ONTARIO CLEAN AIR ALLIANCE

345 Questionnaire for Kitchener Centre 2023 Provincial By-Election Candidates

1. Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants

The Government of Ontario is planning to build **new** gas-fired power plants and ramp up the output, greenhouse gas and smog pollution of all gas plants by more than 300% by 2030 and by 700% by 2043.

This will jeopardize Canada's ability to meet its Paris Agreement climate targets and create more smog pollution that causes asthma attacks and heart and lung diseases.

According to the Royal Bank, Ontario can completely avoid the need for NEW gas plants and save $500 million per year by investing in technologies to increase our energy efficiency and shift electricity demand from peak to off-peak periods.

Ontario's demand for electricity peaks on hot summer days when our air conditioners are running full out. But Quebec's demand for electricity peaks on cold winter nights since most of its homes are electrically heated. As a result, Quebec has a huge surplus of electricity available for export to Ontario in the summer to power our air conditioners.

We can also avoid the need for gas power by investing in wind and solar energy. Great Lakes offshore wind power alone could meet all of Ontario's electricity needs.

Question #1: **Do you support the Government of Ontario's plans to build new gas plants and increase the output, greenhouse gas and smog pollution of all gas plants by 700% by 2043?**

Answer: **Yes**_____ **No** ✓ **Undecided**_____

Additional Comments:

No, I do not support the Government of Ontario's plans to build new gas plants and increase the output, greenhouse gas, and smog pollution of all gas plants by 700% by 2043. This approach runs counter to the imperative of transitioning to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. Investing in the expansion of gas plants not only perpetuates reliance on non-renewable resources but also contributes significantly to environmental degradation.

The proposed increase in pollution levels raises concerns about the long-term impact on air quality and public health. Given the urgent need to address climate change and reduce our carbon footprint, I believe that prioritizing renewable energy alternatives, such as wind and solar power, is a more responsible and forward-thinking strategy. These cleaner energy sources not only mitigate environmental harm but also position Ontario as a leader in the global shift towards a more sustainable energy future.

By focusing on renewable energy initiatives, we can create a resilient and environmentally conscious energy grid that aligns with the broader goals of mitigating climate change and ensuring the well-being of current and future generations. It is our conviction that pursuing cleaner energy solutions is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in the long-term health and prosperity of our province.

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2. Investing in Wind and Solar Energy

Wind and solar energy are now Ontario's lowest cost sources of new electricity supply. But the Government of Ontario has not contracted for a single kilowatt-hour of wind and solar energy during the last five years.

Question #2: **Should the Government of Ontario start investing in wind and solar energy now to help Ontario move to a zero-carbon electricity grid and lower electricity bills?**

Answer: **Yes** ✓ **No** **Undecided**

Additional Comments:

It is incredibly clear to me that we need invest in wind and solar energy. Not only does it align with our commitment to an environmentally sustainable future marked by a zero-carbon electricity grid, but it also makes clear economic sense. Regrettably, the decision by Doug Ford to spend over $230 million to dismantle more than 750 clean energy projects initiated by the previous Liberal government has set out province back significantly.

It is disheartening to witness a diversion from the path of environmental responsibility in such an economically irresponsible way. The technological landscape has evolved significantly in recent years, leading to a substantial reduction in the costs associated with clean energy initiatives. Now more than ever, Ontario needs an energy plan that reflects these advancements and dedicates a substantial investment in wind and solar energy.

By doing so, we not only contribute to a sustainable, green energy grid but also potentially lower electricity bills for Ontarians. The trajectory towards a cleaner, more cost-effective energy future is clear, and it is incumbent upon the Government of Ontario to lead the charge, fostering progress rather than impeding it.

This approach not only ensures a responsible transition to renewable energy sources but also positions Ontario as a forward-thinking leader in the global shift towards sustainable practices. The time for decisive action is now, and embracing wind and solar energy is a crucial step in the right direction.

Kelly Steiss	Kelly Steiss	11/19/2023
Name	**Signature**	**Date**

Please send your responses to Jack Gibbons by November 13, 2023:

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