

From: Kristina Zegota [REDACTED]
Sent: March-07-17 12:51 PM
To: BoardSec
Subject: Letter of Comment, Application EB-2016-0085.

March 7, 2017

Ontario Energy Board – Applications

P.O. Box 2319

2300 Yonge Street, 27th Floor

Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

Please submit this email as Letter of Comment, against the Application EB-2016-0085.

Dear OEB Board Secretary;

I am totally against this application/increase that has been proposed for InnPower.

On February 2nd 2017 in the Innisfil Journal, (see link and printed copy below); InnPower CEO Wally Malcolm stated that 'they' will be cutting their spending and it will save costs for customer. BUT NOW in this same paper 21 days later (see the attachment) there is an application to Ontario Energy Board to INCREASE OUR RATE by \$10.69 per month for an estimated five (5) years. As well business owners may see an increase of \$238.73.

This application (EB-2016-0085) was filed prior to the interview with Wally Malcolm (almost a full six (6) months). If this CEO knew about the application, why were such deceiving comments made to the residents that read the Innisfil Journal.

For some this increase, and the amounts above I believe 'are only suggested', so they may be higher, and also will they be subject to tax, will have I believe grave consequences. This may shut a business down, and for others, this is equivalent to a loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter and a quart of milk. So, food and general living again may be lost as InnPower wants their pound of flesh.

Many residents in my area which is Royal Oak Estates... a community that owns their homes, but lives on leased land, **are seniors**. Out of the 80 homes, I would say 90% are on fixed income. This is a tremendous increase to them and notwithstanding myself.

On a fixed income of pension/disability, the monetary increases are not 5 or even 15+% a year, but a pittance. So, if the pension goes up by say \$2.00 a month, a senior will be further squeezed by \$8.69+ which will be obligated to InnPower, thus giving them less to live on. As well, this is equivalent to eight (8) energy efficient light bulbs, at \$1.00 each, or a loaf of bread, quart of milk and jar of peanut butter, as stated above.

This suggested increase to our hydro bill is determinantal to the health and well being of us, as well contrary to what InnPower CEO stated on February 2, 2017.

For those of us that are working and have not had a wage increase in more than five (5) years, this also is detrimental. I am sure that Wally Malcolm whom moved here from Kitchener, and per the published Sunshine List on-line it saw his wages increase over \$30,000 in five years. (Chart listed below).

Year	Salary Paid	Increase	Position
2015	\$ 170,325.77	5.41%	Director, Utilities
2014	\$ 161,584.72	0.25%	Director, Utilities
2013	\$ 161,184.09	0.63%	Director, Utilities
2012	\$ 160,177.68	6.86%	Director of Utilities
2011	\$ 149,893.24	2.19%	Director of Utilities
2010	\$ 146,685.52	5.79%	Director of Utilities
2009	\$ 138,659.98	-----	Director of Utilities

I sincerely hope that this does not occur at InnPower. I take this stance as many in our area must commute to be able to afford a small home. I truly wish my wages increased at the percentage that this CEO did. Mine was ZERO. But all costs of living have greatly increased, hydro, heating, food, and general maintenance. I do not have one bulb in my house that is not energy efficient; but I have reduced my consumption by about 30%, and still my bill has increased by about the same amount in 5 years.

Showing applications from Innpower Corporation

<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Case Description</u>	<u>Energy Type</u>	<u>Category</u>
Jun 6, 2016	EB-2016-0085	Innpower Corporation	2017-21 electricity distribution rates, cost of service	Electricity	Rates

What is also not comical, is that InnPower will hold a session on March 14th, 2017 where (<http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7157425-innisfil-residents-can-apply-for-new-energy-home-assistance-plan/>) “Innisfil residents can apply for new energy home assistance plan” ... “InnPower offering tips and tricks to conserve energy with home assistance program this year” InnPower is relaunching a home assistance program March 14 at Sandy Cove Acres that will teach residents tricks for conserving energy....so the just I get from this is buy energy efficient light bulb to save \$1.00 in hydro, but we still want an extra \$10.69 a month....this is hypocrisy.

On the simple basis, that Premier Wynne stated that there is a reduction in hydro costs forthcoming for all Ontario residents, so on that basis, and the basis that CEO Wally Malcolm stated publicly that

“To offset 2017 costs, Malcolm said \$677,000 was cut from its operating, maintenance and administration budget. Capital expenditures were also cut by \$3.8 million this year.

“We did that over a five-year period to make it more sustainable to what we’re seeing in the development community,”

Malcolm said.”

Please have these comments posted with the application.

Thank you

Kristina Zegota-Rzegocinski

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<http://www.simcoe.com/news-story/7093570-innpower-ceo-says-reduced-rates-are-coming-to-innisfil/>

Feb 02, 2017

InnPower CEO says reduced rates are coming to Innisfil

The hydro utility has cut capital spending and internal costs to save its debt load and customers

Hydro crews

Innisfil Journal

By [Janis Ramsay](#)

InnPower CEO Wally Malcolm has told the town he doesn’t need extra cash from Innisfil taxpayers in the next five years.

It’s good news for customers who currently pay the highest rates in Simcoe County.

Malcolm has been at the helm of the power utility for eight months, and said he's hoping to reduce customers' rates.

His announcement came the same day as 9,000 Alcona InnPower customers lost power for at least an hour.

According to Malcolm, the 2017 budget focus is to prioritize capital spending and ensure there is effective cost management internally.

"We want to minimize the impacts to existing customers and have growth pay for growth," he said. "Innisfil is growing. Our customer growth in 2015 was 2.3 per cent and continues to grow."

The only other hydro utility that meets the same growth pattern in the province is Hydro One.

"The way they got their growth is through amalgamation. Our growth is all through development and customers moving to the town of Innisfil," he said.

To offset 2017 costs, Malcolm said \$677,000 was cut from its operating, maintenance and administration budget.

Capital expenditures were also cut by \$3.8 million this year.

"We did that over a five-year period to make it more sustainable to what we're seeing in the development community," Malcolm said.

He added InnPower would no longer need a requested equity injection from the town.

Last spring, InnPower was looking to sell half of the company to Edmonton's Epcor, but council turned down that idea.

In lieu of that, InnPower asked the town for a cash injection to reduce its debt equity ratio.

"The original request was for \$8 million" Malcolm said. "The town put in a \$1.6-million injection with a dividend return as well, and that is all that we need based on our forecast for the next five years."

Malcolm hopes the cost-cutting measures will help turn things around.

"We are on the path to reduce our total cost per customer. It will be a slow process, but it will be in the right direction," he said. "In the past few years, we've been going in the wrong direction. With the program in place this year, we'll see a better improvement in our overall results."

However, an increase is still on the horizon and Malcolm said he's trying to get rates down.

Data pulled from the Ontario Energy Board's bill calculator shows the average InnPower customer is billed \$205.76 with HST for 1,000 kWh of power. PowerStream customers in Barrie pay \$182.17 for the same amount of power.

After his presentation to council, Ward 3 Coun. Donna Orsatti asked Malcolm why residents are experiencing more power outages now.

"The outages we're seeing are predominately weather-related," Malcolm said. "Last year around Easter time there was an ice storm that came through the area."

Malcolm said there have been high winds this year.

"A lot of the trees are mature and, to get it to where it doesn't impact the overhead lines, we would have to do some major tree-trimming and cutting," Malcolm said.

Janis Ramsay is a reporter at the Innisfil Journal. You can reach her at jramsay@simcoe.com . Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Simcoe.com on Facebook](#)