

Media and Public Messaging Scan

Fair Hydro Plan Rate Increases & Inflation Limit

Premier's Speech, March 2

"After we bring bills down by 25% we will hold them there with rates rising only with inflation -- or roughly 2% -- for at least four years."

March 2, 9, 14 Echo Announcement News Releases

"As part of this plan, rate increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation for everyone."

Ontario.ca/FairHydroPlan

"And bills won't increase beyond the rate of inflation for at least four years."

Minister's Statement on RPP Changes, April 20

"Rates will also be held to inflation for the next four years."

Minister's Letter to MPPs, April 6

"In addition, any electricity increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation"

Radio Ads

Ad #1: "Starting this Summer, households in Ontario will receive an average of 25 percent off their hydro. And your bill won't increase beyond the rate of inflation for at least 4 years."

Ad #2: Starting this Summer, households will receive an average of 25 percent off their bill -- and bills won't increase beyond the rate of inflation for at least 4 years.

Hansard, April 3

Minister Thibeault: "...Mr. Speaker. S' the single largest reduction in the province's story with rates also held to inflation for the next four years"

Hansard, April 4

Minister Thibeault: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the Hydro One rate application, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that we're going to be holding all of our increases, Mr. Speaker, to the rate of inflation"

Hansard, April 26

Minister Thibeault: "Mr. Speaker, with rates held to inflation for the next four years. The o.e.b.'s decision means bills will be reduced by 17% beginning may 1st."

Technical Briefing

"25% reduction on average for the typical residential customer and rates would follow inflation for the next 4 years"

Sections of Media Articles with Relevant Issue Mention

'Fair' Plan Not So Fair; PC critic slams Wynne scheme to slash hydro

- **Toronto Sun**
- **Mon Apr 17 2017**
- **Page:** A4
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Antonella Artuso
- **Source:** Toronto Sun

He called it the “single largest rate reduction in the province’s history,” adding that rates will also be held to inflation for the next four years.

Durham households and small businesses should expect lower hydro bills

- **Oshawa This Week**
- **Wed Apr 12 2017**
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Barbara Howe
- [Permalink](#)

? The new rates are guaranteed not to increase more than the rate of inflation for the next four years.

Impact of Ontario's new hydro plan on Oakville businesses not yet clear: Chamber

- **Oakville Beaver**
- **Wed Apr 5 2017**
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Nathan Howes
- [Permalink](#)

The 25 per cent includes an already announced eight per cent rebate introduced in January.

As part of this plan, rate increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

MOE responds to Hardeman's comments about hydro

- **Ingersoll Times**
- **Wed Apr 5 2017**
- **Page:** A6
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Bruce Chessell
- **Source:** Ingersoll Times

"It is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years," he said. "Our plan is about real relief for Ontarians and a way to ensure greater fairness in our electricity system."

NDP hydro promise 'hollow' - Sudbury MPP

- **Sudbury Star**
- **Fri Mar 31 2017**
- **Page:** A10
- **Section:** Opinion
- **Source:** Sudbury Star

Through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, our government is cutting electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all families starting this summer, along with as many as half a million farms and small businesses. It is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, with rates also held to inflation for the next four years. Our plan is about real relief for Ontarians and a way to ensure greater fairness in our electricity system. Patrick Brown and the PCs have no plan and the NDP hydro proposal offers nothing practical or substantial when it comes to reduced electricity costs for Sudbury families and small businesses.

Glenn Thibeault

Sudbury MPP Energy minister

Orillia audience hears about province's plan to lower hydro bills

- **Orillia Today**
- **Fri Mar 24 2017**
- **Section:** News/Ontario
- **Byline:** Frank Matys
- [Permalink](#)

Under the Liberal government's plan, households will receive an average 25 per cent break on electricity bills, with any increases held to the rate of inflation for four years.

Minister visits Orillia to outline hydro plan

- **Orillia Packet & Times**
- **Sat Mar 25 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Andrew Philips
- **Source:** Orillia Packet & Times

Thibault, who also noted that rate increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation for everyone, said bills have been escalating over the years because the province

was working to improve the system.

Fair Hydro Plan; Liberal strategy does little to address problems with Ontario's electrical system

A final measure is a government pledge to hold increases in average bills to the rate of inflation, nominally 2 per cent annually for the next four years. Total electricity bills have been rising \$800 million to \$900 million annually in recent years, an average of 5 per cent. Keeping them to 2 per cent is going to cost the government roughly \$500 million a year. When you add it all up, electricity users, especially those using electric heat will save considerably on monthly bills, easily reaching the government's 25 per cent in promised bill reductions with annual savings ranging from \$460 for an average customer to \$2,850 for electric heat users, up to \$4,000 for low income customers or First Nations, and \$5,000 for low income electric heat customers living on First Nations. However, you can't add nearly \$5 billion to general government expenses without it showing up on the books as increased borrowing, reduced services, or tax increases at some point. Likely sooner than later given Ontario's debt/deficit situation.

