



TO: THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO RE BILL 4: CAP AND TRADE CANCELLATION ACT
Procedural Services Branch -Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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ONTARIO MUST URGENTLY ACT ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS –AND BE A CLIMATE LEADER – NOT A LAGGARD.

Dear Committee Clerk, Ms. Przewdziecki,

ClimateFast is a dedicated volunteer group that strives to build political will and to persuade politicians to work toward urgent and substantial action on climate change.

- Climatefast believes we need to act on climate - fast. We are in a crisis and need coordinated action for deep cuts in carbon emissions. We must end fossil fuel subsidies, put a price on carbon and transition towards renewable energy.
- 1,000 Torontonians have signed our petitions asking the government to act on Climate Change.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is an intergovernmental body of the UN given the task to synthesize the most recent developments in climate science, adaptation, vulnerability, and mitigation based on over 6000 scientific papers written by thousands of experts in their field. Last week they released their latest report.
- Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. It is on track to reach between 2.7 and 3.4 degrees of warming.
- What are the impacts on Ontario? Southern Ontario will experience higher temperatures, most likely higher than global average, leading to hot extremes and longer heat waves.
- This summer in Toronto with humidex reaching 46% is a foretaste of what is to come. Heat illness and death among the elderly will rise placing a strain on our healthcare system and the use of A/C and other cooling systems will place significant demand on our electricity grid.
- With heat, comes stronger, more frequent thunderstorms, particularly in Northern Ontario. This summer we saw several intense thunderstorms that led to flooding of homes and the dumping of raw sewage into Lake

Ontario.

- Cases of lyme disease have steadily risen since 2009 despite deforestation. It and other diseases will impact on human health and place a further strain on our public healthcare system.
 - The World's scientists are urging action and this year's Nobel Prize in Economics went to William Nordhaus for showing that "the most efficient remedy for problems caused by greenhouse gases is a global scheme of universally imposed carbon taxes."
 - Carbon Taxes are embraced by both the left and the right in the US and Canada as well as leading companies such as General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, ExxonMobil, BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Total, Procter & Gamble, and Unilever.
 - The selling of emission credits from Cap and Trade raised \$2.4 billion. Money raised was used to fund energy efficiency upgrades of hospitals, schools, and homes that would save individuals and organizations money on energy bills, renewable energy projects, public transit upgrades and improvements and TransformTO, the City of Toronto Climate Action Strategy.
 - TransformTO was expecting to receive \$52 million from Cap and Trade to fund 10 programs that would cut 360,000 tonnes of carbon by 2031. Programs included replacing 30 diesel buses with battery powered electric buses, building a system to recover methane from organic waste at Dufferin Organics Processing Facility and a number of renewable energy heating/cooling systems at St. Lawrence Market, Yonge and Eglinton, Liberty Village, Etobicoke Civic Centre Precinct and Scarborough. The loss of these funds is a huge blow to the city which has only set aside \$3 million for TransformTO.
 - There is the loss of millions to upgrade the subway system in Toronto. The subway system is running at overcapacity and desperately needs another line to get workers into the city on time. Scarborough desperately needs an integrated transportation system. This loss of funding sets Toronto's transportation system back at a time when the government claims they are \$15 million dollars in debt and thus has no alternative source of revenue.
 - Cutting energy efficiency incentives and other green initiatives resulted in significant job losses for small businesses in Ontario and adversely affected more than 500 organizations, including many funded with taxpayer's dollars and First Nations. The revenue raised by cap and trade and allocated for these and similar initiatives, needs to be accounted for, as it was intended to help Ontarian's save money and reduce their emissions. The withdrawal from cap and trade and the manner in which it was conducted, creates a discouraging and uncertain business environment, especially for green businesses. Already companies who are at the front end of a wave of new technologies are leaving Ontario and others are putting off investing, due to this uncertainty. Ontario needs these companies to create wealth and jobs for Ontarians and keep us at the forefront of research and innovation.
 - Cancelling this program has the combined effect of damaging the Ontario economy, and sending a signal to businesses that investing in Ontario is risky.
- . ClimateFast calls on this government to maintain a system of carbon pricing – it must not dismantle the Cap and Trade system or it must implement a carbon tax.

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