



TOWN OF INGERSOLL
Town Centre

BRIEFING NOTE
DEMAND THE RIGHT COALITION

**GIVING ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES THE “RIGHT TO APPROVE”
LANDFILL DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide background information on an emerging issue for municipalities, and a campaign to change provincial legislation that would give municipalities the right to approve (or reject) future landfill developments in their communities.

OVERVIEW

Ontario has a garbage problem, and it could be coming to a community near you.

According to a 2017 report from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO), the waste that is generated by the ICI sector alone – that is downtown office buildings (like Toronto), factories, institutions, etc – is over 6.7 million tonnes each year.

To put that into context, that’s enough garbage to fill Toronto’s Rogers Centre seventy-four times.

Because Ontario’s landfills are filling up quickly, and as the U.S. border tightens, **several** new mega dumps will be needed to take this unwanted garbage – and soon.

THE ISSUE

Under Ontario’s current Environmental Assessment legislation, municipal governments do not have the right to approve (or reject) landfill developments in our communities. Whether a municipality wants it, or not, makes little difference.

Municipalities have the right to approve most developments in their communities. In fact, municipalities have “exclusive authority” to approve:

- Casino gaming facilities, O.Reg 81/12
- Nuclear waste storage, via the federal NWMO’s siting principles

As well, Ontario recently passed Bill 139, which gives municipalities *additional* authority and autonomy to make decisions for their communities, while replacing the OMB.



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WHICH COMMUNITIES ARE BEING TARGETTED?

Municipalities that have quarry or mining operations (440 sites), or landfills (880 sites) are the most likely targets, but **any** municipality – from the 905 belt to the U.S. border – is a potential host for this garbage, whether they like it or not. Several “mega dumps” will need to be approved in the very near future to accommodate the volume of waste that is coming.

The current system allows private landfill operators to essentially ignore the concerns of local residents and municipal Councils. The existing system is based on a 1950’s view of municipalities. We believe this needs to change.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN: THE DEMAND THE RIGHT COALITION

It is time Ontario passes legislation that gives municipalities the right to approve landfill projects.

The “Demand the Right Campaign”, involves municipal leaders across Ontario, and is calling on all provincial political parties to commit (before the June election) to passing legislation that will give municipalities the right to approve landfill development.

Campaign highlights include:

- 130+ municipalities have formally approved a motion in their Councils, representing over five million Ontarians, calling on the Province to act (and more motions are in the works towards approval);
- 150 municipal leaders have signed a petition, calling on the province to act;
- nearly 8 out of 10 Ontarians feel municipalities should have a say in whether they host landfills, according to a recent Ontario poll found;
- Significant media coverage of the campaign since it launched a few months ago (see attached);
- Several efforts and discussions with MPPs from all parties, including amendments to Bill 139 (defeated), and the introduction of two Private Member’s Bills in the Last Legislative Assembly of Ontario by MPP Ernie Hardeman;
- Support from the Ontario PC Party, and Ontario NDP Party, including a letter from Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford committing to implementation of this policy.

OUR ASK

We believe municipalities should have the right to approve or reject landfill projects, and assess whether the potential economic benefits are of sufficient value to offset any negative impacts and environmental concerns, in addition to successfully completing an environmental assessment.



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Landfills are going to be part of Ontario's future – the issue is that individual municipalities **MUST** have the right to say yes or no to these types of projects.


We look forward to working with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and other officials across government to implement this important policy commitment.

We ask that you adopt the attached resolution in support of Demand the Right, to help add to the municipalities that want to have control over future proposals.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, please visit: www.demandtheright.ca

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 Please recycle.

