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Full name

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As reported in a recent IPCC report human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Significant reductions in emissions need to start now and not in 10 or 20 years from now. Climate Change policy will be a significant issue in the upcoming Provincial Election. This is an opportunity to show that Climate Change and the environment is a priority. As a result I urge that the following areas be given priority in the upcoming Ontario budget.

Cancel Hwy 413 and the Bradford bypass and do not put any money into these projects. These projects would pave over existing Greenbelt, eliminate Class 1 and Class 2 farmland and increase emissions. Additionally, through the well established and accepted concept of induced demand new highways would not relieve congestion over time. The money would be better spent on public transit initiatives in the GTA and throughout the province.

Re-establish provincial rebates for the purchase of new and used electric vehicles. This can be modeled after the existing rebates available in Quebec. If the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) is less than \$60,000 then rebates up to \$8,000 are available. A smaller rebate is available for a hybrid vehicle based on battery capacity. The North American auto industry is accelerating the transition to producing electric vehicles. Ensuring Ontario continues to be a pivotal part of the North American auto industry is creating customer side demand.

Create a zero down payment, zero interest finance program for heat pump installation in those homes already heating with electricity. For qualifying low income households provide additional grants to cover the upfront costs. This will reduce electricity demand, lower emissions and address energy justice issues. From a financial perspective this would decrease future payments relating to the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).

Create matching rebates to the Federal Natural Resource Canada retrofit program. In particular, establish substantial rebates for insulation, windows & doors, heat pumps and renewable energy systems. Ensure that only ground or air heat pumps qualify for the rebates and that heating systems that continue to use gas (methane) do NOT qualify for rebates. Most of the buildings that will be around in 2050 already exist today. As a result, it is important to immediately start the process of energy conservation through retrofits. Lower electricity use saves money for individuals, lower emissions and partially addresses the need to expand electricity supply in the future.

Increase funding to the Ministry of the Environment so that additional staff can be hired to environmental inspections and enforcement for hazardous spills.

Increase funding to conservation authorities so that they can fulfill their critical roles in protecting natural habitats and local watersheds. Allow conservation authorities to fully manage and protect these

areas. As we experience more frequent and severe weather events as a result of Climate Change, these areas play a critical role in protecting communities against flooding and erosion.