



COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: First Nations Leadership

FROM: COO Executive Office

DATE: March 2, 2017

RE: **ELIMINATION OF THE DELIVERY CHARGE TO ON-RESERVE FIRST NATIONS**

The Chiefs of Ontario is acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the Chiefs Committee on Energy for their continued advocacy for the development of a First Nations Energy Rate. Nya:weh/Miigwetch to Chief Ava Hill, Chief Shining Turtle, Chief Dan Miskokomon and Chief Janice Henderson.

We are pleased by Premier Wynne's announcement this morning of *Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan*. After several engagement sessions with First Nations during the fall of 2016, recommendations were submitted to the Minister of Energy that included the elimination of the delivery charge for First Nations citizens.

Premier Wynne's *Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan* announcement this morning is celebrated and one that will cement further government-to-government dialogue. The plan includes:

- *First Nations On-Reserve Delivery Credit*, a complete elimination of the delivery charge for on-reserve First Nation citizens;
- An average of 25% reduction of the overall bill;
- Enhanced relief through the *Rural or Remote Electricity Rate Protection*, at approximately \$75/month for Hydro One R2 customers and \$18/month for Hydro One R1 customers;
- Access to the *New Affordability Fund*, which will provide up front funding for energy conservation measures such as: Cold climate air source heat pumps, insulation, weather stripping, energy efficient lighting, energy efficient appliances, windows, etc.; and
- Enhancement of the *Ontario Electricity Support Program*, which includes Indigenous specific support of up to \$113.

These changes are expected to be implemented by the summer of 2017.

The Chiefs of Ontario would also like to acknowledge the former Minister of Energy Hon. Bob Chiarelli, current Minister of Energy Hon. Glenn Thibeault, Premier Kathleen Wynne and her Cabinet.

You spoke and they listened.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/node/1513#>

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2017/03/ontario-cutting-electricity-bills-by-25-per-cent.html>

<https://news.ontario.ca/mei/en/2017/03/enhancing-electricity-support-and-conservation-programs.html>