economic growth since the global recession, many families aren't feeling Ontario's resurgence in their everyday lives.
- We also recognize that rebuilding and cleaning up Ontario's electricity system has come at a cost. Over the last decade we've rebuilt our transmission and distribution grid, we've invested in clean generation, and we've closed the last dirty coal-fired power plant. But we need to take the next step in ensuring that clean, reliable system is affordable.
- We're able to take action now because years of careful management is leading to a balanced budget in 2017-18; and we believe that Ontarians should be the first to benefit from the province's fiscal discipline.
- Recognizing this, we are introducing new measures that would take effect January 1, 2017, including:
 - Rebating provincial portion of the HST to reduce eligible residential, small business and farm electricity bills by 8% (\$130 annually)
 - Providing eligible rural ratepayers with additional relief, decreasing total electricity bills by an average of \$540 a year or \$45 each month
 - Empowering additional large electricity consumers to reduce bills by up to one third through the Industrial Conservation Initiative
- Taken together, it will provide needed assistance to consumers of all sizes, and it targets support to those that need it most.

Additional Background:

- The proposed HST rebate and RRRP increase would be in addition to the existing programs that provide support to Ontario families in paying their bills:
 - The Ontario Energy and Property Tax Credit saves qualifying individuals up to \$1,008 per year, with a maximum of \$1,148 per year for qualifying seniors.
 - The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program provides emergency financial support of up to \$600 for families and individuals having trouble paying their bills.
 - The saveONenergy Home Assistance Program was developed to help income-eligible homeowners and tenants manage their energy use and costs by offering detailed in-home energy assessments and installing energy-saving measures at no cost. Social and assisted housing providers also qualify for assistance in making their buildings more energy efficient.
 - The Northern Ontario Energy Credit helps families and individuals in Northern Ontario by providing tax credits for low- to middle-income families and individuals living in northern Ontario. The maximum annual credit for a single person is \$146, and for a family (including single parents), is \$224.
- In addition, the government removed the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) from residential electricity bills as of January 1, 2016. This will save a typical residential electricity ratepayer who uses 750 kilowatt hours per month about \$65 per year.

ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SUPPORT PROGRAM:

- The government recognizes that the price of electricity can be difficult for those that pay a higher share of their income towards the bill – particularly low-income families and seniors on a fixed income. For many low-income Ontarians, paying their electricity bill can be a challenge, with this monthly expense representing a greater portion of their income.
- That is why the OEB developed the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP), which provides an ongoing rate reduction directly on the bills of low-income electricity consumers who have applied and meet the eligibility requirements.

- **OESP monthly credits range from \$30 to \$50. A household receiving the lowest OESP credit would receive \$360/ year off their bills, or \$430/ year when combined with the removal of the DRC.**
- **OESP customers with unique electricity needs could be eligible for a higher level of assistance.**