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Question Period

NDP

Hydro rates
• NDP MPP Peter Tabuns asked Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault why hydro rates rose 10 per cent this year despite the Fair Hydro Plan and its $25 billion borrowing scheme.
o Thibeault said the Fair Hydro Plan has reduced hydro rates by an
average of 25 per cent, and that the NDP has no plan to reduce hydro rates for Ontarians.

OEB mentioned....

Mr. Peter Tabuns: To the Premier: On April 19, the **Ontario Energy Board** announced what at least seemed to be good news; Hydro rates were not going up. But it turns out that this was just government propaganda, because if you dig just a little bit further, you find that actual hydro costs have jumped by roughly 10% from last year.

The government is using borrowed cash to hide these true costs from the public before the election. Why won't the Premier just tell the truth—that her $40-billion hydro borrowing scheme will send bills skyrocketing by 70% after the election?

Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne: Minister of Energy.

Hon. Glenn Thibeault: The fair hydro plan, as the member is well aware, is bringing forward and has brought forward a 25% reduction for all families across the province, and then that is being held to the rate of inflation for the next four years. The long-term energy plan also shows that costs are being pulled out of the system to keep our system reliable, clean and affordable for all people right across the province.

It is good news that the **OEB** brought forward no rate increases this year. We'll continue to work with all our partners to ensure that we keep having a system that is reliable, a system that is clean and affordable. For us on this side of the House, we made sure that we acted on it. The opposition party: They voted against that.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): Supplementary.

Mr. Peter Tabuns: Again to the Premier: The Premier is using borrowed cash to hide the true cost of hydro before the election, but background documents buried in the **Ontario Energy Board's** website show the truth: Actual hydro costs have jumped about 10% from last year. Those are the costs that Ontario families will still have to pay after the Premier's payday loan comes due. Leaked government documents show that hydro bills will rise 70% over 10 years, starting after the election.

Will the Premier tell Ontarians the truth: that her hydro borrowing scheme drives bills up even further over the long term, not down?

Hon. Glenn Thibeault: Once again, there's a document called Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan—I encourage the member to read it—where he will see that the rates are actually lower moving forward than they would have been even four years ago, and where that projection would be.

We invested in the fair hydro plan to make sure that we could reduce rates by 25% for everyone across the province. They voted against that. And do you know what, Mr. Speaker? They have no plan when it comes to actually reducing rates. What they want to do is eliminate the fair hydro plan. They want to raise rates by 25%.

On this side of the House, we brought forward a plan. We helped all families right across the province, and 500,000 small businesses and farms. Those who live in rural and northern parts of our province continue to see rates that have been reduced anywhere between 35% and 50%, on average.

We will continue to act on behalf of the people of Ontario, helping them and keeping a clean, reliable and affordable system.