

**From:** [seasonalrateclass](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Letter of Comment EB-2020-0246  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 4:10:47 PM

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**From:** Christine Campbell [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** [ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca](mailto:ConsumerRelations@ontarioenergyboard.ca) <[PublicInformation@oeb.ca](mailto:PublicInformation@oeb.ca)>  
**Cc:** [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca); [mayor@madawaskavalley.ca](mailto:mayor@madawaskavalley.ca)  
**Subject:** File Number EB-2020-0246 - Seasonal Class Rate Changes (Concerned Consumer)

## Ontario Energy Board

### To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this email is to address the changes being made to the seasonal rate classification of our seasonal property in the area of Madawaska Valley and our concerns over the high costs we are already paying nevermind the direction it is going based on your recommendations beginning 2022.

The letter we received (dated February 24, 2021) advises that we will be placed in the new R2 Residential Low Density Class, and it is our understanding that we could see our electricity rates double for our seasonal property. While Hydro One has proposed mitigation through the use of credits until its full impact, it is incomprehensible that electricity costs can be made so high. The main points we feel worth mentioning are:

#### Electricity must be made accessible and affordable to all residents in Ontario...

1. regardless of where they live or own property
2. regardless of their social class
3. mindful of people that are on limited incomes (including pensioners, disability, etc.), and let's face it, the federal/provincial rebates/credits made available to low income families is negligible
4. takes into consideration that if you are using electricity in one location there is little electricity being used in the other (and the "other" most likely realizes "cheaper rates due to urban class" and it is being delivered to thousands of customers anyway)
5. customers should not have to pay two delivery fees...the cost to have electricity delivered regardless of where it is being delivered should be limited to one fee or a 50% discount applied to the second property, it is the same resource
6. by allowing one owner to claim principle residence on one property and the other owner (spouse) to claim the other property as principle to enable fairer rates; and change the definition/criteria of "year round residential" accordingly especially when an attempt to get to the seasonal property is made monthly to ensure it remains in good

condition / working order

7. by limiting carrying/delivery charges, which should not be double the amount of actual electricity used
8. as it otherwise unjust and inequitable
9. it is a fundamental basic need and should be applied on the same principles as any social program offered to Ontarians; for the greater good

Additionally, when the system is down and we are without power for hours and sometimes days, we receive no credit. There are people that use their properties only six months out of the year but pay for the full year anyway.

An example of today's costs, before the new increases proposed by OEB to take effect in January 2022, our most recent quarterly bill was \$433.04 and we utilized our property for only 9 days during the quarter. The same period in 2020, our bill for the quarter was \$545.04, again, only 9 days utilized. These rates will eventually double through the new R2 rate class. How is it possible to charge people these rates? You are gouging the people of Ontario and penalizing us because we have a cottage. We have paid our fair price, we pay taxes (with limited resources/amenities), we are (most likely) using less electricity than our "urban" counterparts for part of or the majority of the year as we spend most of our time outdoors and have (significantly) smaller dwellings, and yet our electricity cost for our 360 square foot cabin is double what we pay for our 2,200 square foot urban home - how does that make ANY sense? Hydro One, or other provider, has to provide electricity to the people of Ontario, period.

We are aware of families 20 minutes north of our property whose 3,000 sq ft homes are paying almost 50% less than we pay for our 360 sq ft seasonal property but because they are classified as principle residences, their rates are lower. How does that make any sense? We are all drawing from the same lines.

We are by no means wealthy. We do not take expensive vacations. We travel to our cottage property once a month for three to four days in the winter months, and more regularly in the spring, summer and fall months. When we are not at our "principle" residence, we are at the cottage. We are there every month. We are supporting local towns and businesses while we are in these seasonal towns, most of which would struggle to survive without its seasonal residents. We are mindful of our daily usage trying our best to observe low peak times and now to learn that it will double for a property that is 1/5 the size of our urban home? This is entirely unfair and maddening.

We respectfully request that this be revisited and our concerns taken seriously before any further decisions are made.

Christine Campbell

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[REDACTED]