

Fw: Statement re. NDP press conference

From: "MacKenzie, Rebecca (OPO)" <"o=govon/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdl)/cn=recipients/cn=mackenzie, rebecca (opo)7a8">
To: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 2017 11:35:04 -0400

Hi, why didn't this come from the Minister?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY) <Colin.Nikolaichuk@ontario.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)
Subject: Statement re. NDP press conference

Good morning,

Please see the following statement from the Office of the Minister of Energy in response to this morning's NDP press conference:

Much like the NDP's hydro scheme, Andrea Horwath's press conference today was short on details and long on hollow promises. Many of her proposals rely on a vague and yet-to-be-determined "expert panel" that will be convened in the future, as well as pie-in-the-sky negotiations with the federal government. These offer little to Ontarians in the short-term, compared to the real and meaningful relief our government's Fair Hydro Plan will provide to everyone.

Unlike the NDP, our plan was presented at a comprehensive technical briefing, with experts including the CEO of Ontario Power Generation, Deputy Minister of Energy and accounting specialists available to answer questions. A wide range of third-party experts and stakeholders have since endorsed our plan, with Alectra Utilities calculating their customers will save 27 to 28 per cent because of it.

The NDP's most expensive idea – buying back more than \$4-billion in shares of Hydro One – will not take one cent off electricity bills. What it will do is send billions to the stock market instead of making much needed infrastructure investments in communities across Ontario.

Through Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, our government is cutting electricity bills by 25 per cent on average for all families, with 8 per cent cut already and the rest to follow this summer. It is the single largest rate reduction in the province's history, helping families along with about half a million farms and small businesses. The Liberal plan will also keep rates consistent, holding them to inflation over the next four years. We will introduce legislation this session, with time for debate and public hearings at committee, ensuring real relief for Ontarians and a way to ensure greater fairness in our electricity system this summer. The NDP hydro proposal offers nothing practical or substantial when it comes to reduced electricity costs for Ontario families and small businesses.

Thank you,
Colin

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