

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM9.18	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Maintaining Hydro One's Public Accountability - Removal of Matter from Committee - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Janet Davis**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* The Executive Committee currently has jurisdiction for this subject matter. A two-thirds vote is required to remove Item EX6.21 from Executive Committee's jurisdiction.*

### Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Janet Davis, recommends that:

1. In accordance with Section 27-60 of Chapter 27, Council Procedures, City Council remove Item EX6.21 from the Executive Committee and bring the Item forward for consideration by City Council at the September 30 and October 1, 2015 meeting.
2. City Council communicate to the Government of Ontario its support of the continued operation of Hydro One as a publically owned asset; however, if Hydro One assets are sold, the sale can only be to other public entities, such as Ontario municipally-owned utilities.

### Summary

The Government of Ontario is moving forward with its plans to privatize Hydro One by filing its preliminary prospectus on September 17, 2015 with the Ontario Securities Commission and its counterparts across Canada. A detailed overview of the Hydro One prospectus lists \$22.6 billion in total assets.

The Provincial government expects to issue its initial public offering by early November in the province's electricity transmission utility with a starting offer of 15 per cent of Hydro One shares.

Both the Progressive Conservative and NDP parties oppose the privatization of Hydro One and warn it will send already high electricity rates even higher. Both opposition parties have also called for public consultation and greater transparency.

165 municipalities, have passed resolutions formally opposing the privatization of Hydro One citing wide spread concerns about the lack of public accountability, poor quality of service and rising hydro rates as observed in Nova Scotia after a decade of hydro privatization.

In a rare demonstration of collective action, the eight independent officers of the Ontario legislature including the Auditor General and Ombudsman came together to condemn the Hydro One sale, warning it will shield the company from public scrutiny.

As a public utility, Hydro One's rates rose in lockstep with inflation for 100 years. Hydro was partially privatized 14 years ago, and rates have been rising 10 times faster than inflation ever since. The rates will rise even more quickly if hydro is fully privatized.

Toronto Hydro is reliant on Hydro One's electrical grid to deliver electricity to our businesses and homes. Keeping hydro rates affordable promotes economic and social activity, and job creation. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce says 20,000 Ontario businesses will close in the next five years due to rising electricity rates.

Every cent of profit earned by public hydro goes back to public coffers and is reinvested in our hydro network, schools, roads and hospitals. This will not happen when Hydro One is privatized and profits stay in private bank accounts and offshore tax havens, where no Ontarian will ever see the benefit.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM9.18