

September 13, 2007

Environmental Priorities  
C/O Jennifer Foulds  
Environmental Defense Canada  
416-323-9521 ext. 232

Dear Environmental Priorities Coalition Members,

Over the past month we have been releasing various parts of our environmental plan for Ontario, starting with our "Green Lights" energy plan to replace coal and avoid the McGuinty Liberal's embracing of nuclear power. As you will know, last week we released our climate change plan detailing how will move Ontario toward meeting its share of the Kyoto commitment by 2012.

### **Green Lights Energy Plan**

Our comprehensive "Green Lights" energy plan details how we would shutdown coal-fired generation in the province beginning with the Nanticoke plant in 2011, the Lambton facility in 2012, followed by the Atikokan and Thunder Bay plants by the end of 2014 (attached). Highlights include very aggressive Conservation and Demand Response initiatives, as well as reversing the Liberals planned expansion of nuclear generation and submitting the entire Integrated Power System Plan to a provincial environmental assessment.

### **Climate Change Plan**

Our "Now or Never" climate change plan aims to meet Kyoto targets - reducing Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions by 44Mt by 2012, 6% below 1990 levels by the end of 2012 (attached). This would be accomplished through closing the two coal-fired plants by 2012, combined with aggressive conservation and energy-efficiency programs and funding, and new transit investment. We would provide funding for low-interest loans for residential, commercial and institutional energy retrofits through floating Ontario Climate Bonds.

### **Boreal Forest Protection**

Our "Now or Never" plan also commits to boreal protection. The boreal forest is an important carbon reservoir in the fight against climate change.

Dalton McGuinty promised to undertake a comprehensive land-use planning process on the boreal lands north of 51 degrees in the last election. He broke his promise, and the result is that the rights and traditional lands of First Nations north of 51 degrees are being trampled in a rush toward resource development. Instead of taking action, the McGuinty

Liberals have forced First Nations into court to defend their rights to consultation, and escalated tensions between First Nations and resource companies.

New Democrats propose a moratorium on lands north of the 51st parallel and would immediately commence a comprehensive land-use planning process that brings together First Nations, government and stakeholders. Development would not proceed until such time as meaningful consultations have concluded on affected areas, and detailed revenue sharing agreements negotiated with First Nations. Protection for the threatened Woodland Cariboo would be addressed within the planning process.

### **Greenbelt Protection**

The “Now or Never” plan includes measures to protect greenspace and curb sprawl. The Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt lands must be more than repositories for new highways, “Big Pipe” sewage infrastructure, gravel pits and quarries.

Instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars for highways to further sprawl, driving up greenhouse gas emissions, and threatening the sustainability and expandability of the Greenbelt, New Democrats would begin by canceling the McGuinty Liberal’s Highway 404 extension, slated to carve north through the Greenbelt to Ravenshoe Road. This extension will fuel development on thousands of acres of prime farmland in York Region and southern Simcoe County – an area of the province in which big developers and big resorts are proving to be better protected than Lake Simcoe.

The \$250 million from the Highway 404 extension cancellation will be re-allocated to capital investments in transit. The trend from 2003-2006 of spending two dollars on capital infrastructure for roads to every one-dollar spent on transit must be addressed. New Democrats would immediately begin to reverse this trend by implementing Toronto’s Transit City Plan, as well as increasing expansion of the GO Transit base system immediately.

New Democrats would stop the hollowing out of our treasured Niagara Escarpment by reversing the McGuinty Liberals’ approval of a massive expansion of Dufferin Aggregates’ quarry in Milton, doubling its size, and compromising surrounding source waters *in perpetuity*.

### **Great Lakes Protection**

New Democrats have long supported the full implementation of the Walkerton Inquiry recommendations, including protection for source waters beyond municipal wellheads.

As the drinking water source for millions of Ontarians, the Great Lakes require proper protection by all levels of government. The Great Lakes are under increasing pressures and business-as-usual won’t cut it. Ontario needs to put its house in order.

The recent updating of the Canada-Ontario Agreement under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement lacked transparency and engagement of public stakeholders. New Democrats will undertake a comprehensive review of the governance framework as it pertains to the Great Lakes, and work with the federal government towards its implementation.

New Democrats are also committed to increasing the funding to MOE by \$75 million for enforcement measures, but also increasing Great Lakes funding.

### **Waste Reduction Strategy**

As municipalities have struggled to deal with Ontario's garbage crisis Ontario's NDP has led the fight to reduce, re-use and recycle, instead of burn and bury. The McGuinty Liberals promised a ban on landfilling organics in 2003 and a 60% diversion rate by the end of this year. At present, Ontario's diversion rate hovers around 28%.

For purposes of reducing greenhouse gases from landfill now and into the future New Democrats advocate a full diversion of organics from landfill by 2010. Given the costs associated with removing organics from multi-unit residential buildings, and the cash-strapped reality in most municipalities, our "Now or Never" climate change plan delegates \$160 over the next four years to get the job done. Overall, New Democrats commit to a province-wide diversion rate of 60% by the end of 2009.

New Democrats do not support incineration, or "energy-from-waste," as it undercuts our primary goal – decreasing the waste generated. At present, waste management policy in Ontario is adrift. New Democrats would develop a comprehensive waste management strategy focused on extended producer responsibility and the development of a provincial packaging protocol.

### **Toxics Reduction**

At home and at work Ontarians are exposed to a soup of toxic chemicals daily, many carcinogenic.

New Democrats plan to undertake a comprehensive review and reform of toxics policy and legislation in Ontario, including Community-Right-to-Know and toxic use reduction legislation.

We will ground toxics policy reform on the precautionary principle, pollution prevention, public accountability and transparency.

Sincerely,

Rob Milling  
NDP Campaign Director