



July 28, 2023

Ms. Bonnie Lysyk,
Auditor General of Ontario
20 Dundas Street West, Suite 1530
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2C2

Dear Ms. Lysyk,

I am writing to request your assistance in making public two Ontario government reports relating to Climate Change Adaptation. They are the report of the Advisory Panel on Climate Change and the report of Ontario's Climate Change Impact Assessment.

The report of the Advisory Panel on Climate Change was submitted to the Ontario government in November 2021. At the time the panel was appointed, in November, 2019, its chair, Mr. Paul Kovacs, [said](#)

"(T)he knowledge exists to prevent losses from flooding, wildfire and other climate extremes. Members of the advisory panel on climate change look forward to working with the Government of Ontario to champion climate resilience. Working together, we can break the alarming trend of rising severe weather damage to homes, businesses and public infrastructure. Action on climate resilience is a critical element of a comprehensive strategy on climate change."

As members of Seniors for Climate Action Now! and as members of one of the groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, we realize only too acutely the urgent need for action on climate resilience.

Requests for the report of the Advisory Panel made to Ministry of the Environment by members of our committee have been unsuccessful. We also filed a FOI request, which has received no response other than an acknowledgement of receipt five months after it was filed.

Your November 2022 report [Value for Money Audit on Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing Urban Flood Risk](#) makes several references to the Advisory Panel report. As your report discusses this document so freely, should it not be public? And, given the importance of the issue and the length of time that has elapsed since the panel submitted its report, should it not be guiding vigorous action?

The second report that we seek, Ontario's Climate Change Impact Assessment, was [announced](#) by the government in August 2020. The announcement noted that the final results were expected to be released in 2022. Jeff Yurek, then environment minister, said he was looking forward to receiving the results of the impact assessment, "which will help the province, municipalities, Indigenous communities and local partners make more informed decisions on planning and infrastructure investments to keep communities healthy and safe."

The Ministry of the Environment refers to the impact assessment in its response to your Recommendation #6, of your Urban Flood Risk report, regarding the establishment of a climate service organization. It said "(T)he Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment (once complete) could help inform future provincial actions and help municipalities build resiliency and adapt to the impacts of climate change."

It has now been three years since the Impact Assessment was announced. During these three years Ontario has been battered by ice storms, floods, wildfires, tornados, drought, and heatwaves, at enormous human, ecological and economic cost. If, as Mr. Kovacs said, the knowledge exists to prevent these kinds of losses, why is the Ontario government sitting on it? Why is it not acting? We respectfully request your assistance in making these reports public.

Yours truly,

Moya Beall,
On behalf of the Ontario Project
Seniors for Climate Action Now!