

Message

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Subject: Press Conference: ONTARIO RELEASES ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS REPORT- September 25, 2018

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ONTARIO RELEASES ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS REPORT

Media Studio Press Conference

September 25, 2018

Time: 10 a.m.

To read report, click [here](#)

Overview:

High level information focusing on:

- Host
 - Diane Saxe, Environmental Commissioner
- Summarize the press conference
 - Environmental Commissioner of Ontario is releasing the annual greenhouse gas progress report. Research indicates that cap and trade was working in Ontario, but it's not the only solution to combat climate change. The government has multiple ways to help Ontario, but with the help of the private sector.

Either sentence: A full transcript will be provided as soon as possible.

Key Points (not a transcript):

- Ontario's climate law, and cap and trade, was working. Suggesting the money was taken and wasted unfairly is incorrect. This money was helping schools, transit, and public housing become more efficient and saving millions of dollars. It didn't last long enough, but even in that short period of time we saw encouraging signs.
- Hospitals saved millions to put back into patient care. Similar results at education institutions.
- Carbon market brought an extra 250,000,000. This climate law, and programs were working. Now we do not have this.
- The rug was pulled out from under these climate programs. Leaving many, including First Nation communities high and dry.
- This is bad for the environment, bad for our health, and bad for business.
- 'Polluter-pay' tools are popular across the world because they provide options.

- Cheaper fossil fuels keep Ontario dependent on fossil fuels and discards the pathways to a more sustainable economy.
- Ontario needs a long term plan for climate change. It will cost us much more if we don't start now. Now is not the time to abandon action on climate change, it's time to step it up.
- We need to speak up on Bill 4.

Media Question and Answer:

Q: Do you have understanding of cancelling cap and trade without having a replacement?

A: We may have been seen worse than that, our population and GDP is growing all of those people will be looking to turn those lights on. Cancelling energy projects would mean emissions on electricity go up.

Q: How far back are we sliding by cancelling cap & trade?

A: I think we will suffer dramatically. The economic modelling shows that a clean economy and conservation is

Q: Will we see a lack of progress?

A: I think we will see worse than that. Our population is growing. Cancelling clean electricity projects hampers our ability to provide clean energy. I think our emissions are going to go up, and we will get farther from where we need to be as climate change begins to really punish the people on Ontario.

Q: Unintelligible

A: Polluter pay really stimulates and rewards innovation. Regulations can work by themselves but they tend to be more expensive than they need to be.

Q: What is the counterbalance of the federal carbon tax?

A: If and when the feds introduce a carbon tax. It doesn't apply to the same people in the same – and for many people in Ontario will be much more expensive. Cap and trade was much less expensive than a carbon tax. A federal carbon tax can do a lot of the same thing. It's more expensive but it could work.

Q: What about the federal law suit?

A: That's up to the Supreme Court to decide.

Q: Has the government confirmed if they will keep your position?

A: I have not received any information on that. I have a fixed contract. I can only be dismissed for cause by the assembly.

Q: Are you concerned they will eliminate your position?

A: I think we provide a useful service and I hope to continue to do so.

Q: You called the replacement bill weak. Why is it problematic?

A: There is a long tradition of people making grand announcements, not meeting the targets, and the quietly saying they didn't meet the targets. We know that government cannot do the huge amount of work that's necessary. They need investment from the private sector. What they need is predictability and certainty. The private sector makes long term investments and need to be able to predict the laws. We have had a huge shake up, and there is a lot of uncertainty about investing in Ontario. We need some anchors that don't move.

Q: Is there anything that would compel or encourage any of our operators to return to renewables.

A: I did an electricity report in April. The previous government abandoned feed in tariffs and imposed net metering. We've seen that that doesn't work. Electricity prices are likely to go up. We know the Fair Hydro Plan borrowed money that needs to be repaid. But even the Kentucky coal museum put solar panels on their roof to save money, maybe we'll see more of that?

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