



# Climate Reason #8 to Defeat Ford

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# REASON NUMBER 8

## 8. Ford is paving over wetlands and pushing urban sprawl

The climate crisis requires a major rethinking of how we build our cities and urban transportation systems. But the Ford government is committed to the old models. Unrestrained growth is the goal, and, to pave the way, the government has rammed through omnibus bills that weaken and eliminate environmental safeguards. Over the last few years, the Ford government has developed a powerful urban sprawl arsenal. It includes:

- **Omnibus Bills 108 and 229** ([Link to Climate Crime #13](#))
- **The Growth Plan** ([Link to Climate Crime #21](#))
- **MZO's -Ministerial Zoning Orders** ([Link to Climate Crime #28](#))
- **Building Highways** ([Link to Climate Crime #26](#))
- **Gutting Conservation Authorities** ([Link to Climate Crime #32](#))

In its quest to build bigger and faster than ever before, the government has eroded and eliminated protections that used to be in the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act, the Ontario Heritage Act and the Planning Act.

Ford has also gutted the authority and the budget of local Conservation Authorities.

We are losing wetlands at an alarming rate. Less than 30 per cent of southern Ontario's original wetlands remain, and just 10 per cent survive in Niagara and the GTA. We are losing irreplaceable farmland.

The Government's Growth Plan will pave the agricultural lands, wetlands, and forests of the Greenbelt as well as those of suburban areas, throughout the province. It will also reward big developers, many of whom are important donors to the Conservative party.

Ford sprawl means the elimination of wetlands, green spaces and much needed farmland which are critical buffers against climate breakdown.

The government's growth plan will:

- promote expensive highway construction and encourage commuting by more GHG emitting private vehicles.
- undermine public transit by moving people away from transit routes into suburban areas. ([Link to Climate Crime #24](#))
- degrade groundwater reserves and worsen flood threats, just as climate breakdown generates intense downpours and more flooding.
- weaken links between urban centres and nearby food production. ([Link to Climate Crime #27](#))