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Subject: Media Call Summary - April 10, 2018

Minister's Office: 1 inquiry

Topic: ECO Report

Reporter & Outlet: Toronto Star (Robert Benzie), Canadian Press

Response Type: Minister's statement

Questions:

Toronto Star and Canadian Press looking for comment on the Environmental Commissioner's report.

Response:

"I would like to thank the Environmental Commissioner for her report.

I'm pleased the Commissioner recognizes a number of areas we have progressed in as a government, including the fact that Ontario's electricity system went from 74% low-carbon electricity generation in 2005 to 96% low-carbon electricity generation in 2017.

The Commissioner also confirmed that Ontario's electricity system is in much better shape than it was in 2005 – it is self-sufficient, with reliable power for peak demand with no brownouts or emergency supply situations. It also points out that families and small businesses pay less on average here than in many other jurisdictions due to the Fair Hydro Plan.

We're pleased the report also recognizes that "replacing coal-fired electricity with renewable energy, nuclear, conservation, and natural gas has cleaned the air, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and increased electrical grid capacity and resilience." This has "dramatically reduced Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions, and has improved air quality and public health", according to the Commissioner.

This confirms that Ontario is taking a leading role in the global fight against climate change, while maintaining a robust, reliable electricity system. But as always, we know we have more work to do.

In the development of the 2017 Long-Term Energy Plan, the Ministry of Energy worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to ensure the continued consideration of Ontario's emissions reduction targets. In that spirit, Ontario remains committed to an electricity system that includes renewable energy generation and conservation, and supports the goals of the Province's Climate Change Action Plan.

We're pleased that the Commissioner's report recognizes that through our cap on pollution and our investments in green solutions, we're driving Ontario towards meeting our emission reduction targets.

Every dollar raised from Ontario's carbon market is being reinvested in green projects that help Ontarians save money and fight climate change. These investments include hundreds of thousands of dollars into transit, and energy efficient upgrades for homes, schools, hospitals, social housing, universities and colleges – and we will ensure we continue making positive changes to meet and beat our emission reduction targets."

Ministry: 0 inquiries

Agencies: 0 inquiries