

Hansard: Horwath to Premier (Thibeault) --Sale Hydro One

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INSTANT HANSARD

>> **Andrea Horwath:** My next question's for the **Premier**. Talk about pie in the sky, they didn't come anywhere near reaching the targets that they set in terms of taking energy off the P.Q. And conservation so let's not pretend what the facts are around here. The **Premier** told Ontarians repeatedly that the government would be able to maintain control over Hydro One, even when the sell-off was complete. If that's the case, and **the Premier** does have control over Hydro One, why hasn't she done anything about the outrageous salaries that the C.E.O. is currently Collecting?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Minister of energy.

>> Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are a shareholder in Hydro One, Mr. Speaker, and that is something that is very clear. And when it comes to -- again, Mr. Speaker, the importance of recognizing that, yes, these salaries are high and yes, Mr. Speaker, we recognize that they are much higher than the vast majority of Ontarians, and we also know that Ontarians are struggling to pay -- many Ontarians are struggling to pay their electricity bills. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we brought forward our plan. The fair hydro plan is the single largest electricity bill reduction in our province's history, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure that low-income individuals will actually have their bills reduced by 25% plus, Mr. Speaker, the Ontario electricity support program which will help them

even more. Low-income individuals. Were not even mentioned in the NDP's idea, Mr. Speaker. We're making sure we're helping every family in this province, Mr. Speaker ,.

>> Andrea Horwath: Somehow people are supposed to be happy that the Liberals have increased their bills by 275%, Mr. Speaker. I don't think they're happy about that. [Applause] If the **Premier** is unable, unable to rein in the C.E.O. Salary even when she says the government maintains control at Hydro One, can she explain to Ontarians why she has spent years trying to sell the clearly false idea that even when the Hydro One sell-off is complete, the government will maintain control of it?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know once again we've talked often about sale of Hydro One and the benefits that we're going to be doing as investments and infrastructure. The one thing that the third party doesn't talk about, Mr. Speaker, is our government acting to eliminate coal. We now, Mr. Speaker, do not have coal part of our electricity system. And this morning, Mr. Speaker, we heard from kids. We heard from children that live in our province that now can actually go outside and play because we no longer have smog days, Mr. Speaker. Because of the investments that we've made as a government, we're actually benefitting families right across the province, and we recognize, Mr. Speaker, that that costs more, that that costs more, Mr. Speaker. \$50 billion is what we invest today make sure that people can go outside and breathe. And while they wouldn't do that, Mr. Speaker.

>> We did. And now we're making that as affordable as possible for people right across the province, Mr. Speaker.

>> Andrea Horwath: Speaker the **Premier** is defending a ludicrous \$4.5 million C.E.O. Salary. She refuses to stop her wrong-headed sell-off of Hydro One. Even though it's now very, very clear that the government will have no control whatsoever of this new corporation. She and her Minister clearly do not understand the struggles that families are facing with time-of-use pricing. When will this **Premier** show Ontarians that she is actually serious about more than buying support for the next election in the face of sinking poll numbers, do what's right for the people of Ontario, not her political party, and stop the disastrous sell-off of Hydro One?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's under the leadership of this **Premier**, Mr. Speaker, that we are investing in infrastructure right across the province, Mr. Speaker. It's under the leadership of this **Premier**, Mr. Speaker, that we are reducing bills by 25% on average, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we continue to talk about the investments that we made, we spent \$50 billion, Mr. Speaker, investing in a system that was left in Tatters by both opposition parties, by freezing rates, cancelling ideas, not moving forward at all, Mr. Speaker. They kept kicking to the curb the electricity system. We didn't do that, Mr. Speaker. We invested. We built clean system reliable system

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