**MOTION
COUNCIL FOR THE
[INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]**

**MUNICIPALITIES CALL ON PROVINCE TO ENSURE ITS
“MADE-IN-ONTARIO ENVIRONMENT PLAN”
INCLUDES MUNICIPAL “RIGHT TO APPROVE” LANDFILL DEVELOPMENTS**

WHEREAS municipal governments in Ontario do not have the right to approve landfill projects in their communities, but have authority for making decisions on all other types of development;

AND WHEREAS this out-dated policy allows private landfill operators to consult with local residents and municipal Councils, but essentially ignore them;

AND WHEREAS Ontario’s proposed “Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan” states that the province will grant municipalities a “greater say in siting of landfills”;

AND WHEREAS municipalities already have exclusive rights for approving casinos and nuclear waste facilities within their communities, whether to host cannabis retail in their communities, AND FURTHER that the province has recognized the value of municipal approval for the siting of power generation facilities;

AND WHEREAS the recent report from Ontario’s Environmental Commissioner has found that Ontario has a garbage problem, particularly from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste generated within the City of Toronto, where diversion rates are as low as 15%;

AND UNLESS significant efforts are made to increase recycling and diversion rates, a new home for this Toronto garbage will need to be found, as landfill space is filling up quickly;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are quietly being identified and targeted as potential landfill sites for future Toronto garbage by private landfill operators;

AND WHEREAS other communities should not be forced to take Toronto waste, as landfills can contaminate local watersheds, air quality, dramatically increase heavy truck traffic on community roads, and reduce the quality of life for local residents;

AND WHEREAS municipalities should be considered experts in waste management, as they are responsible for this within their own communities, and

often have decades' worth of in-house expertise in managing waste, recycling, and diversion programs;

AND WHEREAS municipalities should have the exclusive right to approve or reject these projects, and assess whether the potential economic benefits are of sufficient value to offset any negative impacts and environmental concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **[INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]** calls upon the Government of Ontario, as part of its "Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan" to formally entrench the right of municipalities to approve or reject landfill projects in or adjacent to their communities;

AND THAT in the case of a two-tier municipality, the approval be required at both the upper-tier and affected lower-tier municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the **[INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY]** encourage all other municipalities in Ontario to consider this motion calling for immediate provincial action;

AND THAT the MOTION adopted by Council be forwarded to the DEMAND THE RIGHT COALITION OF ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES.



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GTA Garbage:

Coming soon to a
site near you!



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“Businesses, such as factories, restaurants, shopping malls, and property developers, and schools, hospitals and universities, are generating far more waste than they should.”

“They only recycle 15 per cent of their waste and send 6.7 million tonnes to landfill sites each year.”

Diane Saxe
Ontario's Environmental Commissioner



6.7 Million tonnes a year!






Private
Sector
Managed

MOECC
Approval
Process

Willing
Host Not
Required

• 6.7 Million tonnes a year!





**Ontario's Demand The
Right Coalition**

“Municipalities demand the right to approve any proposed landfill sites within or adjacent to their communities.”





**Respect for municipal
rights and authority**

**Municipalities have local approval over
development, casinos, wind farms, and even
nuclear waste disposal sites.**



**We almost got there
with Bill 139!**

Today **120**
over
municipalities
have passed
motions to
Demand The
Right.



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Election Campaign Promise

"As a former city councillor, I respect the right for local municipalities to make the decisions best for their communities."

Speaking as PC Leader, Doug Ford
May, 2018



Supported Ernie Hardeman's private member's bill to give cities the right to approve new landfill sites.



May 26, 2018

Dear Mayor Comiskey,

Thank you very much for your congratulations, and for bringing this local issue to my attention.

Over the last couple of months, I have had a number of conversations with Ernie Hardeman where he has raised the importance of this issue for your community. Ernie is a champion for the people of Oxford, and if re-elected, he will continue to ensure they have a voice at the table at Queen's Park.

As a former city councillor, I respect the right for local municipalities to make the decisions best for their communities.

Landfills should not be rammed down the throats of communities who have legitimate environmental concerns. It should be those on the ground - who understand the ins and outs of the community - who should be making these decisions, not the bureaucrats with a rubber stamp in Downtown Toronto.

