



# Low-Income Energy Network

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March 25, 2014

Hon. Tim Hudak  
Leader of the Opposition  
Progressive Conservative Party Caucus  
Room 381, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A8

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Dear Mr. Hudak,

## **Re: Low-Income Energy Rate Affordability Program**

As the Low-Income Energy Network celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary today at its annual symposium, the top line message from the conference is the need for an energy rate affordability program in Ontario.

LIEN has been advocating a comprehensive solution to energy poverty in Ontario over the last ten years. From emergency energy assistance, to low-income energy conservation programs, to better terms of service for low-income consumers, there has been great progress in the province. But the missing link is an Energy Rate Affordability Program to make sure that electricity bills are within reach for low-income consumers. LIEN advocates a province wide program that sets a threshold of 6% of total household income as the maximum amount that low-income consumers should have to pay for total energy bills – for heating and non-heating energy uses. Above that threshold, difficult choices have to be made between food, rent, electricity, medication and other essentials.

The work LIEN has done demonstrates that low-income energy affordability programs are good for utilities and their ratepayers too, because bills become much more manageable for the lowest income consumers.

Today, on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LIEN, we are asking all of the leaders of the provincial parties to support a low-income energy rate affordability program for Ontario. We would be very pleased to meet with you or your staff to discuss the detailed work we have conducted, including the benefits, costs and design of an Energy Affordability Program for Ontario. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Sincerely,



**Zee Bhanji**

Coordinator

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