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Government Finally Releases Part of Climate Report Seniors for Climate Action Now! says action long overdue

After nine months of sitting on a 533-page climate change impact assessment detailing the risks of climate breakdown for Ontario, the Ford government finally, very quietly, [released](#) it on a Friday afternoon in late August. Was the report published because of the efforts of a bunch of retirees, who secured 1335 signatures on an open letter demanding its release? Or is it to deter more bad news about Ford government secrecy in the midst of the Greenbelt revelations?

The retirees are members of [Seniors for Climate Action Now!](#), a rapidly-growing organization mobilizing seniors to call for emergency action at all levels of government.

“Our open letter demanded the release of two major climate reports commissioned by the Ford government”, said SCAN! adaptation expert Jennifer Penney. “Ontarians want to see these reports! But even more, we want to know what the government is doing to protect us.”

When the risk assessment was [announced](#) in 2020 as Ontario’s “First-Ever Climate Change Impact Assessment”, its [purpose](#) to help the province “make more informed, timely decisions...to help keep people healthy and safe.”

But only part of the vital climate impacts and adaptation advice prepared for the government has been released.

Despite Freedom of Information filings, the government is still withholding a report by its own Climate Change Advisory Panel, appointed in 2019 to give advice on “how Ontarians can prepare for the costs and impacts of climate change.” And three companion reports of the more recent impact assessment, including one advising on best practices for reducing impacts and adapting to climate change, are still unavailable.

The impacts assessment that the government *did* release calls repeatedly for protecting and strengthening Ontario’s Conservation Authorities and the Environmental Assessment Act, and for policies that protect water bodies, wetlands and stream corridors, and maintain and enhance ecosystem connectivity. These recommendations run counter to the Ford government’s recent actions removing protected areas in the Greenbelt, and weakening of the Conservation Authorities. Could this be why the government has maintained silence on the reports for so long?

“It’s time to come clean,” said Ms. Penney. “Release the reports and then follow through with adaptation programs that provide us with some real protection.”