

From: Marg DePratto [<mailto:depratto@ripnet.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 11:15 AM
To: 'rslu@rslu.ca' <rslu@rslu.ca>
Subject: OEB hydro rate change meeting

To: Rideau St. Lawrence Distribution Inc;
Prescott, ON

From: Concerned Citizen

As our local utility, I appreciate that costs continue to rise and equipment life cycles come to an end. However, bear in mind that the average Ontario citizen cannot keep pace with Hydro cost which exceed inflation rates, fixed pensions, minimum wage earners salaries and all businesses which use hydro.

My expectations are that the Ontario government needs to hear from small utilities like ours that things must change to accommodate a new surge of economic growth and prosperity, not crippling rates and pie in the sky schemes. I would hope that your energies would include contacting mayors of small towns to enlist their assistance along with business owners to find solutions which could include bulk buying of electrical equipment by the province, shared computer resources and expertise from electrical professionals and more.

I am not attending tonight's meeting to speak, because that is not my forte, however, with a united front armed with new ideas or good old fashion ones, you could start a wave of improvement. The mayor and your organization installed LED devices throughout the town to improve costing and efficiencies. That was great but bear in mind that without taming the costs you pay Ontario Hydro (both the remaining government portion and the private organization) nothing will improve. Prosperity is dependent on innovation, growth and sound business strategies which our Ontario governing body must promote.

Our educational, governmental institutions (hospitals, post offices, town halls and more) and leisure industries will suffer the consequences. Reach out to industry leaders for better methods and find the next graduates from our colleges, universities and community trade schools for some schemes that will work. It is not the \$3.78 per month increase that hurts us all it is the out of control costs of energy, food, government waste, carbon tax without a plan and more.

Regards;
Richard DePratto
Prescott, Ontario

Cc file copy to Mayor Brett Todd, via town website