

MEDIA SCAN: HYDRO RATE REDUCTION PLAN

October 25, 2017

Click links below to view article:

<u>TV Transcripts</u>	2
<u>None</u>	2
<u>Online Coverage</u>	3
<u>Kenora Daily Miner And News: Campbell says AG hydro report shows Liberals not addressing root causes of high rates</u>	3
<u>Northumberland Today: Letters to the editor, Oct. 25, 2017</u>	5
<u>Canada Manufacturing: Ontario launches \$100M program to help homeowners buy LEDs, efficient fridges</u>	6

TV TRANSCRIPTS

NONE

ONLINE COVERAGE

KENORA DAILY MINER AND NEWS: CAMPBELL SAYS AG HYDRO REPORT SHOWS LIBERALS NOT ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF HIGH RATES

By: Kathleen Charlebois
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 10:18:37 EDT AM

<http://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/2017/10/25/campbell-says-ag-hydro-report-shows-liberals-not-addressing-root-causes-of-high-rates>

The Liberal government has been put on the defensive after the province's auditor general said hydro cuts will end up being costly.

Kenora-Rainy River MPP Sarah Campbell is among the members of the opposition criticizing the Liberals after Bonnie Lysyk said last Tuesday that the province's plan to cut hydro rates by 25 per cent will end up costing an estimated \$39.4 billion over the next 30 years.

"Ontarians and especially people in the north know acutely how high hydro rates are and how unaffordable they are, so they were looking to the government to make some reductions in the rates," she said in a phone interview. "But rather than do anything to address the root causes of hydro rates, [Premier] Wynne is rolling out a smoke and mirrors campaign that will artificially lower rates in the short term.

One example of the artificial reduction Campbell highlighted is that hydro bills will be lower, but power generators will still be owed the full cost of their electricity supply, so the government will have to borrow money. A new entity called OPG Trust with Ontario Power Generation will oversee the debt used to pay the difference.

Because of this, the auditor general and the financial accountability officer found the OPG Trust financing structure will cost an extra \$4 billion because the trust will have to borrow at a higher rate.

Campbell called this manoeuvre "particularly awful" as she said it seems to hide the true cost of the hydro plan. "It's so far off the mark. People have been crying out for some kind of hydro relief, and it's really disgusting and a slap in the face to people who are struggling with genuinely high hydro bills, who are trying to conserve as much as they can and still can't make ends meet," she said.

Both the Ontario NDP and PC are "pretty well united" in their stance that the Liberal's hydro deal is a bad one, Campbell added.

"There are so many things this Liberal government could do, short-term and long-term, to truly tackle the root causes of high hydro rates," she said. "What we've found is that the reason we have such high rates is political interference. They've just been heaping on these poor political decisions."

Since the auditor general is impartial and independent and said the government is “making up its own accounting rules,” Campbell said that should be cause for a lot of concern.

With files from The Canadian Press

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, OCT. 25, 2017

By: MPP Todd Smith

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:47:38 EDT PM

<http://www.northumberlandtoday.com/2017/10/25/letters-to-the-editor-oct-25-2017-2>

MPP Rinaldi disappoints with hydro comments

(Re: MPP Rinaldi says there's no hidden hydro debt, Oct. 19, 2017)

In some manner or another I have known Lou Rinaldi for the past 20 years. So, I know he knows better. That's why it disappointed me this week when he took a partisan pot shot at the province's independent, non-partisan Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.

The most astonishing statement my old friend, Lou, makes is that the \$4-billion in extra costs associated with the government's electricity rate cut will come out of hydro rates and not taxes. Does he really have no understanding of how expensive electricity is in Ontario now?

According to the Auditor General, this is \$4 billion that will be added to already sky rocketing electricity rates in the future because "the Liberals are making up their own accounting rules."

Another independent watchdog, the Financial Accountability Officer, reported the same \$4 billion number earlier this year. Lou concludes by saying that "this is no different than municipalities undertaking infrastructure and deferring payment over a long period of time."

Here's the difference, at the end of an infrastructure deal you have a new building, bridge or road.

In this case, you have nothing, except more debt, higher interest and record high electricity bills.

Todd Smith

MPP Prince Edward-Hastings

PC Energy Critic

CANADA MANUFACTURING: ONTARIO LAUNCHES \$100M PROGRAM TO HELP HOMEOWNERS BUY LEDS, EFFICIENT FRIDGES

By: Cleantech Canada Staff
October 25, 2017

<https://www.canadianmanufacturing.com/regulation/ontario-launches-100m-program-help-homeowners-buy-leds-efficient-fridges-203203/>

HAMILTON, Ont.—The Ontario government has set aside \$100 million to help homeowners trim their hydro bills and make better use of electricity with new, more energy efficient technology.

The program offers residents help buying both small- and big-ticket items such as LED light bulbs, improved home insulation and energy efficiency refrigerators. For those who qualify, some products will be free, while others will be subsidized.

The province's Minister of Energy, Glenn Thibeault, was in Hamilton to launch the new program Oct. 24. The announcement comes as the Liberals continue to face blowback for their energy policies that have raised rates across the province considerably over the past decade.

"By providing electricity customers with tools to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, we're helping reduce pressure on their pocketbooks and protecting the environment," Thibeault said.

The \$100 million fund is part of the province's contentious Fair Hydro Plan, which will cut residential electricity bills by about 25 per cent over the short term, but ultimately cost ratepayers more than \$1 billion.

The province says LED lights and more efficient fridges can save households \$10 and \$90 respectively on their annual hydro bill. The program also includes items such as power bars and air conditioners.

Both renters and owners can apply for the program, which determines eligibility based on total household income and average electricity bill.