

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) [energynews@ontario.ca]
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To: @ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations [ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations@msgov.gov.on.ca]; Anderson, Alexandria (OPG) [alexandria.anderson@opg.com]; Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY) [Hillary.Armstrong@ontario.ca]; Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY) [Rachel.Barbaro@ontario.ca]; Berg, Denna (ENERGY) [Denna.Berg@ontario.ca]; Bergen, Tom (OPG) [Tom.Bergen@opg.com]; Mary Bernard [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7e3e3e8d7f9345c2b0aab3e0fd7a79f2-Mary Bernar]; Berry, James (ENERGY) [James.Berry5@ontario.ca]; Biggs, Megan (ENERGY) [Megan.Biggs@ontario.ca]; Bozzo, John (OEB) [John.Bozzo@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Buccilli, Lina (OEB) [Lina.Buccilli@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Tim Butters [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=51a65d6ed8cf46629b4c4226b8a7033f-Tim Butters]; Alexandra Campbell [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=c1277e2d9ffd4c598e3819f291200a35-Alexandra C]; Campbell, David (ENERGY) [David.Campbell2@ontario.ca]; John Cannella [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=cd667c6d53774dd0a749783bb02ae89d-John Cannel]; Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI) [Cheryl.Carson@ontario.ca]; Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY) [Daniel.Cayley@ontario.ca]; Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY) [Jeet.Chatterjee@ontario.ca]; Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY) [Meaghan.Coker@ontario.ca]; Cooper, Sarah (ENERGY) [Sarah.Cooper@ontario.ca]; Crawford, Paul (OEB) [Paul.Crawford@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Dade, Christine (ENERGY) [Christine.Dade@ontario.ca]; David Barrett [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=ef6f3b035ceb494099260e6fa7603f36-David Barre]; Andrew Dow [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6268b334c119488b888395bba8b155d9-Andrew Dow]; Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG) [Sandra.Dykxhoorn@opg.com]; Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY) [Trevor.Esdaile@ontario.ca]; Evans, Karen (ENERGY) [Karen.Evans@ontario.ca]; Chuck Farmer [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=aa83ad66edf341b4a48c3f852b674355-Chuck Farme]; Feather, Adam (ENERGY) [Adam.Feather@ontario.ca]; Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY) [Diana.Gibbs@ontario.ca]; Gruetzner, Ted (OPG) [Ted.Gruetzner@opg.com]; Ho, Larissa (ENERGY) [Larissa.Ho@ontario.ca]; Hume, Steen (ENERGY) [Steen.Hume@ontario.ca]; Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY) [Serge.Imbrogno@ontario.ca]; Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY) [Patrick.Imlay@ontario.ca]; Johnson, Paul (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI) [Paul.Johnson3@ontario.ca]; Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY) [Jennifer.Kacaba@ontario.ca]; Kelly, Neal (OPG) [Neal.Kelly@opg.com]; Kinapen, Donna (OEB) [Donna.Kinapen@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY) [Matthew.Kitchen@ontario.ca]; Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB) [Sylvia.Kovesfalvi@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Landmann, Peter (ENERGY) [Peter.Landmann@ontario.ca]; Lars Hansen [Lars.Hansen@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY) [Arla.Latto-Hall@ontario.ca]; Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY) [Chloe.Lazakis@ontario.ca]; Jane Leckey [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2d516eef12b444edaca0ee56126664b3-Jane Leckey]; Leung, Thomas (MOF) [Thomas.Leung@ontario.ca]; Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY) [Ken.Lindsay@ontario.ca]; Linington, Brenda (MOI) [Brenda.Linington@ontario.ca]; Mackie, Richard (OPG) [Richard.Mackie@opg.com]; Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY) [Lauren.Maguire@ontario.ca]; McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY) [Jessica.McGrath@ontario.ca]; Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF) [Kaitlin.Montgomery@ontario.ca]; Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY) [SOM.Fatima.Naveed@ontario.ca]; Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY) [Colin.Nikolaichuk@ontario.ca]; Nelms, Scott (MOF) [Scott.Nelms@ontario.ca]; O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY) [som.Cheryl.O'Donnell@ontario.ca]; O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY) [Eamon.O'Riordan@ontario.ca]; Pagel, Alexa (ENERGY) [Alexa.Pagel@ontario.ca]; Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY) [Bryan.Pelkey@ontario.ca]; Jordan Penic [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7d23bcd450594583bb40b447b35485da-Jordan Peni]; Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY) [Doreen.Pitkeathly@ontario.ca]; Poirier, Linda (ENERGY) [Linda.Poirier@ontario.ca]; Rehob, James (ENERGY) [James.Rehob@ontario.ca]; Reid, Michael (ENERGY) [Michael.Reid@ontario.ca]; Rowe, Jennifer (OPG) [Jennifer.Rowe@opg.com]; Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY) [Craig.Ruttan@ontario.ca]; Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY) [Kaili.Sermat-Harding@ontario.ca]; Shear, Dan (ENERGY) [Dan.Shear@ontario.ca]; Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY) [Valerie.Simmons@ontario.ca]; Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY) [Marlo.SpenceLair@ontario.ca]; Spence, Marcia (ENERGY) [Marcia.Spence@ontario.ca]; Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY) [Andrea.Stoiko@ontario.ca]; Sweet, Edward (ENERGY) [Edward.Sweet@ontario.ca]; Syed, Usman (ENERGY) [Usman.Syed@ontario.ca]; Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY) [Andrew.Teliszewsky@ontario.ca]; Thompson, Erin (ENERGY) [Erin.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY) [Rachel.Thompson@ontario.ca]; Todd, Brian (MOI) [Brian.Todd@ontario.ca]; Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY) [Ilia.Tretiakov@ontario.ca]; Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY) [Vanessa.Visheau@ontario.ca]; Waddell, Colleen (MOF) [Colleen.Waddell@ontario.ca]; Wall, Vanda (OEB) [Vanda.Wall@ontarioenergyboard.ca]; Whittington, Matt

