

Message

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Sent: 2018-04-10 10:55:29 AM
To: Jessica Savage [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=42171042a4154102bf27418f958141e3-Jessica Sav]
Subject: FW: Media Conference: ECO Report Release

From: Energy In The News (ENERGY) [mailto:energynews@ontario.ca]

Sent: April 10, 2018 10:51 AM

To: @ENERGY-COMM-Issues_and_MediaRelations; Alexandra Day (Alexandra.Day@oeb.ca); Anderson, Alexandria (OPG); Andrew Bodrug (Andrew.Bodrug@oeb.ca); Armstrong, Hillary (ENERGY); Barbaro, Rachel (ENERGY); Berg, Denna (ENERGY); Mary Bernard; Berry, James (ENERGY); Biggs, Megan (ENERGY); Bozzo, John (OEB); Brayden Akers (brayden.akers@opg.com); Buccilli, Lina (OEB); Tim Butters; Alexandra Campbell; John Cannella; Carson, Cheryl (ENERGY/MEDEI/MRI); Cayley, Daniel (ENERGY); Chatterjee, Jeet (ENERGY); Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY); Cooper, Sarah (ENERGY); Cotter, Adam (ENERGY); Crawford, Paul (OEB); christine.dade@ontario.ca; David Barrett; Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY); Dmitriev, Constantine (ENERGY); Andrew Dow; Dykxhoorn, Sandra (OPG); Elvira Palermo (Elvira.Palermo@oeb.ca); Chuck Farmer; Feather, Adam (ENERGY); Gibbs, Diana (ENERGY); Greenwood, Dorin (ENERGY); Gruetzner, Ted (OPG); Ho, Larissa (ENERGY); Hume, Steen (ENERGY); Imbrogno, Serge (ENERGY); Imlay, Patrick (ENERGY); Johnson, Paul (ENERGY); Joseph Rosa (Joseph.Rosa@oeb.ca); Kacaba, Jennifer (ENERGY); Karen Evans (Karen.Evans@ontarioenergyboard.ca); Kate Longmoore; Kelly, Neal (OPG); Kinapen, Donna (OEB); King, Catriona; Kitchen, Matthew (ENERGY); Kovesfalvi, Sylvia (OEB); Kuppuswami, Kritika (MOF); Landmann, Peter (ENERGY); Lars Hansen; Latto-Hall, Arla (ENERGY); Lazakis, Chloe (ENERGY); Jane Leckey; Leung, Thomas (MOF); Brown, Liam (ENERGY); Lindsay, Ken (ENERGY); Linington, Brenda (MOI); Maguire, Lauren (ENERGY); Mandy Usprech (Mandy.Usprech@oeb.ca); Martine Band (Martine.Band@oeb.ca); McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY); Michelle Gregoire (Michelle.Gregoire@oeb.ca); Montgomery, Kaitlin (MOF); Moore, Dylan (ENERGY); Murray, Maud (ENERGY/MEDG/MRIS/MOI); Naveed, Fatima (ENERGY); Nikolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY); Nelms, Scott (MOF); Nucciarone, Michael (ENERGY); O'Donnell, Cheryl (ENERGY); OGBORNE Shawn -STAKEREL; O'Riordan, Eamon (ENERGY); Pelkey, Bryan (ENERGY); Jordan Penic; Pitkeathly, Doreen (ENERGY); Poirier, Linda (ENERGY); Rehob, James (ENERGY); Reid, Michael (ENERGY); Rowe, Jennifer (OPG); Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY); Schlaepfer, Martin (ENERGY); Sermat-Harding, Kaili (ENERGY); Shear, Dan (ENERGY); Simmons, Valerie (ENERGY); Smith, Brett (ENERGY); Spence Lair, Marlo (ENERGY); Spence, Marcia (ENERGY); Stoiko, Andrea (ENERGY); Sweet, Edward (ENERGY); Syed, Usman (ENERGY); Tara Brautigam (Tara.Brautigam@oeb.ca); Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY); Thompson, Erin (ENERGY); Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY); Thouin, Alena (ENERGY); Todd, Brian (MOI); Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY); Visheau, Vanessa (ENERGY); Wall, Vanda (OEB); Whittington, Matt (ENERGY); Whytock, John (ENERGY); Wright, Lindsay (ENERGY); Yadav, Saurabh (ENERGY); Terry Young

Subject: Media Conference: ECO Report Release

Press Conference Report: Release of Annual Energy Conservation Report, Vol. 1

Presented by: Diane Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario

Media Studio, Queens Park

April 10, 2018

Time: 10:00AM

Full transcript to follow shortly

Overview:

- Diane Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario introduced the 3rd ECO report to legislature by referring to it as *a look at how electricity has changed since 2005 and where it needs to go by 2030*.
- There was a one journalist (unknown) present, and one MPP (Tabuns).

