



March 8, 2021

Reference: EB-2020-0246; EB-2019-0234; EB-2016-0315

SUBJECT:

Ontario Energy Board Hearing to consider the next steps in eliminating Hydro One Networks Inc.'s Seasonal Rate Class (EB-2020-0246)

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Kaszuby Cottagers' Association, I would like to address the changes being made to the seasonal rate classifications of seasonal properties in the Township of Madawaska Valley, Renfrew County. Founded in 1968, the Kaszuby Cottagers' Association is made up of lakefront property owners in the Township of Madawaska Valley. We are concerned over the high costs already paid which are being increased in 2022 based on your recommendations. Many residents received a letter mid to late February advising that they will be placed in the new R2 Residential Low Density Class. It is our understanding that many would see their electricity rates double for their seasonal properties. Until its full impact, Hydro One has proposed some mitigation through the use of credits, however, it is incomprehensible that electricity costs can be made so high. Main points worth mentioning to ensure that Electricity is made accessible and affordable to ALL Ontario residents:

- regardless of where they live or own property;
- regardless of their social class;
- be aware that many are on limited incomes and that realistically the federal/provincial rebates/credits that are available to low income families is negligible;
- should take into consideration that if electricity is used in one location, there is little being used at the other location, especially to those with two residences within the Hydro One Network;
- allow one owner to claim principal residence on one property and the other owner to claim the other "seasonal" property to allow for fairer rates;
- change the criteria or definition of "year round residential" accordingly when monthly visits are made to ensure that the seasonal property remains in good condition; and
- limit the delivery charges which are currently double the amount of actual electricity used.

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Electricity is a fundamental basic need and should be applied using the same principles as any social program offered to Ontarians for the greater good. Furthermore, when the system is down, residents can be without power for hours or several days, yet residents receive no credit. There are people who use their properties for 3 to 7 months in a year, yet they must pay for the entire year. People of Ontario are being gouged and penalized because they have a cottage. We all pay taxes for limited resources or amenities and no doubt most likely use less electricity than our "urban" counterparts for the majority of the year as dwellings are significantly smaller and most time is spent outdoors. In many cases cottage electricity costs are double what is paid for larger urban homes which does not make any sense because we all draw from the same line.

Most seasonal property owners are by no means wealthy. In fact, many are seniors on reduced incomes. We are mindful of our daily usage by observing low peak times and many have taken measures to reduce overall consumption, yet our bills will increase by 50% to 100% which is unfair. We support our local town and businesses, which would struggle to survive without its seasonal residents. This support is now more important than ever post-pandemic as we start to rebuild our economy.

On behalf of the Kaszuby Cottager Association, I respectfully request that these changes to the seasonal rate classification be revisited and that our concerns be taken seriously before any decision is made.

Respectfully submitted,



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President, Kaszuby Cottagers' Association

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c.c. Kim Love, Mayor, Township of Madawaska Valley
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