June 21, 2021

York Region Council & Regional Staff
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RICHMOND HILL, ON L4E 0Z4

RE: IN SUPPORT OF YORK REGION'S CALL TO THE PROVINCE TO PHASE OUT NATURAL GAS-FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATION

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) fully supports York Region's continued efforts to entreat the Province to phase out natural gas-fired electricity generation. In reviewing submissions to Toronto on such a motion, it was blatantly obvious that groups with concerns for the environment were in favour of phase out while groups with direct vested interests or billions in fossil fuel investments were not. If Suncor in Alberta sees the writing on the wall how can Ontario not?

Thankfully, York Region is aware that we need to focus on energy from green, renewable sources and YREA concurs with the logical recommendations of Ontario Clean Air Alliance including a veto on small modular nuclear reactors. Instead, have we explored the full potential of methane from our landfills? Can we revisit wind turbines adjacent Georgina Island or look to farming locations? YREA is also in the process of gathering compelling data to submit for consideration for a York Region wide solar panel covered parking lot challenge and has scheduled an initial meeting later this month.

Where would we be now if we hadn't addressed acid rain by reducing sulphur dioxide emissions or taken measures to reduce the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) thereby repairing the ozone layer? It cannot be business as usual for any sector that produces large amounts of GHGE if we are to reverse the dreadful impacts of climate change.

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, it is fitting we heed the words of Alanis Obomsawin, 'When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught and the last river is polluted…you will realize too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money'.

Sincerely
Gloria Marsh, Executive Director
York Region Environmental Alliance
Partnering for a greener planet
www.yrea.org