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Ford gives Big Greenhouse Gas Polluters a Free Pass

There are 1400 big emitters in Canada that are responsible for 40% of the country's GHG emissions.¹ A number of these companies (347) are in Ontario. In Ontario, industry is responsible for 30% of the province's GHG emissions.² And the Ford Conservative government is giving them a free pass. Ford's definition of flexible compliance means that the climate emergency is once again sidelined by government inaction.

When Ford refused to join the federal government's carbon pricing system, he also withdrew from the federal plan to regulate big emitters.³ The federal plan is seriously flawed but the Ontario substitute plan is a cruel, climate crisis joke.⁴

The Federal government, although it accepted the provincial plan, called it inadequate. The Ontario Auditor General concluded that Ford's projected emission reduction numbers from the plan were simply not believable.⁵

The Ontario plan is called Emission Performance Standards. The plan is greenwashing to the extent that it pretends to curb emissions when there is no intention and no requirement to do so.

Industry in Ontario emits about 47,000,000 tonnes (47 MT) of GHG each year. The Ford plan first claimed

that it would see that number reduced by 2.7 MT but later admitted that, at best, it might reduce them by 1 MT.⁶

Canada's Paris targets are to reduce GHG by between 40-45% by 2030. In Ontario the biggest polluters might, if all goes according to plan, reduce their emissions by 2%.⁷

Doug Ford is Ontario's biggest obstacle to meeting our Paris climate action commitments. We need a government that will:

- ! introduce clear rules and hard caps on the big emitters**
- ! develop a plan for tightening the emission caps every year, and**
- ! require companies to do their fair share in limiting GHG emissions.**



¹ A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy, Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2020

² National Inventory Report and Auditor General Ontario

³ The federal plan is called the Output Based Pricing System (OBPS)

⁴ See The Liberal Climate Action Formula: A Recipe for Failure, SCAN! report 2020

⁵ Ontario Auditor General annual report 2019 auditor.on.ca

⁶ ibid

⁷ ibid