

From: SusanL Sheard

Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 2:17 PM

To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>

Subject: Meeting January 13, 2022; Agenda Item Number C.1 Bradford Bypass/413

Dear York Region Council,

As a longtime resident of Georgina, York Region, I wish to add my voice to those who object to the Bradford Bypass and Highway 413.

You may not know that [the Ontario government has lost more than a dozen court cases](#).

They have also broken the law many times, for instance: In October 2019, "the Ford government broke the law when it scrapped the previous...cap-and-trade system without first conducting public consultation." In June 2021, it broke the law by failing to consult the public until well after it passed Bill 197. The revised bill replaces several acts designed to protect land, water and endangered species with acts that do the opposite. In September 2021, it broke the law "by failing to consult with the Ginoogaming First Nation before issuing a mineral exploration permit in its traditional territory."

And then there are decisions that have not yet resulted in lawsuits, but should. As an example, here is what Ontario's Auditor General has to say about our provincial government's actions with regard to [Hazardous Spills](#): "The Environment Ministry has referred less than 1% of the 40,349 reported spills that occurred between 2016 and 2020 for further investigations. Because of its ineffective compliance strategy, the Environment Ministry allows repeat offenders to continue operating and even expand their operations...The Environment Ministry does not report to the public on hazardous spill events in a timely manner nor recover all reasonable costs it incurs from responding to spill events, which not only burdens taxpayers but reduces the motivation for spillers to prevent spills."

This government's decisions to approve the Bradford Bypass and Hwy 413 are just two more in a long list of decisions based on poor judgement, a lack of knowledge and a disregard for democracy and due diligence.

Perhaps some of you are basing your own approval of the Bradford Bypass and Hwy 413 on the fact that the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority hasn't spoken out

against these projects. Please consider the following: The current Ontario government stripped conservation authorities of their authority to pass judgement on developments, even if they can see how bad their repercussions are going to be. Furthermore, I have to assume that since the conservation authorities are beholden to municipal governments for funding, they don't dare speak out against projects that will raise the funds that will in turn fund them. This is just one of many ways the Ontario government has succeeded in silencing the very people who have the scientific knowledge we need to help us cope with the climate emergency and its many yet-to-be-felt impacts.

Support for the Bradford Bypass and Hwy 413 is an endorsement of decision-making processes that refuse to take scientific research into account, and for that reason, is likely to deal another major blow to our natural heritage, our farmland, our water sources, our climate-change-mitigating wetlands, Lake Simcoe, and our grandchildren's future.

Best regards,
Susan Sheard, Willow Beach, Georgina, York Region