

AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLATFORM FOR THE 2022 ONTARIO ELECTION

Introduction

The scientific research is very clear that our planet is undergoing drastic changes of climate that are caused by humans burning fossil fuels. These changes have the potential of causing a massive impact upon the quality of life of all future generations of living beings and, in many areas of our planet, making the continuation of many forms of life, especially human life, impossible. Whilst the consequences of the climate crisis are already being experienced, they can be prevented from being impossible to control even by adaptation and mitigation, if major, far reaching and lasting changes are made by replacing the carbon fuels that currently energize our economies, with renewable sources of energy.

The Province of Ontario needs to do far more to contribute to our nation meeting its carbon emissions reduction targets. Therefore, we demand that the next Provincial government commit to the following:

An Act of the Legislature that will clearly set out:

1. The goal of reducing carbon emissions by 40% from a 2005 baseline by 2030, to be carbon neutral by 2050 and to continue to reduce carbon emissions until reaching carbon zero.
2. The means by which these reductions will be achieved.
3. 5-year milestone goals and reviews, plus biannual progress reports.
4. How and by whom progress or regress will be recorded.
5. The remedial action that will be taken if these 5-year goals are not achieved.
6. The terms of work of a **Scientific Advisory and Monitoring Agency** whose advice the government will be required to seriously consider and implement, or give public reasons why it has decided not to do so.

The establishment of an **Energy Transformation Commission** to develop and oversee the implementation of a phasing out of the use of all carbon-based sources of energy from all sectors of society and their replacement with energy from renewable sources of energy, including the near-term adoption of a Near-Zero-Energy Building Code (as currently in force in the European Union).

The establishment of an **Employment Transition Commission** to develop and oversee the provision of accessible, supportive, and effective training programs to enable, equip and place workers so as to have well-paid, regulated, secure jobs with benefits in the new carbon-free economy.

The establishment of a **Land Use Commission** to develop a land use plan that both promotes the development of compact, diverse, fully serviced communities with good employment opportunities and easy access to non-carbon energized transportation; and which also retains and supports productive farming and natural environment systems that protect and promote vibrant biodiversity.

The activation of an all-ages **Educational Program** that promotes understanding of the causes of the climate crisis and effective means for reducing its dangers.

The legislated and impactful inclusion of **Indigenous Peoples** on the Commissions, the Scientific Advisory and Monitoring Agency and in the team that develops the educational program.

The Energy Transformation Commission, the Employment Transition Commission and Land Use Commission should work in partnership with any corresponding Federal and other Provincial commissions.

Authored by:



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