

# Province should cut PST from hydro bills— council

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should be looking at the whole picture— at the effect higher hydro prices are having on Ontario's economy.

Somerville's resolution is based on one circulating by a taxpayer advocacy group in Ottawa.

"I know I was quite surprised when I got my first hydro bill in the fall, to see how much in HST was added on for really no other reason (than a tax grab)," said Somerville. "There are still a lot of people hurting (financially)."

His motion states that hydro is a necessity of life, and extreme heat or cold could lead to adverse health effects.

"We are a northern country. We do need hydro, we do need heat, and increases like that could literally mean making the decision between food and hydro, between shelter and hydro," Somerville said.

The motion's seconder, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst, said the elimination of the PST would be a welcome relief

to hydro users, especially older residents still living in their homes.

Halton Hills Hydro, which is owned by the Town of Halton Hills, applied to the Ontario Energy Board on Oct. 4 for an electricity distribution rate increase starting May 2011. If approved residential customers consuming 800 kW/h per month will see an approximate 0.2% increase in their current delivery charges— about seven cents/month on their monthly bill.

The Province's 10 per cent break starting January is estimated to save the average consumer \$153 a year.

Somerville is not optimistic his resolution will get a hearing at Queen's Park, saying the Liberals may believe their 10 per cent is enough.

"Do I think it's over (success of his motion)? Possibly. But I also think the government has not heard the end of this."



**CLARK SOMERVILLE**

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