

## Neil Brodie

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**From:** Neil Brodie  
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**To:** Rosemarie Leclair  
**Subject:** Legislative Affairs

### Today's committee meetings

#### Standing Committee on General Government

- Tuesday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m.
- Room 2
- The committee will meet to consider the following intended appointments:
  - § Pareshkumar Jariwala as member of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Grant Review Team
  - § **Michael Janigan** as member of the Ontario Energy Board

### Question Period

#### Hydro rates

- NDP MPP Peter Tabuns said the government promised a 25 per cent cut to hydro bills by the summer, but the recent **Ontario Energy Board** rate announcement only shows a 17 per cent cut.
  - o He asked why the government's hydro promises keep falling short.
- Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault said we will see a 25 per cent reduction by summer

### News briefs – Governmental

#### Office of the Premier

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced the province is moving ahead with its basic income pilot project with plans to launch pilots in Hamilton and Thunder Bay this spring and in Lindsay this fall. The pilots will provide 4,000 people with a \$17,000 per year basic income, or \$24,000 for a couple. Participants will be able to keep 50 per cent of any income they earn on top of that.

The government is acting on recommendations from Hugh Segal and will use the pilot to study whether basic income is "fair, effective, and scientifically valid." Wynne said basic income will help people "struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living and facing" precarious employment' with little job security or benefits."

#### Opposition response

- NDP leader Andrea Horwath said \$17,000 is still far below the poverty line and questioned why the government thinks that is enough for people to survive.
- PC leader Patrick Brown said he supports basic income in principle but is waiting to see whether the government's pilot program is successful.