

To the Energy Minister

[greg.rickford@pc.ola.org]

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When will the government reduce my electricity bill by purchasing clean power from Quebec?

When will the government install the natural gas pipeline to my house and barn? We are ¼ mile from the road and hope they run it that far. As a rural resident, how can I pay for a natural gas furnace replacement for my oil furnace?

I calculate I would save \$900 a year in heating costs assuming Enbridge rescinds the latest application for an increase in natural gas rates. The contractors are quoting me \$10,000 for a new high efficiency gas furnace from China that is cutting edge technology and say I need an ERV and humidifier to go with it for another \$3,000. My air conditioner is on its last legs and they want another \$3,000 for that and recommend a dehumidifier because the A/C will not do enough. They also recommend a Smart Thermostat for \$300 that will save me thousands if I don't mind freezing in the winter and sweating in the summer. They advise on replacing my windows and doors for \$20,000 and adding insulation in the attic and the basement for another \$5,000 but there aren't any rebates after the end of the year. That should save me \$100 a year. They could also put radiant floor heating in the basement that would keep my toes warm on the coldest of days but I don't want to live through the construction. So, it will cost me \$41,300 to save \$1000 a year assuming Enbridge does not increase gas prices over that period. That will take me 41.3 years to break even. I am 78 years old now and the kids don't want the farm. I guess it adds value.

I also heard the natural gas comes from the US using fracking and there have been reports of gas getting into water supplies and causing explosions in kitchens when gas comes out of the tap near an open flame. Thank goodness it's not happening here but what if Trump puts tariffs on Canadian oil and we reciprocate by putting tariffs on US gas and then we start fracking in Ontario? I understand Ontario has no moratorium on fracking like other provinces.

Oddly, my neighbour installed a Japanese cold climate air source heat pump 8 years ago and cut his \$5000 oil heating and cooling costs by 50%. He said it was better payback than geothermal. It cost him \$15,000 so he paid for it in 6 years. Then he just got solar panels that generate electricity for 8 cents/kWh further reducing his costs by 50%. The system cost him \$18,000 with a payback of 7 years. He said that is normally too long for a farmer but he is doing it for his grandchildren's future. Bobby says he wants to be a farmer and live in fresh air and eat healthy vegetables. Boy, is that kid out of touch.

Then my neighbour pointed out that natural gas produces almost as much carbon emissions as oil whereas his solar powered electric heat pump produces none. He saves 10 tonnes of pollution a year. Is that a lot? What if every home did that? Is 10 tonnes times 5 million homes a lot?

Gotta run, he's coming up the laneway now. What's that he's driving? It looks like a Ford F150 but a lot sexier and says EV and another name I can't make out. Do EV and PHEVs really save all the money they claim even without rebates? I hear they don't pollute either. Weird. You won't get Dad out of the diesel Land Rover. It gets 20 litres per 100 km the way he drives but diesel is cheaper. Oh, yes, when do we get

the 12 cents reduction on gasoline prices? I hope it includes diesel as we can really use the savings for our next trip to Phoenix. Is diesel cheaper in the States now?

You know, maybe saving money for hard working Ontarions isn't the most important thing in life. If there is no planet, where will I spend my money?