



# Climate Reason #9 to Defeat Ford

**SENIORS**  
for  
**CLIMATE**  
**ACTION!**  
**NOW** !





# REASON NUMBER 9

## 9. Ford is undermining climate democracy

Soon after taking office in 2018, the Ford government passed the *Cap and Trade Cancellation Act*, ignoring the public consultation requirement established by the *Environmental Bill of Rights*. The Cancellation Act deliberately rolled back the province's climate targets, allowing the government to replace them with a significantly weaker 2030 target.

### Youth take Ford to court

In November 2019, seven young Ontarians launched a lawsuit against the Ford government. Their claim, supported by EcoJustice, argued that Ford's Cancellation Act would lead to increased GHG emissions, contributing significantly to dangerous climate change-related impacts such as heat waves, floods, fires and poor air quality. ([Link to Climate Crime #6](#))

The Ontario youth claim the Ford legislation endangers their health and violates their Charter Rights to life, liberty and security of the person. As young people, they maintain that it is their lives and the lives of those who come after them that will be affected by the increased risks enabled by the Act.

The Ford government has, on more than one occasion, tried to get the lawsuit thrown out of court.

### Government uses omnibus bills to hide actions

Climate action requires informed and engaged citizens, and more accountability in government. The only way to break the current cycle of broken climate promises and missed targets is to introduce new and effective structures and processes for climate accountability and democratic involvement.

The Ford government's approach is the exact opposite.

Before being elected Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford was asked to explain how bills become law. He dodged the question. Pundits wondered whether he was aware of the basic parliamentary process which is a rudimentary part of democracy.

Once in office, he demonstrated that he certainly knew how to exercise power by stealth by using his majority to ram omnibus bills through the legislature.

An omnibus bill packages together, and covers, a number of diverse or unrelated topics. They are large and unwieldy documents, configured to confuse and hide unpopular provisions, and to limit opposition parties' ability to assess and respond to the proposed legislation.

These bills are becoming more common in Canada. The Ford government has taken their use to a completely new level. ([Link to Climate Crime #19](#))