

Hansard: Horwath to Premier -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, my question's for the **Premier**. The **Premier** and her Liberal government ads touting their phantom hydro plan have been condemned by the auditor general as a pat on the back partisan exercise that would never have been allowed before the Liberals changed the rules on advertising, Speaker. Can the **Premier** tell Ontarians what the price tag is for these self-serving ads?

>> **Premier Wynne:** I will just remind the leader of the third party that we were the province in this country that actually introduced rules around partisan advertising, Mr. Speaker. Before this government under my predecessor came to office, those rules didn't exist, Mr. Speaker. We put in place rules that said partisan advertising is unacceptable. In reaction, Mr. Speaker, to -- in reaction, Mr. Speaker, to the really egregious advertising that has been done by the Conservatives, Mr. Speaker, that were so blatantly partisan that it was obvious that there needed to be restrictions put in place. Those restrictions -- time. And we adhere to them.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, I feel like it's comedy hour in the legislature. This government changed the rules and then changed them back so that they could use public money to advertise and promote themselves when they get into political trouble. Not one dime has come off of the skyrocketing hydro bills and this **Premier** has not tabled a plan yet or even any legislation yet to show Ontarians what their money is going to be spent on or if they are even going to save any money in the future. But she is still spending more money on advertising claiming the problem's been solved. How much is this attempt to buy the political relief on hydro bills going to cost Ontarians?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, let me just remind the leader of the third party that we have a plan that actually will reduce people's electricity bills, Mr. Speaker, and will reduce those bills by the summer, Mr. Speaker, substantial relief. 25% on average off all bills across the province, Mr. Speaker, for residents who pay electricity in their homes, Mr. Speaker. Further relief for people who are paying disproportionately high distribution costs, Mr. Speaker, in remote and rural areas and an enhancement to the Ontario electricity support program that will help people on low income. Mr. Speaker, it's a substantial program that will deliver relief and will deliver it in a timely manner, Mr. Speaker. And I'm so pleased that the leader of the third party is eager to get going on that plan, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to her support as we move forward.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker, instead of partisan ads, how about we actually receive a plan? We hear a lot of talk. We see a lot of press releases, but we have not yet seen a plan. These are obviously much more about the **Premier** and her Liberal party instead of making life more affordable for the people of Ontario. How much public money -- Is this **Premier** spending on advertising, Speaker, for -
- How much public money is this **Premier** and her Liberal party spending on advertisements for the billion-dollar hydro borrowing scheme that she has still not made public?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that we are talking about our plan, the plan that we've brought forward, that is actually going to reduce people's electricity bills --, Mr. Speaker, it is a substantial plan. And it actually will work, Mr. Speaker. So I was at a business this past week, Mr. Speaker, called -- I was in Barrie at a great chocolate and cheese shop, Mr. Speaker. They're going to see a substantial reduction in their electricity bill, which is going to allow them, Mr. Speaker, to expand their business. They are -- they're building a patio on the back of their store jai door and it is going to be a real anchor on the main street in Barrie, Mr. Speaker. J'adore. That's the kind of business we want to see thrive and that's why it's so important that the real plan we are bringing forward is going to give them real relief.

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.