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

INSTANT HANSARD

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you, Speaker. My question to the **Premier**. The people of Ontario deserve to know who authorized an accounting trick designed to hide the cost of the **Premier's** hydro borrowing scheme. The auditor general's been clear based on emails she accessed as part of her investigation that the Liberal government knew the astronomical cost and did it anyway. But the **Premier** won't admit that she knew and when, and neither will the Minister. Will the **Premier** stop telling Ontarians that she is open and transparent and actually be open and transparent and release those emails right now?

>>Minister Thibeault: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, when it comes to the emails that we are providing to the auditor general, when it comes to the fair hydro plan, we are in compliance, Mr. Speaker. We're continuing to work with her office. We've identified 80 custodians of the request, Mr. Speaker, with 40 catchphrases or words. That produced 2 million emails, Mr. Speaker. We then had the firm narrow that down to the specific file, Mr. Speaker. That produced 145,000 emails with these grades. We then had the entire ministry of energy, Mr. Speaker, working on identifying all of the emails that will comply with the ask from the auditor general, Mr. Speaker. So we are complying. We are acting right now. Those emails, we have over 13,000, 13,212 to be exact, Mr. Speaker. We've made sure that we're going to continue to provide those emails to the auditor general and we'll continue to work with her office.

>>MPP Tabuns: Thank you. Speaker, the people -- sorry, Speaker. To the **Premier** again. The people of this province have had enough, enough of this Liberal government's partisan manoeuvring. They've had too many vag statements, too much political doublespeak and way too many "I don't recall" from the **Premier**. The government set aside \$500,000 for a lawyer to assemble these emails for the auditor general. It should be easy for the **Premier** to release those emails to the public. Will the **Premier** release those emails now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before and as I'll say again, Mr. Speaker, there were 80 custodians identified that were involved in the fair hydro plan. Of those 80 custodians 40 catchphrases or words were then identified that needed to be turned over. That produced 2 million emails, Mr. Speaker. Those 2 million emails then were reviewed by the firm in which we've paid approximately \$40,000 to. We will not be going over \$60,000 in this, Mr. Speaker, but that firm then identified those 145,000 emails which the ministry of energy is now identifying as and releasing. We've released 13,212 emails to the auditor general. We're going to continue to work with the auditor general's office. We're going to continue to provide the emails as we identify those -- 145,000 that pertain to this case, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to work with the auditor general on this file, Mr. Speaker .

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