

Neil Brodie

From: Neil Brodie
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To: Rosemarie Leclair; Mary Anne Aldred
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Tabuns tables climate legislation

NDP environment critic **Peter Tabuns** tabled legislation Monday which, if passed, would make it easier for the government, businesses and communities to sue fossil fuel companies for climate change-related damages stemming from their products.

"The world's largest fossil fuel corporations have to start paying their fair share of the damages that are going to be inflicted by climate change," Tabuns said, "and they also have to pay for steps necessary to protect people from those climate damages."

The Toronto-area MPP and former head of Greenpeace likened his bill to Ontario's tobacco liability legislation, which allowed people to recover health-related costs from tobacco use. His bill assumes not only that climate change is real and is caused by human activity, but that fossil fuel companies know, and have known for years, that their actions have destabilized the global climate by driving up temperatures and sea levels.

In Ontario, the costs of climate change damages to date have not been calculated, but storm damages in 2013 alone exceeded \$1 billion, thanks to flash flooding in the Greater Toronto Area in July and December's ice storm. Yet for a sense of scale, Tabuns pointed to New York City's own climate-liability lawsuit against five major oil-producing companies, in which the city claims it will spend \$20 billion to protect it from future climate damage.

Question Period

PC lead-off

IESO accounting irregularities

- Opposition leader Vic Fedeli asked Premier Kathleen Wynne about accounting irregularities at the IESO highlighted by Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk.
- o Wynne and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault both reminded Fedeli that the accounting practice their government uses has been approved by "some of Canada's top accounting firms," Wynne said, including Ernst and Young, KPMG and Deloitte.

Carbon tax

- Fedeli asked Wynne whether her government will commit to scrapping the carbon tax, which prompted Wynne to accuse the PCs of turning their backs on climate change.
- o Fedeli said the carbon tax has nothing to do with climate change and only serves to take more money from taxpayers' pockets.
- o Economic Development and Growth Minister Steven Del Duca replied that red tape reduction was ahead of schedule and that current measures had saved \$150 million to businesses by removing 80,000 regulatory burdens.