Government ads about hydro bill reductions a 'pat on the back': auditor; Hydro radio ads a 'pat on the back': auditor

- **Canadian Press**
- **Fri Mar 17 2017**
- **Section:** Ontario
- **Byline:** Allison Jones

TORONTO - New taxpayer-funded ads from the Ontario Liberal government about its plan to cut hydro bills could be considered partisan, the auditor general said Friday.

The two ads, running on radio stations across the province, tell listeners that people will receive an average of 25 per cent off their hydro bills this summer and rate increases are being held to inflation for four years.

Government ads promoting 25-per-cent hydro-rate cut partisan waste: PCs

- **thestar.com**
- **Fri Mar 17 2017**
- **Section:** News | Toronto Star
- **Byline:** Rob Ferguson

New ads promoting Premier Kathleen Wynne's promised 25-per-cent hydro-rate cut (www.thestar.com) are a "partisan" abuse of taxpayer's money and should be scrapped, the Progressive Conservatives say.

The demand came Friday as Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk (www.thestar.com) described the radio spots as a "pat on the back" for the government and said she probably would have rejected them before the government curbed her powers in 2015, Canadian Press reports.

The two ads include the line "we've heard you," a reference to complaints about high electricity

prices, and promise hydro rates won't rise by more than the rate of inflation for at least four years.

Despite rebates, growers say hydro still too costly

- **Windsor Star**
- **Fri Mar 17 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** City & Region
- **Byline:** Doug Schmidt
- **Source:** The Windsor Star

Delaney said residential and small-business hydro consumers will start seeing the savings when their air-conditioning bills get delivered in the summer. As part of the plan, he added, rate increases from the province would be held to the rate of inflation over the next four years.

Brown's plan wrong, irresponsible

- **The Barrie Examiner**
- **Fri Mar 10 2017**
- **Page:** C2
- **Section:** Opinion
- **Byline:** Glenn Thibeault
- **Source:** The Barrie Examiner
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For those living in rural communities or with low incomes, the break will be even greater. Rate increases over the next four years will also be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

Premier Wynne meets with Guelph business owners about hydro costs

- **GuelphMercury.com**
- **Thu Mar 9 2017**
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** cscto@guelphmercurytribune.com

As part of the plan, rate increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

Praise, criticism for Liberal's 'fair hydro plan'

- **Kincardine News**
- **Thu Mar 9 2017**
- **Page:** A8
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Denis Langlois
- **Source:** Kincardine News

The hydro plan, which Wynne called the "largest cut to electricity rates in the history of

Ontario,” also includes a promise to hold rate increases to the rate of inflation for at least the next four years.

Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault promises lower electricity bills by summer

- **Stoney Creek News**
- **Wed Mar 8 2017**
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Kevin Werner
- [Permalink](#)

He said over the next four years Ontario’s hydro rates will only increase by two per cent a year.

Electricity rates have soared over the last decade, increasing faster than inflation, and contributing to rising anger among the public, protests in Hamilton, and plummeting approval rates for Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Cut to hydro rates

- **Orillia Packet & Times**
- **Wed Mar 8 2017**
- **Page:** A4
- **Section:** Opinion
- **Byline:** Glenn Thibeault
- **Source:** Orillia Packet & Times

Re: ‘PC Hydro plan coming ‘soon,’ March 4 On Thursday we announced the largest cut to electricity rates in Ontario’s history. Recognizing that ratepayers in and around Orillia are struggling, we are lowering electricity bills 25 per cent on average for families. Many small businesses and farms would also benefit from the initiative. For those living in rural communities or with low incomes, the break will be even greater. Rate increases over the next four years will also be held to the rate of inflation for everyone.

Minister says he understands Northern Ontario's hydro woes

- **The Sault Star**
- **Tue Mar 7 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** News
- **Source:** Postmedia Network

“We’re holding all rate increases to the cost of inflation; we have made the largest single-rate reduction in electricity rates in Ontario’s history,” said Thibeault.

Hydro cost cut greeted with a mix of praise, skepticism

- **Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake)**
- **Mon Mar 6 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front

- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Alan S. Hale
- **Source:** Postmedia Network

“We’re holding all rate increases to the cost of inflation; we have made the largest single-rate reduction in electricity rates in Ontario’s history,” said Thibeault.