(ENERGY) [Matt.Whittington@ontario.ca]; Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY) [Lindsay.Wright@ontario.ca]; Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY) [Saurabh.Yadav@ontario.ca]; Terry Young [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=872fa3f6e61a48709b11458c0c3b6ca6-Terry Young]; Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY) [Martin.Schlaepfer@ontario.ca]

Subject: Hansard: Tabuns to Thibeault -- Hydro Rate Reduction Plan

INSTANT HANSARD

>> MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. My question to the acting **Premier**, last year, the **Premier** admitted her hydro policies were a mistake. She refused to do anything to correct those mistakes. In fact, she's now doubling down on her biggest mistake. She's ignoring the people of Ontario and selling off a final piece of Hydro One. Ontario's oldest and most important public asset. Why does the **Premier** care more about serving the interests of her friends on bay street and not the interests of the people of Ontario?

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's go back to November when the people did stand up and apologize for decades of mistakes made by all governments, Mr. Speaker. That kicked the electricity file to the curb. We had to act, Mr. Speaker. We had to rebuild the system. It cost us \$50 billion to do that. But you know what we have now, Mr. Speaker? A system that is clean. A system that is reliable. And a system that doesn't rely on coal, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So we rebuilt that system and we recognize that it came with a cost, Mr. Speaker. What we did is we brought forward the fair hydro plan which actually reduces everyone's rates in this province by up to 25% on average, Mr. Speaker. That is something that is a benefit for everyone.

>> MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, after this final sale, the people of Ontario will no longer have majority ownership of Hydro One. The **Premier** has sold off the ability of the people of this province to control their hydro system. From now on, Hydro One will focus on private profit, not on the public interest. Speaker, through you to the Deputy **Premier**, how does it feel to be part of a government that has finally killed off through Adam Beck's legacy of public power in Ontario.

>> Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adam Beck's legacy is alive and well with OPG, Mr. Speaker. And you know what? We're continuing to make sure that the Beck generating station produces significant power for this province. But again, Mr. Speaker, it shows that this party has no -- They have no idea how the system works, Mr. Speaker. And you know what? For making sure that the investment that we're getting for the broadening of ownership of Hydro One will be going into infrastructure investments right across the province now, Mr. Speaker. You know what also is happening now? A 17% reduction on electricity bills right across the province thanks to Ontario fair hydro plan. We have more coming Mr. Speaker. That will help those families, businesses and farms right across our great province.

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