

“Welcome“ Back Doug Protest Party

Dear Friends,

Education workers and the union movement successfully pushed back Doug Ford's Bill 28 and defended the right of workers to strike. This has inspired a broader fightback on a number of fronts, including on:

- Bill 23, which opens up Greenbelt lands for development, violates Indigenous peoples' inherent and treaty rights, damages the environment, worsens the housing crisis and attacks democracy to further enrich a few developers;
- the Ford government's attacks on healthcare, education and other hard-won public services;
- Bill 124, which has held down public sector workers' wages, an attack on working people and the services they rely on.
- Affordable housing and increasing benefits payments for people with disabilities and those struggling in poverty conditions

A group of organizers from these different struggles is organizing a **“Welcome” Back Doug Protest Party on Saturday Feb 25, 2023** under the banner I-HEED We want to mobilize a broad opposition to the Ford government agenda, bringing together Indigenous people, labour, environment, health, education, spiritual communities and democracy activists that can build a different vision for Ontario, that would help build further collaborative action as we move forward in the spring.

Organizers are from groups including Greenbelt Guardians, OSSTF, CUPE, Toronto 350, Greater Toronto Health Coalition, Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN) and Climate Voice. The endorsements received so far include the Toronto and York Region Labour Council and the Steelworkers Toronto Area Council.

Ontarians are suffering under a dysfunctional democracy but collectively, we do have the power to change things - and we can have fun doing so! We're throwing a **big protest party at Queen's Park**, having some fun while pushing back against the Ford government and their big business backers - it will be good for the justice movement in Ontario.

You may be wondering: what is the agenda of this event? Well, this is an **I HEED** happening where we use art, dance, humour, and music to bring us together and take a stand for:

Indigenous rights Healthcare Education Environment and Democracy – I HEED.

It's a big tent, but honestly, that's because **It's About Everything!**

Save the Greenbelt, your Healthcare, Your Jobs, Public Education, and Democracy!

Come to our big tent event and let's earn some R-E-S-P-E-C-T

#itsabouteverything

welcomebackdoug@protonmail.com

We'll be doing it with **MUSIC** because: The more we get together, the happier we'll be!

People of all ages and from all communities in Ontario can help push back these attacks, recognizing that Indigenous peoples, Black and other racialized communities and other marginalized communities are bearing their brunt.

This is an inclusive, family-friendly music infused event where ideas from different struggles can be shared to help slow down and stop the Doug Ford Agenda.

We will provide chairs and space for mobility devices close to the speakers and performers for those with accessibility needs.

There will be ASL interpretation for those that are hearing impaired.

Please email welcomedbackdoug@protonmail.com to let us know your accessibility needs and we will do our best to provide a welcoming space.

Yours,

"Welcome" Back Doug Protest Party Team

HOW TO HELP

Save the Date and encourage others to attend. Click going on our [facebook event](#) and share. If you would like to co-host the Facebook event, email us.

Share this message with your organization and on other networks.

Sign up on the [website](#). **If your organization can help organize, sponsor or endorse** the event email welcomedbackdoug@protonmail.com.

Donate to help fund things like honoraria to performers, a sound system and ASL interpreters. E-transfers can be sent to gasp4change2022@gmail.com with the memo "Welcome Back Doug" - donations will be managed by [Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet](#).

Help with Outreach: Put up the attached poster, share on social media and in newsletters and/or post a statement of support. Find the ["Welcome" Back Doug Graphics](#) here.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Youtube](#), and TikTok.

Offer busing from various cities or Bring an information station to Queen's Park - contact us

Volunteer or Marshal: Attend an art build, join a postering run or help us on the day. Fill out the [marshal/volunteer form](#) and let us know how you'd like to help!

Submit a song to our Doug Ford Parody Song Challenge. #dougfordparodysong

Contact us with more ideas! Email welcomedbackdoug@protonmail.com