

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Premier's Office Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
doug.ford@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of the Town of the Blue Mountains and on behalf of many people who are deeply concerned about the environment, our agricultural lands and our Great Lakes, particularly Georgian Bay. Our concern is about your recent cancellation of the 2.3 Million Dollar Municipal Greenhouse Gas Challenge Fund awarded to the Town of the Blue Mountains a year ago, some of which has already been spent on design phases of a wonderful project to be built in early 2019.

We have a modern landfill site that sits in the centre of one of Ontario's most important agricultural areas: a significant apple industry, several wineries and several other farms, as well as an area that depends on the environment to support many forms of eco-tourism including skiing, cycling, hiking and water sports. The 2.3 Million Dollar fund would allow us to construct a pipeline (jobs) to take leachate (environmentally toxic) from the landfill to a Waste Water Treatment Facility. Without these funds, approximately 700 trucks per year will haul the highly toxic leachate from the landfill through pristine farm lands, past several residential areas and finally along the shores of Georgian Bay to the treatment facility.

I recently discussed the issue with an Environmental Research Scientist who said, *"Landfill leachate is very nasty stuff, and will be produced at the landfill for decades to come (long after the landfill has closed). The cancellation of the pipeline means there will be trucks carrying hazardous goods on our roads for decades. A pipeline would have been a more cost-effective solution in terms of both transportation costs and liability. Let's hope there will not be any accidents with the trucks or spills."*

The cost of trucking the leachate for the foreseeable future could actually cost tax payers considerably more than what you are clawing back, actually working against your goals to benefit tax payers, but the environmental impact could be far costlier and last far longer. Mr. Ford, can you imagine one of these truckloads of toxic sludge making it down the narrow road towards El Rancho Grande and accidentally losing the toxic leachate in Fawn Lake? How about on the Lakeshore near Sunnyside or even into the Humber River? I am sure the constituents of Etobicoke North would agree that this would constitute a disaster. Such a disaster in the Town of The Blue Mountains could be even more serious, given that the leachate could contaminate arable farm lands, the Beaver River, and even Georgian Bay and thus the entire Great Lakes system. This would not only be an environmental catastrophe, but also an impact so great on the local economy that it would take decades to recover. I know this is not your government's plan.

I remember that you wisely changed your mind about opening up the Greenbelt to developers during the election. When asked why you changed your mind you stated, ***“The people have spoken – we won’t touch the Greenbelt. Very simple. That’s it, the people have spoken. I’m going to listen to them...Simple as that.”***

Well the people of the Town of the Blue Mountains are speaking now Mr. Premier. Our environmental and economic sustainability depends on your listening once more. I invite you to visit the Town of The Blue Mountains soon to see for yourself what could happen if we cannot solve the leachate problem safely. I would be pleased to escort you personally.

Sincerely,

Odette Bartnicki

cc:

- Jeff Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste & Special Project, Town of The Blue Mountains
- Hon. Jim Wilson, Simcoe-Grey. Min. of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
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- Hon. Rod Phillips, Min. of Environment, Conservation & Parks, rod.phillips@pc.ola.org
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