



# Ontario Electricity Support Program

Preliminary Considerations for Program Design

Presentation by Hydro One  
November 6, 2014

# Hydro One

- Consolidated presentation for:
  - Hydro One Networks Inc.
  - Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.
  - Hydro One Brampton Networks Inc.

# Program Design Principles

- Integration & Leveraging of existing processes
- Funding
- First Nations & Métis
- Exclusion for Customers on Bundled Rates
- Program Marketing
- Comprehensive Low-Income Assistance

## Integration & Leveraging of Existing Processes

- Integrate and leverage existing programs and processes to minimize development and ongoing costs
  - Same Low-Income definition as LEAP (Q1)
  - Same qualification process – Social Service Agencies, not LDCs (Q1)
  - Relief level can remain 10% (OCEB), but for qualified customers only. (Q2a)
  - By relying on existing processes and Social Service Agency Partners, OESP development can be shorter, have fewer obstacles and cost less

# Funding

- Fund all OESP costs on a uniform provincial basis. (Q3)
  - Mimic the framework used for “Direct Benefits”: The costs to accommodate renewable generation and the associated distribution system investments are recovered through a uniform provincial basis - via direct benefits and the global adjustment. For symmetry, OESP relief should also flow through the same mechanism.
  - Avoids inequity between the rate payers of a distributor with a higher average income and that with a lower average income. The Statistics Canada LICO table highlights the differences in income and population density.

## First Nations and Métis

- Special qualification provisions for First Nations & Métis customers.
  - Allowing for batched qualification through Band Councils, will assist in uptake.
  - Possible incremental relief

## Exclusion for Customers on Bundled Rates

- Customers on bundled rates already receive subsidies.
- We have very low LEAP program participation for Hydro One Remote Communities ~30 to 50 people.

## Program Marketing and Awareness

- Province-led or OEB-led marketing campaign to ensure all eligible customers are aware of OESP.
  - Consistent messaging throughout the province to all rate-payers.
  - Some low income customers have not qualified / applied for LEAP as they have been able to keep up with their bills. Those customers may not be aware of the program.



## Comprehensive Low-Income Assistance

- OESP needs to work seamlessly with other distributor-based programs.
  - Low-Income Customer definition and rules in the Distribution System Code
  - Low-income Emergency Assistance Program (LEAP)
  - Reduces administrative overlap and customer confusion for the distributor and customers
  - The Board should also review these programs and make adjustments to reduce overlap and confusion