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Subject: Hansard: Armstrong to Premier (Thibeault) -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Armstrong: They are shocked at the rates they're being charged and desperate for relief. One particularly heartbreaking story was from a young couple with a baby only a few months old. Because they can't afford their hydro bill, this young mom spends time at her parents House to save time of use charges. That hasn't worked. Can you imagine the frustration and anger young parents are feeling because they are forced between choosing to pay for your government's hydro scheme or providing for their family?

>> **Premier Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of energy will want to speak to the specifics of our fair hydro plan. We knew that even with the measures we had taken, the 8%, Mr. Speaker, the reduction that was in place as of January 1st, that we needed to do more. We knew that we needed to do more. Another 17% reduction will mean that that young family will see a 25% reduction on their electricity bill, Mr. Speaker, come the summer. It was exactly those situations where families, people were carrying too much of a burden, Mr. Speaker, too much of a burden for investments and upgrading of a system that is going to last for generations. We were asking those people to pay now, Mr. Speaker and a disproportionate amount. We're spreading those amounts.

>> MPP Armstrong: Speaker, there's no comfort on passing on debt to the next generation. **Premier**, this young family lives in a semidetached nothing large. They don't have electric heat. They don't live in their own House during the day. Despite drastic measures, their hydro bills are still way too high. **Premier**, you have failed young families like my constituency. And, worse, you have put their ability to provide for their child at risk. When will this government take responsibility for their failed energy policies that you are forcing young families to pay for? When will we see your new Liberal plan?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good news for families like what the Honourable member mentioned in relation to ordinary fair hydro plan. Up to 25% or on average 25% will be coming to actually help families just like them, Mr. Speaker. And that's good news for every family right across the province. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, if this family qualifies, if they're low income, Mr. Speaker, we will make sure that they can get access to the Ontario electricity support program where they will actually see an additional 50%, Mr. Speaker, to help them. That's what we're making sure we're doing, Mr. Speaker, helping every single family, small business and farm in this province through the Ontario fair hydro plan, Mr. Speaker. On one side of the House, one party has no plan. The other party has a plan that's a vague context that doesn't take one cent off anybody's bills, Mr. Speaker. We're doing more than that.

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