

PRESS RELEASE - Saturday, November 19th

## **DON'T UNPLUG - ONTARIO NEEDS CLEAN QUEBEC ENERGY**

OTTAWA - A coalition of community organizations and leaders, including youth organizers from Fridays for Future Ottawa and Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden are coming together to call on the Doug Ford government to invest in clean, renewable energy in Ontario and strengthen electricity trade agreements with Quebec, rather than spending on more expensive gas-fired power that is detrimental to our planet.

Community groups including [Fridays for Future Ottawa](#) and the [Ontario Clean Air Alliance](#) along with concerned citizens gathered at the Ontario-Quebec border on Saturday afternoon to symbolically connect extension cords across the two provinces, and demand that Premier Ford work towards an enhanced and mutually beneficial electricity import agreement with Quebec to secure clean, hydro power from Quebec to Ontario.

"The Ford government's decision to end this hydro agreement with Quebec in favour of more gas-fired electricity generation is completely out of touch with the reality of the climate crisis that is only going to accelerate. Ontario must reconsider this decision that takes the Province backwards in climate action," said Mary Stuart, one of the organizers of the event with Fridays For Future Ottawa.

The Province of Ontario announced in October that it will not renew the Ontario-Quebec Electricity Trade Agreement. The agreement aimed to reduce Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions by buying 2.3 terawatt hours of electricity from Quebec annually, and is a much cleaner alternative to gas-fired power that Premier Ford is instead investing in.

Ford has announced that Ontario will build new gas-fired power plants which will increase gas plant emissions by 375% by 2030 and by more than 600% by 2040. This move is a threat to Canada's ability to meet its Paris Agreement climate targets.

"It also comes at a time when the Federal Government is developing Clean Electricity Regulations to move Canada to net zero emissions from the electricity sector. Building new gas plants should be explicitly forbidden." said Angela Bischoff, Director of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

After paying out \$231 Million to cancel Green Renewable Energy Contracts, Premier Ford's latest move will now give away more Ontario Taxpayer money by guaranteeing contracts to gas fired plants for dirtier, more expensive power.

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