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CLIMATE
ACTION!
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Electricity: Big corporate consumers get price breaks, we pay the bills

In the last election Ford promised to cut electricity costs to Ontario families by 12%. He didn't. Instead, he has slashed the electricity bills for the largest industrial users by 14%. Not only did he cut the electricity bills of the big users, but he shifted those costs to the rest of us. Over the course of three years our taxes will be used to provide \$1,300,000,000 in electricity pricing relief for big business.¹

There is both insult and injury here. A government committed to acting on the climate emergency would do the exact opposite of what Ford has done. For instance, the largest electricity users would be persuaded to address their energy inefficiencies in order to reduce their energy bills. But Ford has said don't fret about energy efficiency, use as much as you want, and Ontario residents will help foot the bill.

Similarly, a government committed to climate action would help hydro ratepayers switch from fossil fuel heating systems to those based on electricity, in part, by making hydro rates an attractive alternative to oil and gas prices. But Ford has said tough luck to families because a privatized Ontario Hydro and the huge financial burden of nuclear power dictate otherwise.

The government argues the rate relief to large business will help kick start the economy. The big users argue that the rate cuts will help job creation. They have an organization which is dedicated to lobbying government to reduce their hydro bills. The Association of Major Power Customers of Ontario is pleased

with the Ford handouts. Besides, as they've said, "Most people don't mind paying a little more at home if they're able to make sure they have a job to go to."²

This isn't the first time Ford has acted in the interests of Big Business and against the climate. It happens to be the case that the big energy users are also the big emitters of GHG. Ford is giving them a free ride on their emissions as well. (Climate Crime #4)

The People First, Climate First Alternative:

- ! Instead of paying the electric bills for big business Ford could cut the costs of electricity for the rest of us and respond to the climate crisis.**
- ! A government that put people and the climate first could take advantage of lower-priced electricity from Quebec.**
- ! Require the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to reduce the amount of profit allowed private power suppliers and,**
- ! Strongly support conservation and home retrofit programs.**



¹ Ontario Budget 2020, ² AMPCO.org