

# **OPEN LETTER TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT**

## **RELEASE THE SECRET CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTS!**

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Since 2019, the Ontario government has commissioned major reports on the urgent task of anticipating and reducing the impacts of climate change on the province. But despite raging wildfires, scorching heatwaves and increasingly violent storms, the government that is responsible for protecting us has kept this vital information from the public.

The first report, by Premier Ford's Advisory Panel on Climate Change, had an explicit mandate to provide "expert advice on the implementation of the province's climate change actions - especially how Ontarians can prepare for the costs and impacts of climate change." The panel submitted its report in November, 2021. It remains secret.

In 2020, the government commissioned Ontario's "First Ever Climate Change Impact Assessment" intended to provide "the best science and information to better understand where and how climate change is likely to affect communities, critical infrastructure, economies and the natural environment." This report was submitted to the government in January 2023.

The first part of the four-part Impact Assessment was quietly released late on the August 25<sup>th</sup>, eight months later. Three companion reports, including one on Best Adaptation Practices, are still hidden by the government.

Why does the government insist on remaining silent? Why did it commission these reports and then hide them away? What is the Ontario government planning to do to protect us?

We are Ontario citizens. Our money paid for these reports. There is an urgent need for all of us to know what is coming and for a broad public discussion about what to do about it. Secrecy is unacceptable. Release the reports!

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