



Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario New Democrats

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Terry Rees, Executive Director

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA)

#201 - 159 King Street

Peterborough, Ontario K9J 2R8

October 1, 2011

Dear Mr. Rees,

Thank you for your email of September 22, 2011 asking for the NDP's position in a number of policy areas.

I share your belief that Ontario must build a reliable, clean and affordable energy plan. We will achieve this first by pursuing all possible conservation and energy efficiency measures before contracting for new supply. We will take money being spent on nuclear mega-schemes and invest it in comprehensive energy efficiency program – including grants, rebates and loans – to help people make their homes more energy efficient.

We will reduce reliance on dirty, non-sustainable power. We will phase out coal-fired electricity by 2014 and will place coal plants on emergency stand-by only, until they are phased out. We will subject future decisions about nuclear power to an environmental assessment that will look at the real costs and environmental impact of nuclear energy when compared with alternatives.

We will be aggressive about bringing clean, renewable energy online. We will exceed the current targets for renewable energy with 10,700 MW in 2018 and will commit to at least 5,000 MW of additional green power by 2030. We will maintain the feed-in-tariff for small and community-based projects. For new larger renewable projects we will move towards public ownership. Ontario Power Generation will contract out for large projects with an affordable and transparent process to ensure economic benefits and environmental protection. Finally, we will ramp up investment in cogeneration, making more efficient use of natural gas by using it for both heat and power.





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We will take pressure off property taxes by providing greater financial support to municipalities. In addition to continuing the upload at its promised rate, we will also create a new three-year \$70 million annual fund to help municipalities with road and bridge repairs especially.

We are strongly committed to protecting lakes and waterways. We will pass anti-SLAPP legislation to prevent developers from using lawsuits to silence citizen opposition to developments. We will review and update regulation of pits and quarries to better protect the environment. We will implement a Great Lakes Protection Act to ensure that all government policies promote the health of the Great Lakes and coastal watersheds. We will extend the right to engage in source water protection planning to municipalities and First Nations communities across Ontario. We will not allow the transport or storage of nuclear waste in Ontario communities until a full environmental assessment has been conducted.

We will work with municipalities and other governments to develop a comprehensive coastal protection strategy will include a range of measures such as watershed planning in prioritized areas, education and incentives for private landowners to engage in coast protection, land protection in priority areas, strengthening of the Provincial Policy Statement to ensure protection for coastal wetlands, stronger regulation of phosphorous and other emissions, improved stormwater techniques, and the promotion of shoreline conservation through Official Plans.

We will explore avenues for strengthening regulations on the import of Asian Carp into Ontario.

I hope that this answers a number of the questions in your email to us. We look forward to further elaborating on our plans and to working with you on your issues of concern following the election.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario's New Democrats





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