SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

THE FORD GOVERNMENT

CLIMATE CRIME # 15

Stopping green power: Bill 276

On On June 3, 2021, Ontario's Bill 276 became The Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act. This omnibus bill included numerous measures the Ford Government claimed would bolster an economy pummelled by a pandemic. As ever this government regarded efforts to counter climate breakdown as impediments to prosperity.

Schedule 5 of Bill 276 revoked provisions of the 1998 Electricity Act that had required that renewable energy projects get priority grid connection. Why? Doug Ford's spokesperson claimed the prioritization of renewables created unnecessary cost.[1]

So, Ford assumed the most perverse of postures. Jurisdictions around the world are scrambling to move away from fossil fuels, rapidly replacing them with renewables. Ford chose to move the province in the *opposite* direction by foisting more fossil fuels onto Ontario's electricity grid.

As we stand now 96 per cent of Ontario electricity is fossil free.[2] But Ford plans to spend three billion dollars building new gas plants to fill in for nuclear plants scheduled to come offline or be refurbished. Astonishingly, rather than clean up the environment Ford plans to adulterate it. It is estimated by Ontario's Independent Electrical Systems Operator (IESO) that greenhouse gas emissions from the gas plants will increase by more than 300 percent by 2025.[3]

---

[1] The National Observer

[2] Canada Energy Regulator

[3] Phasing-Out Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants: A Road Map, Ontario Clean Air Alliance Research, April 9, 2020. https://www.cleanairalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GAS_REPORT_FINAL_WEB_R.pdf00

SENIORS for CLIMATE ACTION NOW!

This is environmentally disastrous and economically reckless. Renewables are clearly the better choice. They should be prioritized, as they had been in the now-defunct 1998 Electricity Act.[4]

Yet Ford, like the deranged Don Quixote, ignores reality. He prefers tilting at windmills. "If I could tear up every wind turbine in this province I would," he told AM 640 listeners on December 16, 2019.

This is criminal behaviour.

[4] Forbes