

## Harden response to Greenpeace

Dear Greenpeace Ottawa,

Many thanks for your letter. You raise crucial issues that should be addressed at every level of government as a matter of urgency.

Let me speak personally, to begin with. I am the father of two young children. I take their future seriously. Global warming is real, it is human in origin, and unless the world acts quickly, it will become irreversible. Their world is threatened. My heart is in this.

I am proud to be a member of a party that is fully committed to undertaking practical measures to combat climate change. The transition to a green, low-carbon economy has been our goal for some time. We believe that this can be done fairly, so that no community experiences an unsustainable transition, and everyone reaps the benefits

Electricity generation should be zero-emission, and that is a goal I believe can be realized. Low-cost renewable resources like wind, water and solar will be central to an environmentally-friendly electricity system, and the ONDP will integrate these into the grid. In Ottawa, I shall be pressing for the installation of solar panels on every public building as one component of this green initiative.

I believe, and my party believes, that polluters should pay for the pollution they cause. We will price carbon through an effective, fair and transparent cap-and-trade market. We will use 25% of the revenues generated by cap-and-trade to assist communities and individuals who are carrying more than their fair share of the transition burden—low-income, northern and rural Ontarians—and will offer support to energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries to keep them competitive in the world market.

An ONDP government will set clear and feasible greenhouse gas reduction targets, and we will meet them. To help meet this goal, we will bring in a \$50 million no-interest home retrofit program to help people consume less power at home.

With respect to pollution in general, one immediate priority of an ONDP government will be to clean up the mercury still polluting the English-Wabigoon river system decades after the Grassy Narrows scandal. Successive Conservative and Liberal Ontario governments have [covered up this inconvenient truth](#) since 1975.

Closer to home, I stand opposed to the expensive widening of the Queensway (Highway 417), that will only funnel more cars into the already-congested downtown core. The funds being spent on this unnecessary project would be better spent on expanding cycling infrastructure in the city and on enhanced public transit.

Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to answer your questions. If you would like me to clarify anything I have said in this response, please feel free to contact me at 613-869-5952.

Sincerely,  
Joel Harden