

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Ministère de l'Environnement,
de la Protection de la nature et des
Parcs



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5
Tel.: 416.314.6790
Fax: 416.314.6748

77, rue Wellesley Ouest
11^e étage, édifice Ferguson
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2T5
Tél. : 416 314-6790
Télééc. : 416 314-6748

Dr. Dianne Saxe
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
Email: commissioner@eco.on.ca

Dear Dr. Saxe,

Thank you for sharing your Annual 'Greenhouse Gas Progress Report'.

As you are aware, our government ran for office on a clear promise to repeal the previous Liberal Government's cap-and-trade carbon tax, and the voters of Ontario afforded us a clear mandate based in large part on that commitment.

Since assuming office, our government has acted quickly to keep this promise and, as a result, people across Ontario are benefitting from lower costs on fuel, home heating and energy.

I want to respectfully advise that any suggestion we should pursue policies that betray commitments we made to the people is not well taken.

Our government's position has been consistent. Forcing struggling Ontario families to pay more for gas and home heating is not an effective tool to mitigate climate change.

We are concerned that cap and trade and other carbon pricing schemes imperil the job security of workers across numerous sectors, especially in light of the current challenges facing Canada's economy.

As an independent officer of the legislature, you have the right to advocate Ontario families and businesses pay higher taxes in order to achieve your preferred policy goals, and we respect your right to do so.

However, I would note that labelling Ontario's electricity policies under the previous government as a 'big success' is out-of-step with the experience of hundreds of thousands of families whose hydro bills have more than doubled as a result of these policies.

Dr. Dianne Saxe
Page 2.

It is also in direct conflict with the work of another independent officer of the Legislature – Ontario’s Auditor General – who reported excessive costs, wasted dollars and inappropriate procurement practices.

Your report does contain a number of other ideas that I am confident could align with our made-in-Ontario solution to address climate change. I look forward to working collaboratively to identify these as we pursue a more innovative approach to delivering environmentally sustainable outcomes.

Our plan will also address the challenges of protecting clean air and water, encouraging conservation and doing more to address urban litter and waste, each of which also represents a pressing environmental concern.

I look forward to a continued, constructive dialogue with you as we work to deliver on this important public trust.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Phillips', written over a horizontal line.

Rod Phillips
Minister