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## NEWS RELEASE

March 3, 2017

### **Ontario Energy Association Comments on Ontario's "Fair Hydro Plan"**

TORONTO, ON, March 3, 2017 – The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) commends the Government of Ontario's new policy to enhance the Ontario Energy Support Program (OESP) program. The OESP program is an income-tested application based program that provides electricity bill reductions for Ontario's lowest income and most vulnerable households. The increase in the level of assistance, the increase in the income thresholds to allow more households to qualify, and moving the burden of this social cost from electricity ratepayers to the income tax base are all welcome changes that had been recommended by the OEA prior to this announcement.

The OEA is also pleased that yesterday's announced reform was undertaken in a manner to avoid across-the-board impacts on Local Distribution Company (LDC) distribution rates and incentives, and existing generation contracts.

OEA members will be working to ensure that information about the government's plan to reduce electricity prices is communicated to our customers and market participants so that they are aware of and can take advantage of these new initiatives wherever possible.

#### **About the OEA**

The Ontario Energy Association (OEA) is the credible and trusted voice of the energy sector. We earn our reputation by being an integral and influential part of energy policy development and decision making in Ontario. We represent Ontario's energy leaders that span the full diversity of the energy industry.

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