

**Minister of
Seniors Affairs**

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March 6, 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:

As you are no doubt aware, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced last week 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% rebate that began January 1, 2017, would provide households with this 25 percent break, the largest cut to electricity rates in the history of Ontario. In addition, as part of this plan, rate increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation for residential customers.

Our government recognizes the importance of retirement 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 homes in the province. This rate reduction and cost certainty will allow retirement homes 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,

Dipika Damerla
Minister of Seniors Affairs

Glenn Thibeault
Minister of Energy