

MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

July 3, 2017

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ONLINE COVERAGE

SUDBURY STAR: LETTER: HYDRO BELONGS IN PUBLIC HANDS

By: France Gelin, NDP MPP for Nickel Belt

Sunday, July 2, 2017 8:36:12 EDT PM

<http://www.thesudburystar.com/2017/07/02/letter-hydro-belongs-in-public-hands>

Re: "Energy debate heats up," June 27.

Despite their claims, the PCs and the Wynne Liberals are on the same page when it comes to privatizing our electricity system and increasing hydro prices.

The Conservatives started the privatization of Ontario's hydro system when they were in government. The Wynne Liberals are finishing the job.

Ontario's New Democrats will lower hydro bills by up to 30 per cent and put Hydro One back in public hands. That's in stark contrast to Premier Kathleen Wynne's plans.

Most families, businesses, community organizations and institutions like hospitals in Northern Ontario are close to the breaking point. They cannot afford to pay more for their hydro bills.

Premier Wynne's solution is to borrow \$40 billion for a small, short-term subsidy in hydro bills this summer. That does nothing to address the root causes of hydro price increases: bad contracts with private and foreign corporations, and the sale of Hydro One.

That subsidy will do little to counteract the 50 per cent climb in hydro rates since Wynne has been premier. Instead, Ontarians will be stuck with a \$40-billion bill we will pay for over the next 30 years. And we'll still be saddled with higher hydro bills than ever before.

It gets worse: While Premier Wynne and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, are advertising that the Ontario Energy Board will lower hydro bills for everyone, the OEB is actually saying the delivery rate of electricity is likely to increase by 20 per cent.

We all know that we have to lower the cost of hydro in the province. But how we do it matters.

The NDP's plan would lower hydro bills by 30 per cent through real, concrete measures we can do today. We would scrap unfair delivery costs, end mandatory time-of-use rules, cap private profit margins, bring real oversight to electricity prices and use tax benefits to help Ontarians, not bankers.

Our plan will fix the system today, and for generations to come, by returning Hydro One to public hands.

The NDP's plan helps people. Premier Wynne's plan, and the PCs, help bankers.

We will repair the mess the Conservatives and Liberals have made — and put \$7 billion back into the province — money that can go into the public services on which we all depend.

Premier Wynne has been clear she is willing to make us all pay for her decision to side with Bay Street bankers with the sale of Hydro One, no matter what the cost.

And the cost is clear: Billions of dollars in public funds that could have paid for hospitals, schools, daycare, job creation and clean water for First Nations.

We will all be paying for Premier Wynne's bad decisions for decades to come.

France Gelinas

NDP MPP for Nickel Belt

TV TRANSCRIPTS

GLOBAL: ONTARIO'S FAIR HYDRO ACT IS NOW IN EFFECT

Source: Global

Jul 3, 2017 6:04 PM (18)

Anchor: And you may notice a difference in your hydro bill this month. The Fair Hydro Act is now in effect, which will see the remainder of cuts promised by the Liberal government. Some cuts came around in May, but as of today, bills on average will be 25 per cent lower than last year. Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade due in part to green energy initiatives.

CKWS: EFFECTS OF FAIR HYDRO ACT TO BE SEEN THIS MONTH

Source: CKWS

Jul 3, 2017 6: 05 PM (3)

Anchor: Some good news to pass along; you may notice some savings on your hydro bill. The fair hydro act came into effect July 1st, and that means you'll start seeing the effects of the remainder of the cuts promised by the Liberal government. Now, rates also dropped a bit in May, but as of today, bills will be about 25 per cent lower than last year. According to the Ontario Energy Board, that will lower the average monthly bill by about \$41. Electricity bills in the province have roughly doubled in the last decade, due in part to green energy initiatives.