The cut to electricity bills would include the 8% rebate that has already been implemented by the Liberal government, making the actual decrease 17%. The government is also promising that rates will not increase any more than the annual rate of inflation (about 2%) for the next four years.

Ontario to slash hydro bills by 25%, but ratepayers may face higher costs in the future

- **Energy Monitor Worldwide**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017, 3:02pm ET**
- **Byline:** Energy Monitor Worldwide

The Ontario government is slashing electricity rates by an additional 17 per cent in an effort to provide immediate relief to ratepayers ahead of a fast-approaching 2018 election, but the rate cut comes with an estimated \$1.4 billion per year in added interest costs. Ontarios Fair Hydro Plan would see electricity rates reduced for ratepayers across the province, amounting to 25 per cent when compounded with Ontarios eight per cent HST hydro rebate that took effect Jan. 1, and will hold with the rate of inflation for four years.

Biggest hydro cuts in history of province, says Cambridge MPP Kathryn McGarry

- **Cambridge Times**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Ray Martin
- [Permalink](#)

The province has been working on reducing the soaring hydro rates for about a year and the plan is designed to help residents and businesses better cope with their electrical bills. The 25 per cent reduction will kick in once all the mechanisms are put in place this summer. Prices would then be capped at the rate of inflation for the next four years.

Mixed reviews for hydro plan

- **The Chronicle Journal**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Section:** Columns Comment.

The plan does nothing to reduce the cost of still overly-generous green energy projects nor

protect consumers from future hydro increases (although it does call for rate increases over the next four years to be held to the rate of inflation).

Sudbury MPP sells hydro plan; 'It's never too late to do the right thing'

- **Sudbury Star**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Harold Carmichael
- **Source:** Sudbury Star

Del Duca also said annual hydro increases over the next four years would be no higher than the rate of inflation - about two per cent.

Electricity system was in 'tatters'; 'We had to invest in generation, transmission and distribution,' minister says

- **North Bay Nugget**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Harold Carmichael
- **Source:** North Bay Nugget

Thibeault, who was accompanied by Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca, also said annual hydro increases over the next four years would be held to the rate of inflation - about two per cent.

Hydro reactions mixed; UWBG head says provincial moves will help; MPP says they will cost more in end

- **Owen Sound Sun Times**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Page:** A1 / Front
- **Section:** Local News
- **Byline:** Denis Langlois
- **Source:** Owen Sound Sun Times

The hydro plan, which Wynne called the “largest cut to electricity rates in the history of Ontario,” also includes a promise to hold rate increases to the rate of inflation for at least the next four years.

Minister on the defensive; Thibeault says Northerners have been 'bearing the brunt' of high energy costs

- **The Timmins Daily Press**
- **Sat Mar 4 2017**
- **Page:** A3

- **Section:** News
- **Byline:** Ron Grech
- **Source:** The Daily Press

“We’re holding all rate increases to the cost of inflation; we have made the largest single-rate reduction in electricity rates in Ontario’s history,” said Thibeault

“So why would we make everyone in this generation pay for something that we are all going to utilize” for years to come, said Thibeault, in defence of spreading the costs for this plan over 30 years.

The cut to electricity bills would include the 8% rebate that has already been implemented by the Liberal government, making the actual decrease 17%. The government is also promising that rates will not increase any more than the annual rate of inflation (about 2%) for the next four years.

The government announced the 17% reduction will come into effect this summer.

TV Transcripts

MCTV: OEB ANNOUNCES 17 PERCENT HYDRO RATE CUT

Source: MCTV

Apr 21, 2017 6: 05 PM (3)

Anchor: Relief is on the way for hydro customers as of May 1. The Ontario Energy Board announced a rate cut this week of 17 percent. The Ontario Energy Board says the kilowatt-hour prices [inaudible] six months and the government says this represents the biggest one-time cut ever in the province. This comes as part of the 25 percent rate reduction promise by the Wynne government to help people in Ontario with their soaring hydro bills.

Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy: We brought forward the eight percent reduction. That started in January of this year, and now with this additional nine percent coming forward with the OEB, it just shows that, you know, the plan that we put forward, the Fair Hydro Plan that we put forward of reducing people's rate by 25 percent is going to bring that significant relief that people were looking for.

Anchor: The province says that after this cut, prices will not rise above the rate of inflation for the next four years.

Transcript captured directly from source. Some typographical errors or omissions are to be expected.

'Fair'Plan Not So Fair; PC critic slams Wynne scheme to slash hydro

Mon 04/17/2017 9:00 AM

Colin Nekolaichuk, a spokesman for Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, said Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan will provide an average of 25% relief on electricity bills to as many as 500,000 small businesses and farms.

