

Neil Brodie

From: Neil Brodie
Sent: November 15, 2017 1:04 PM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: 2017 Ontario Fiscal Outlook

Below is a summary of Energy Issues mentioned in the Fiscal Update presented yesterday by the Ontario Minister of Finance.

Energy Issues Addressed in the 2017 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review

Chapter I: Building Fairness for Ontario Families

***Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan* (pg. 41)**

This section is consistent with MOE key messaging on the Fair Hydro Plan, focusing on the 25 per cent reduction on hydro bills, Global Adjustment refinancing and removing the cost of the OESP and most of the RRP program from electricity consumers' bills. The section also mentions the additional support provided through the FHP for low-income individuals and/or rural or remote communities in the form of the Affordability Fund, expansion of the OESP and providing a First Nations On-reserve delivery charge credit.

The section touches on the LTEP and the projection of lower monthly bills for residential consumers than previously forecasted due to government initiatives, including the FHP and the IESO's market renewal initiative.

Chapter II: Creating Opportunities for Everyone

***Improving Energy Supports for Rural Communities* (pg. 88)**

Outlines the efforts of the government to improve access to additional energy choices and a \$100 million investment to expand access to natural gas to underserved areas (including rural/northern Ontario and Indigenous communities)

It touches again on the FHP and the 40-50 per cent bill reduction and the On-reserve First Nation credit on delivery charges.

Chapter III: Ontario's Economic and Fiscal Strength

***Reducing Ontario's Electricity Sector Stranded Debt* (pg. 142)**

This section was one sentence:

'The 2017 annual financial statements of the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation (OEFEC) showed revenue over expense of \$1.2 billion, reducing the OEFEC's unfunded liability (or "stranded debt") from \$4.4 billion as at March 31, 2016, to \$3.2 billion as at March 31, 2017, the 13th consecutive year of stranded debt reduction.'

Chapter IV: Ontario's Economic and Fiscal Strength

Strengthening Indigenous Communities

(pg. 148)

This section includes focus on 'connecting northern remote communities to the transmission grid'. It uses the example of Wataynikaneyap Power LP, a leading project to connect more than 16 First Nations communities to the provincial electricity grid. It mentions how is continuing to engage with the federal government to ensure a commitment for a fair federal contribution to the capital costs of the project.