

Ministry of Energy
4th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Attn: Hon Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy

Dear Mr. Thibeault,

Businesses in Osgoode Ward 20 of Ottawa are voicing their concerns about the high costs of electricity. The majority of our Ward is serviced by Hydro One and we are paying up to 30% more than other customers in the city who are serviced by Hydro Ottawa.

On behalf of the businesses, Osgoode Ward Business Association (OWBA) is asking for feedback which will explain what the province intends to do about the escalating rates.

Our municipal Councillor George Darouze collected more than 8,500 names on the Fair Hydro for Ottawa petition that he and our MPP Lisa MacLeod delivered to the Legislative Assembly in October 2016. The petition was signed by residents and business owners in our community, and demanded harmonized billing rates for all Ottawa residents.

Our business owners, including our agriculture and farming community, need relief from the increasing hydro rates. In order to keep their operating costs in line, businesses have to curtail expenses in other areas including but not limited to staffing, to maintain any margin of profit. This leaves business owners cutting back on labour and still putting less money in their pockets. It's a situation that many businesses will not be able to sustain long term, and they will need to decide whether they can afford to stay open.

It is our mandate to help business owners in our ward build and grow. Soaring rates are threatening businesses in our area who simply can't afford to operate. Time-of-use savings are of no use to business owners. Small business owners can't alter their business hours to take advantage of the savings periods.

Our business owners need to be heard. We need to have our costs harmonized with the rest of our city.

Regards,
Gino Milito



President

Osgoode Ward Business Association (OWBA)