



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Text of Mr. Arnott's Statement

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April 13, 2006

Mr. Speaker, the hydro price increases announced yesterday that have shocked my constituents in Waterloo-Wellington and the whole province, have shocked me as well. Millions of families, farmers and small business people are being jolted with double-digit price increases.

According to today's press, the average Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro residential customer will see an increase of over \$92 a year, the average Guelph customer an increase of over \$121 a year, and in London it's a whopping increase of \$165 a year.

According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, a typical small business in this Province may see an annual increase of \$960 on their Hydro bills.

A quarter of CFIB members responding to a recent survey said that their businesses are facing significant harm because of the rising cost of electricity, such that some may have to close their doors.

What makes yesterday's announcement all the more reprehensible is this is yet another broken election promise by the McGuinty Liberal Government - which surely means Government Members will be ashamed of their Party again today. They are going to receive some interesting feedback from their constituents this weekend.

Next week I'm sure this Legislature will hear from the Government Members, doing their jobs as local representatives, voicing their constituents concerns, even if it upsets a few people in the Premier's office.

Let's hear from the Members for London-Fanshawe, London North Centre, and London West. Let's hear from Kitchener-Centre, Guelph-Wellington, and Perth-Middlesex. Not the all too familiar refrain about how great the Government is, but what they are actually hearing in their constituencies about this latest broken promise.

Let them bring those concerns into this Legislature, and restore some of the public trust that has been breached.