

KEEP HYDRO PUBLIC

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Sharon Vokes
Acting CAO/County Clerk/Director of Council Services, County of Grey
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 3E3

RECEIVED
JUN - 2 2015

Subject: Resolution regarding the proposed privatization of Hydro One

Dear Ms. Vokes:

The Ontario government's plan to sell 60 per cent of Hydro One, the provincial electricity transmission utility, has far-reaching implications for every citizen and municipality in the province.

On behalf of Keep Hydro Public, a broad-based coalition created to stop the sell-off, I am writing to encourage your municipality to add its voice to the many others that are already telling the provincial government to change course and keep Hydro One in public hands.

By now I am sure council members will have heard the many arguments against the sale:

- Selling the majority of shares in Hydro One will take control of this vital asset away from the people in Ontario and put it in the hands of private investors, including foreign investors who may not even care whether we have reliable, affordable electricity.
- Privatization will increase electricity prices for residential, business, and government customers alike.
- Under the plan proposed by the government, oversight of Hydro One by independent officers of the legislature would end. The Auditor General and the Financial Accountability Officer would no longer be able to scrutinize the utility's books or its operations; consumers would no longer be able to appeal to the Ombudsman when problems arise; citizens would not be able to access information about Hydro One through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; salaries of top Hydro One officials would no longer be made public under the *Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act*; the Integrity Commissioner would not be able to review expenses of Hydro One officials; and Hydro One would no longer be subject to the *French Language Services Act*. In other words, transparency and public accountability would end. Ontarians would truly be "in the dark" with respect to Hydro One operations.

(Please turn over)

- Privatization will provide government with a short-term cash injection that will soon be spent in exchange for giving up a steady, long-term source of revenue that pays for public services we all depend on. The cost to Ontarians will be hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

Perhaps more significant than these strong arguments is the simple fact that the provincial government has no mandate from the people of Ontario to make a sale of this magnitude. (This may explain why the government chose to put the Hydro One sale inside its 2015-16 Budget bill and push it through the legislature with minimal opportunity for public input.)

It is crystal clear that the people of Ontario do not support the sale of any part of Hydro One. Published opinion polls show opponents of the sale outnumbering supporters by a three-to-one margin. Editorial opinion is similarly opposed. If democracy means anything, we must stop this sale.

At this time, Keep Hydro Public is asking municipal councils, from the largest to the smallest, to pass a resolution opposing the sale or partial sale of Hydro One and to communicate that opposition to the government, area MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Included with this letter you will find a draft resolution which municipal councils are, of course, free to use and modify as they see fit.

Your assistance in putting this issue on the agenda of your council as soon as possible is greatly appreciated; we would also appreciate hearing back from your municipality if and when council takes action on this matter.

For more information about Hydro One privatization or the ever-growing Keep Hydro Public, please visit our web site at www.KeepHydroPublic.ca or contact me directly at info@KeepHydroPublic.ca or (647) 272-5024.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Miller', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Miller
On behalf of Keep Hydro Public

P.S. If your municipal council has already considered this matter, thank you for doing so!

RESOLUTION

DATE: _____

MOVED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

Municipal Resolution to express opposition to the privatization of Hydro One

WHEREAS the public electricity system in Ontario is a critical asset to the economy and vital to the living standard and well-being of all Ontarians;

AND WHEREAS it is essential that Ontarians maintain public control and public decision-making with respect to electricity;

AND WHEREAS experience in other jurisdictions shows that privatization typically means consumers pay more for electricity;

AND WHEREAS a privatized Hydro One will no longer be subject to scrutiny by the Auditor General, the Ombudsman, the Financial Accountability Officer, or the Integrity Commissioner, and will no longer be required to provide information or services to citizens under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act*, or the *French Language Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS our public electricity system currently generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for the provincial government every year to help pay for public services we all depend on;

AND WHEREAS the sale of shares in Hydro One will provide a short-term financial gain for the province in exchange for a much larger long-term financial loss;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has no mandate from voters to sell any part of Hydro One;

AND WHEREAS opinion polls show Ontarians oppose the privatization of Hydro One by a significant margin in every part of the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ call on the provincial government to:

- Halt the sale of any part of Hydro One, and maintain Hydro One as a public asset for the benefit of all Ontarians;

- Strengthen Hydro One by investing in the next generation of workers and upgrading our electricity transmission infrastructure;
- Respect the autonomy and local decision-making powers of local distribution companies by not forcing these companies into mergers or sales;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ communicate this resolution to the Premier, with copies to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Energy, area MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ work through AMO to encourage other Ontario municipalities to express their opposition to the privatization of Hydro One.