

**Minister of
Seniors Affairs**

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March 9, 2017

Sharon Henderson, President
Laurie Johnston, CEO
Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA)
2401 Bristol Circle, Suite 202
Oakville, ON L5H 5S9

Dear Ms. Henderson & Ms. Johnston:

Premier Kathleen Wynne recently announced that Ontario is lowering electricity bills by 25 percent on average for all residential customers as part of a significant system restructuring that will provide considerable relief to Ontarians, address long-standing policy challenges and ensure greater fairness.

Starting this summer, Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, in concert with the 8 per cent rebate that began January 1, 2017, would provide households with this 25 percent break, the largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario history. Rate increases over the next four years would also be held to the rate of inflation for residential customers.

Our government recognizes the importance of retirement home and long-term care home communities as essential components of senior living. That's why we are so pleased to confirm that the government intends to introduce legislation that would ensure this reduction will apply to all retirement and long-term care homes in the province. This significant rate reduction and cost certainty will allow your member's facilities to build on the high-quality services and support to seniors already in place.

Electricity is an essential part of our daily life. This announcement is our commitment that the relief will be substantial, that the measures will go to everyone, and that the relief will be lasting because it is built on real change – that bills won't jump back up in a couple of months or years. We have taken the appropriate action to create a fairer, more affordable electricity system.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to share this good news with your members

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dipika', written in a cursive style.

Dipika Damerla
Minister of Seniors Affairs

c: Marie-Lison Fougère, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Seniors Affairs
Abby Katz-Starr, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Seniors Affairs