He called it the "single largest rate reduction in the province's history," adding that rates will also be held to inflation for the next four years.

"The minister has recently visited a number of Ontario businesses, including Dynaplas in Scarborough, Plascoat in Brampton, and BWXT in Cambridge, all of which will now or already qualify," Nekolaichuk said. "We are also partnering with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association to raise awareness of energy conservation and costsavings programs available to businesses in the province.

Hansard Transcripts

Mon 04/03/2017 11:37 AM

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, my question to the **Premier**. In 2015, then energy Minister BOB Chiarelli promised privatization of Hydro One wouldn't drive up hydro rates. In fact he said and I will quote -- Hydro One will now be an even stronger performing customer service focused company. And any efficiencies created can be passed onto customers to help reduce rates. Unquote. Well, late last Friday, Hydro One filed a distribution rate application for 2018 to 2022. Instead of reducing rates, as promised, Hydro One wants a 6.5% rate increase next year And a total increase of 20% by 2022. 20%. Will the **Premier** finally admit what 80% of

—

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very pleased to rise and address this, Mr. Speaker. So let's remember something important here, too, Mr. Speaker. Our government is lowering bills by 25% on average per House hold. As many as half a million small businesses and farms starting this summer, **Mr. Speaker. S' the single largest reduction in the province's story with rates also held to inflation for the next four years,** Mr. Speaker. We will achieve this reduction no matter the outcome of this application, Mr. Speaker. In fact Hydro One's rural customers will be seeing even greater reductions from our fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker. We're expanding the support for these customers facing the highest delivery costs in the province, Mr. Speaker, including Hydro One's rural customers. As a result of some of these Ontarians will see reductions. As large as 40 to 50% on their bills, Mr. Speaker. These are truly substantial savings and the fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker, will work for all.

Tue 04/04/2017 11:01 AM

>> Andrea Horwath: Thank you, Speaker. My question's for the acting **Premier**. Hydro One applying to increase cost of delivery by 20% at the same time as they give senior executive massive raises, including a -- For the C.E.O. Does the acting **Premier** think this is right, Speaker ?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to the Hydro One rate application, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that we're going to be holding all of our increases, **Mr. Speaker, to the rate of inflation.** So when we have our fair hydro plan coming into effect, Mr. Speaker, our government is lowering those bills by 25%, and we will ensure that we achieve this reduction no matter the outcome of this application, Mr. Speaker. In fact Hydro One's rural customers will be seeing even greater reductions from our fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker. They will be expanding the support to those customers facing some of the highest delivery costs in the province, Mr. Speaker, including Hydro One's rural customers. They will be seeing, Mr. Speaker, a reduction between 40 and 50% on their bills, Mr. Speaker. That is significant for those families, Mr. Speaker. So we will achieve this, as we said, no matter the outcome of this application, Mr. Speaker.

Wed 04/26/2017 11:45 AM

>> MPP Martins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of energy about a concern that my constituents have raise under Davenport. Last week the Ontario energy board made an announcement regarding new electclcity rates to be effective on may 1st. As the independent regulator of Ontario's energy sector, the O.E.B. Quasi-judicial board governs the sector. It sets electricity rates twice a year so Ontarians know what to expect with their bills. As members of this House know well, our government has recognized Ontarians want relief on electricity costs and we have acted. Our plan is to lower electricity bills by an average of 25% by this summer. I understand that the O.E.B. -- My question is for the Minister of energy about a concern that my constituents have raise under Davenport. Last week the Ontario energy board made an announcement regarding new electclcity rates to be effective on may 1st. As the independent regulator of Ontario's energy sector, the O.E.B. Quasi-judicial board governs the sector. It sets electricity rates twice a year so Ontarians know what to expect with their bills. As members of this House know well, our government has recognized Ontarians want relief on electricity costs and we have acted. Our plan is to lower electricity bills by an average of 25% by this summer. I understand that the O.E.B. --

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to thank the member for that important question. I was pleased, Mr. Speaker, with the o.e.b.'s decision to begin lowering rates on may 1st, Mr. Speaker, and anticipation of our government's fair hydro plan. This is the next of several steps which Ontarians will see as we work towards bills being reduced by 25% beginning this summer, Mr. Speaker, with rates held to inflation for the next four years. The o.e.b.'s decision means bills will be reduced by 17% beginning may 1st. That's even earlier than expected, Mr. Speaker. The rest of our plan is intended to come into effect by this summer in order to achieve the rest of the promised savings, Mr. Speaker. The O.E.B. Would require to reduce rates again this summer when final legislation is passed to ensure Ontarians -- See the full benefit of our plan, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible.