

May 23, 2018

Dear Greenpeace Ottawa,

Thank you for your question. We agree that climate change is one of the defining challenges facing Ontario, and the entire world. We are proud that Ontario has already made great strides in fighting climate change.

Our Liberal government has made historic investments in clean energy in Ontario. This includes the complete elimination of coal generation in the province, which was accomplished in 2014 and remains the single largest climate change action undertaken in North America to date. It also virtually eliminated smog days in Ontario. In 2017, more than 95% of electricity in Ontario was generated from emissions-free sources of power.

We have met our 2014 target of a 6% reduction on carbon emissions, largely due to our elimination of coal-fired power plants. And we are on track to meet our ambitious, legislated carbon reduction targets for 2020, 2030 and 2050 due to our carbon market.

In 2017, we implemented a “best-in-class” cap and trade carbon pricing system, according to the Environment Commissioner, joining Quebec and California in North America’s largest carbon market as of January 1st. This system provides businesses with the flexibility to choose how they will meet the cap, whether it be through upgrading to cleaner technology or purchasing carbon allowances. Third party economic experts agree our plan guarantees emission reductions at the cheapest price possible for people and the economy. Our plan guarantees reductions every year as the cap on pollution decreases, in line with our legally binding carbon reduction targets.

Thus far, our carbon market has raised \$2.4 B in proceeds. By law, every penny of those proceeds must be re-invested into programs, through Ontario’s Climate Change Action Plan, to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and help Ontario residents and businesses fight climate change and save money. These initiatives include:

- Renovating approximately 17,500 social housing apartment building units
- Implementing 180 projects in 98 hospitals to create energy-related savings;
- Creating healthier, modern and more comfortable learning environments with new energy-efficient upgrades in nearly 600 schools across the province;
- Engaging 140,000 people in Ontario who will receive home energy audits and no-cost smart thermostats;

Ontario Liberal Party

10 St. Mary Street, Suite 210, Toronto, ON M4Y 1P9
Phone: 416.961.3800, 1.800.268.7250 | Fax: 416.323.9425
Email: info@ontarioliberal.ca | Web: www.ontarioliberal.ca

- Helping families and businesses save money with energy efficiency rebates through GreenON.ca, including \$7,200 off insulation, \$5,000 off high-performance windows, \$20,000 off ground source heat pumps, \$5,800 off air source heat pumps and \$100 off smart thermostats;
- Investing in GreenON Industries, a \$200M program to support major carbon reduction projects for large industrial emitters and improve business competitiveness;
- Creating the GreenON Challenge with funding of up to \$300 million to encourage the development of innovative ultra-low carbon technologies and processes.

We will continue to help businesses transform their operations and create good jobs in the clean tech sector. The Ontario Liberal Party believes fighting climate change is a major economic opportunity. The recently released Ontario Cleantech Strategy, along with investments such as the Low Carbon Innovation Fund, the Global Market Accelerator Fund, and the Cleantech Equity Fund, are helping Ontario businesses deliver and implement the next generation of clean technology solutions.

This will build a competitive advantage for Ontario, and ensure that we do not get left behind during this accelerated period of global change. Since launching their carbon markets, both California and Ontario have led their respective countries in economic growth. Meanwhile, Quebec's unemployment recently reached a 41-year low.

The Ontario Liberal Party is also focused on reducing emissions from our transportation system using carbon market proceeds through initiatives such as:

- Providing incentives of up to \$14,000 to help Ontario residents switch to electric vehicles
- Installing over 300 electric vehicle (EV) chargers, including over 140 level 3 fast chargers, creating the largest public fast-charging network in Canada
- Making it easier for condo residents to charge their electric vehicles at home
- Partnering with 118 municipalities to build bike lanes and bike parking and support new cycling plans
- Helping the commercial transportation sector reduce its emissions through rebates for new low-carbon vehicles and fuel saving devices
- Supporting transit fare reductions, the GO Regional Express Rail all-day, 15-minute electrified service, and Ontario's new High Speed Rail line.

Ontario Liberal Party



We will continue to work with key stakeholders and invest carbon market proceeds in electric vehicle rebates, cycling infrastructure, and other ways to reduce carbon emissions from transportation in the next Climate Action Plan.

We are also taking action to help families and businesses adapt to climate change and extreme weather, including:

- Investing approximately \$20 million over three years to launch Ontario's Climate Change Resiliency Organization, which will work with communities, private businesses and governments to help them make climate-informed decisions;
- Implementing new rebates to help homeowners take action to protect against basement flooding;
- Investing \$2.3 billion in green infrastructure projects to help communities mitigate and adapt to climate change, such as wastewater infrastructure upgrades; and
- Undertaking Ontario's first ever province-wide risk assessment to inform a comprehensive climate adaptation strategy

I trust you will find this information helpful. Thank you again for your continued advocacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne

Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

Ontario Liberal Party

10 St. Mary Street, Suite 210, Toronto, ON M4Y 1P9
Phone: 416.961.3800, 1.800.268.7250 | Fax: 416.323.9425
Email: info@ontarioliberal.ca | Web: www.ontarioliberal.ca