I am fully supportive of Ernie Hardeman's Private Member's Bill, and if elected Premier, I look forward to giving municipalities a voice in planning decisions.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations.

Regards,

Doug Ford
Leader of the Ontario PC Party

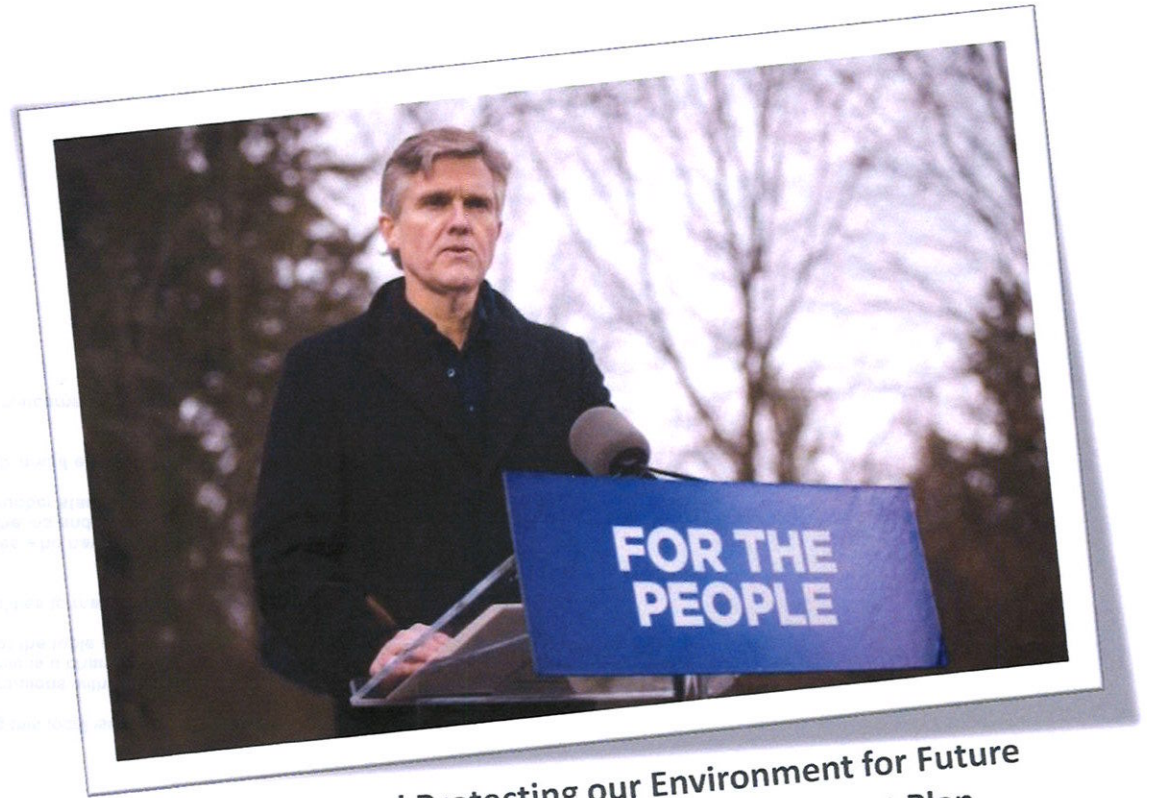
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Ford'.

Doug Ford

c. Ernie Hardeman

“Municipalities to
have a greater say
on landfill sites.”

Previous Environment Minister, Rod
Phillips @ November 29, 2018



Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future
Generations: A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan



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What your municipality can do.

- 1. Pass the Demand the Right motion at council.**
 - Available for download a www.demandtheright.ca
 - Copies available here
- 2. Write to Minister Yurek and express your support**
 - Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org
 - Copy your local MPP
 - Remind them that Doug Ford made this an election promise
- 3. Call or meet with your local MPP**
- 4. Discuss with your local media and on social media**
 - Hashtag #demandtheright
 - Twitter @ApprovalRights

Let's ensure
"greater say"
becomes
"the right to
approve".



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