

Ministry of Energy,
Northern Development
and Mines

Ministère de l'Énergie,
du Développement du Nord
et des Mines



Office of the Minister

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April 22, 2021

Dear Local Distribution Company / Unit Sub-Metering Provider:

I am writing to update you on the action our government is taking to support Ontario electricity consumers, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are aware, the Ontario Electricity Rebate (OER) was introduced effective November 1, 2019 and is provided to eligible consumers, including residential consumers, small businesses and farms.

The percentage of the OER has been adjusted over time as electricity costs change in order to help manage the trajectory of the average residential bill. We have introduced regulatory amendments to Ontario Regulation 363/16, made under the *Ontario Rebate for Electricity Consumers Act, 2016*, to change the percentage of the OER from 21.2% to 18.9% effective May 1, 2021. This change helps ensure that the average residential bill will be held flat compared to January 1, 2021.

When the OER was introduced, a grandfathering period was also put in place until October 31, 2020 for consumers that were previously receiving the 8% rebate as of October 22, 2019, if they met prescribed requirements to provide notice to their electricity vendor before February 1, 2021. The grandfathering period was subsequently extended to April 30, 2021 in light of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have now introduced regulatory amendments that extend the grandfathering period for a second time to October 31, 2022. Accordingly, the grandfathering period will continue to be in place for a further 18 months, ensuring that these consumers – including certain businesses – continue to benefit from the OER.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as we continue to work together to support electricity consumers. As the province continues to recover from the COVID-19 outbreak, our government is pleased that these actions will help ensure stability for Ontario households and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Rickford'.

The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines

c: Susanna Zagar, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Energy Board
Terry Young, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer,
Independent Electricity System Operator