



Ms Bodnar,

I completely understand and appreciate your concern with the rising cost of electricity, and I want to assure you that we work hard to keep the portion of the bill we have control over, as low as possible. However, the reality is, additional revenue is needed to continue addressing our community's ageing infrastructure.

The concern around the affordability of electricity is an issue that is not unique to Sault Ste. Marie; in fact, it's one that's shared by many Ontarians across the province. In response to these worries, the Province established a number of programs to assist consumers struggling with their electricity bill.

I don't know if you are already taking advantage of these programs, but if you are not, I wanted to take this opportunity to mention a few of the special programs that are available to help low-income energy consumers:

Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) (www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca)

This program provides ongoing help for low-income consumers with a monthly on-bill credit to reduce their electricity bill.

Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

This program (for emergency situations) provides a one-time grant towards your electricity or natural gas bill if you are behind on your bill and may face having your service shut off. The intake agency that provides this service in Sault Ste. Marie is the *United Way - Community Assistance Trust*, and they can be reached at 705-541-7327.

AffordAbility Fund (www.affordabilityfund.org)

If you don't qualify for LEAP or OESP, but you're having trouble keeping up with your electricity bill, and the cost of energy-saving upgrades is out of reach, the AffordAbility Fund can help.

Established as part of the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan, it's designed to help lower your monthly electricity costs by improving the energy efficiency of your home. You could qualify for free upgrades, including LED bulbs, appliances, insulation, and weather-stripping.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comment; it is vital that customers participate as much as they can in the rate-setting process.

I hope that you find the information on assistance programs helpful, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any more questions.

Sincerely,

Giordan Zin
PUC Distribution Inc.



Ms Burke,

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comment; it is imperative that customers participate as much as they can in this process.

Yes, you are correct; the less energy you use, the more impact the rate increase will have on the Distribution portion of the bill.

I want you to know that I completely understand your concern with the rising cost of electricity, and I can assure you that we work hard to keep the portion of the bill we have control over, as low as possible. However, the reality is, additional revenue is needed to continue addressing our community's ageing infrastructure.

The concern around the affordability of electricity is an issue that is not unique to Sault Ste. Marie; in fact, it's one that's shared by many Ontarians across the province. In response to these worries, the Province established a number of programs to assist consumers struggling with their electricity bill.

I don't know if you are already taking advantage of these programs, but if you are not, I wanted to take this opportunity to mention a few of the programs that are available to help low-income energy consumers:

Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) (www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca)

This program provides ongoing help for low-income consumers with a monthly on-bill credit to reduce their electricity bill.

Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

This program (for emergency situations) provides a one-time grant towards your electricity or natural gas bill if you are behind on your bill and may face having your service shut off. The intake agency that provides this service in Sault Ste. Marie is the *United Way - Community Assistance Trust*, and they can be reached at 705-541-7327.

AffordAbility Fund (www.affordabilityfund.org)

If you don't qualify for LEAP or OESP, but you're having trouble keeping up with your electricity bill, and the cost of energy-saving upgrades is out of reach, the AffordAbility Fund can help.

Established as part of the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan, it's designed to help lower your monthly electricity costs by improving the energy efficiency of your home. You could qualify for free upgrades, including LED bulbs, appliances, insulation, and weather-stripping.

I hope that you find the information on assistance programs helpful, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any more questions.

Sincerely,

Giordan Zin,
PUC Distribution Inc.



Ms Zorzit,

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comment; it is essential that customers participate as much as they can in this process.

I want to start by saying that I completely understand and share your concern with the rising cost of electricity. I want to assure you that we work hard to keep the portion of the bill we have control over, as low as possible. However, the reality is, additional revenue is needed to continue addressing our community's ageing infrastructure.

The concern around the affordability of electricity is an issue that is not unique to Sault Ste. Marie; in fact, it's one that's shared by many Ontarians across the province. In response to these worries, the Province established a number of programs to assist consumers struggling with their electricity bill.

I don't know if you are already taking advantage of these programs, but if you are not, I wanted to take this opportunity to mention a few of the programs that are available to help low-income energy consumers:

Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) (www.ontarioelectricitysupport.ca)

This program provides ongoing help for low-income consumers with a monthly on-bill credit to reduce their electricity bill.

Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)

This program (for emergency situations) provides a one-time grant towards your electricity or natural gas bill if you are behind on your bill and may face having your service shut off. The intake agency that provides this service in Sault Ste. Marie is the *United Way - Community Assistance Trust*, and they can be reached at 705-541-7327.

AffordAbility Fund (www.affordabilityfund.org)

If you don't qualify for LEAP or OESP, but you're having trouble keeping up with your electricity bill, and the cost of energy-saving upgrades is out of reach, the AffordAbility Fund can help.

Established as part of the Ontario Fair Hydro Plan, it's designed to help lower your monthly electricity costs by improving the energy efficiency of your home. You could qualify for free upgrades, including LED bulbs, appliances, insulation, and weather-stripping.

I know this is probably not the response you were looking for, but I hope that I have provided you with helpful information.

Sincerely,

Giordan Zin,
PUC Distribution Inc.



500 Second Line East, P.O. Box 9000
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 6P2
tel. (705) 759-6500 fax. (705) 759-6510
www.smpuc.com

Mr Bumbacco,

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comment.

I completely understand and appreciate your concern with the rising cost of electricity.

I want to assure you; we work hard to keep the portion of the bill we have control over, as low as possible. However, the reality is, additional revenue is needed to continue addressing our community's ageing infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Giordan Zin,
PUC Distribution Inc.