Key Points (not a transcript):

- In 2005 electricity was very different. Coal made the air unfit to breathe in some cities. It was inexpensive, but was bad for our health.
- Today's system is more expensive, but is cleaner and more reliable. Smog days have dropped to zero, and the sky is blue – not yellow. Pollution has dropped. There are no longer brown-outs.
- To make these changes, electricity rates had to go up, and they did. Electricity rates can be especially challenging for homes heated by electricity – 16%. I recommend that the government do more to help financially. But its important people understand that cleaner energy is more expensive.
- The sale of Hydro One has not contributed to the increased rates.
- We know there will be more rate increases ahead, Ontario will have to pay back the money borrowed to pay for the Fair Hydro Plan. We should focus on conservation to save energy at peak times.
- We need to move away from fossil fuels use. More bikes and transit, and also more electric cars, busses and trucks. Ontario will need more electricity for this – but the government's entire LTEP is based on the assumption that the low-carbon change will not occur. They are hoping electricity demand stays flat.
- LTEP should be required by law to take into account this change to electrification.
- Looking ahead we will need much more clean energy to replace fossil fuels.

Media Question and Answer (not verbatim):

Q: Is it fair to say that the Ministry of Energy is betting that the province will not comply with the Climate act?

A: *The ministry is predicting that electricity will stay flat, and making not plans for the climate act. They leave it to the Ministry of the environment. The two branches must work together and are not.*

Q: So what are the consequences?

A: *The province has turned its back on the renewable energy industry. Cancelling renewable procurement, and ignoring ways to make money with renewable energy. We are going to need to have sources of energy to replace fossil fuels. We need renewable energy for this, and the province doesn't have a path forward.*

Q: What about the costs on the consumer?

A: *There needs to be attention on making homes more energy efficient. The average family spends 3.5% on energy, but electric heated homes spend 5% - and their bills will go up going forward. It's important to make funds available to help pay bills, but we really need to make homes more efficient. With the Fair Hydro Plan – rates are going to continue to go up, natural gas is going to go up – so in the long term we simply can't keep adding money to help pay bills.*

Q: Is the time to act now?

A: *Absolutely – conservation is the cheapest way to provide energy needs – it also creates employment, and makes homes more comfortable. There are a lot of benefits to conservation, it's a good investment. Conservation programs currently tend to be unfocused – you don't get much benefit from conservation at night, for example.*

Q: The PC leader has made promises on policies around this issue. Such as no carbon pricing, and he would lower hydro costs. What consequences would that have?

A: *I don't take a position on any party platforms – but in our last report on climate change – the most effective way to reduce emissions is to put a price on carbon. All other options are more expensive or difficult to manage. So given that the climate crisis is advancing rapidly and we have international obligations to reduce our emissions – it would be difficult without a price on carbon.*

In terms of electricity rates – People want to know 'what are we paying for?' Is this for moving gas plants? This is for cleaner air and public health. We don't see any way to pay less for electricity – we're running up a credit card bill on it. Ontario spent two decades paying off stranded debt, and here we are again. It's much easier to borrow than to pay back.

Q: The PC leader has said that he prefers to let the free market decide, and to support innovation in the marketplace. Do you feel that is feasible?

A: *The free market certainly has an important role on renewable energy. FIT was the best practice in 2009, it's not anymore. We have a lot of experience in Ontario that you can't rely entirely on the free market. In 2002, under the conservative government, we had an experiment that resulted in rates doubling. People need predictable prices and long term contracts need to be added, and less reliance on the free market.*

Twitter Activity:

Peter Tabuns

@Peter_Tabuns

@Ont_ECO Dianne Saxe presents her report this morning on Ontario's energy plan. She finds that the plan ignores Ontario's own climate law. Province doesn't have plan to meet its 2030 climate targets. #onpoli