



Pan-Canada Perspectives/Ontario

Spring, 2026

Ontario/The View from Here

SCAN! as an organization began in Ontario, where there are currently nine chapters. Most of them are very active, dealing with the Ford government's dangerous legislation on environmental protection and any climate mitigation. He is a lover of gas and nuclear energy. The Ontario Project, one of SCAN!'s first standing committees, has produced scads of material on Ford's "climate crimes." They also operate several committees and working groups.

Like other parts of the country where there are SCAN! members (and two more chapters), the other main focus is the federal government. For example, most chapters in Ontario participate in the Community Resilience and Resistance Campaign (CRR) on a monthly basis.

The Premier is adept at floating trial balloons - like digging a tunnel under Highway 401 - and waiting to see if they will fly. Every time he comes up with new projects and legislation, climate activists are forced to mobilize. These past eight years have been very draining.

The Greenbelt, Highway 413, collapsing conservation authorities, refurbishing and building nuclear power plants, and supporting Enbridge expansion all barrel ahead. His Bill 5, creating "special economic zones" was a template for the federal government's Bill C-5. Federal "nation building" projects are similar, in that they require little or no environmental scrutiny.

Around the province, SCAN! chapters must organize locally to address three levels of government.

Toronto, for example, has felt Ford's heavy hand: a planned luxury spa at Ontario Place where he already razed over 850 trees in preparation, a proposed expansion of the Island's Billy Bishop airport, and an attack on green building standards, to name a few.

Chapters' municipal involvement includes working towards maximum heat by-laws, making submissions to local councils and raising awareness during municipal elections. Provincially, activism includes opposition to gas plant expansion, new nuclear plants, acting as allies to Indigenous nations in Grassy Narrows, the Ring of Fire, Chalk River, and federally, CRR activity and opposition to expropriations by Alto high-speed rail.

As I prepare the monthly SCAN! newsletter, I am continually astonished by the breadth of determined activity and the collaborations of chapters with allied organizations. Onward!

April, 2026

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