

PCs would replace cap and trade: MPP Ted Arnott

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The debate over cap and trade in Ontario is becoming a "he said, she said" kind of affair.

Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills and PC Caucus Critic to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, announced his party's "People's Guarantee" on the environment on recently at Queen's Park.

In it, Arnott vowed the Conservatives will replace the current Liberal cap and trade program with a carbon pricing system more similar to what the federal Liberal government is proposing.

"Our Caucus accepts the scientific consensus on climate change. The Earth is warming, human activity is a significant contributing factor, and we in Ontario need to do our part to reduce carbon emissions," Arnott told the legislature at Queen's Park. "Premier

Wynne's Government is for a cap-and-trade scheme that will ship 466 million taxpayer dollars to California."

"Our Caucus categorically rejects that approach. But we also know that doing nothing is not an option," added Arnott. "The Trudeau government in Ottawa is mandating a carbon pricing benchmark."

"We say that every dollar collected in carbon price revenue should be returned to Ontario families and taxpayers in the form of corresponding tax relief, as verified by the auditor general," he said, adding the Progressive Conservatives' plan would be revenue neutral as a result.

In the wake of the policy announcement, Premier Kathleen Wynne challenged the plan, claiming it would cost Ontarians more and be less effective in reducing emissions long-term.

"In recent days, the premier's claims that our pro-



Graeme Frisque/Metroland

The debate between cap and trade and carbon tax heats up in the Ontario legislature as Wellington-Halton Hills MPP, Ted Arnott, revisits the issue at Queen's Park.

posal to phase out their cap-and-trade program, and replace it with a carbon pricing program, in line with what the Trudeau government is requiring and which would return all of the revenues to Ontarians, would cost more and would not be as effective in reducing carbon emissions," said Arnott in a release sent Dec. 7.

In response, while addressing the legislature last week, Arnott pointed to an article in Maclean's Magazine by economist Trevor

Tombe on Dec. 2.

"In fact, the Maclean's article demonstrated that the People's Guarantee will do the opposite. The study by economist Trevor Tombe suggests our plan would in time leave Ontario households better off than what the Liberals say, and reduce emissions more in Ontario, than under their cap-and-trade program," he said.

In his article, Tombe refutes the Liberals' claims that scrapping the current cap and trade program in favour of a carbon pricing/tax

alternative would cost Ontarians more and be less effective.

"Simply put: households would tend to see higher disposable incomes under the PC proposal, not lower as the premier claimed," Tombe added.

He was a little more forgiving in his analysis of reduced emissions, but still noted some concerns surrounding the government's claims.

"The Premier also noted that the carbon tax plan will result in less emissions reductions than the cap-and-trade system. While not blatantly false like the claim about household costs, this statement is still somewhat misleading," said Tombe. "Overall, the carbon price should be our measure of stringency. And on this metric, the PC proposal is more stringent than the current system."

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, however, cap and trade does have its advantages as well.

Whereas carbon pricing provides a level of certainty about the price, cap and trade offers more certainty in emission reductions targets. The David Suzuki foundation doesn't lean one way or the other and suggests the devil lies in the details regardless of which approach is chosen.

"Both cap-and-trade programs and carbon taxes can work well as long as they are designed to provide a strong economic signal to switch to cleaner energy," writes the foundation on its website.

In his Maclean's article, Tombe essentially agreed with that assessment, while urging voters to be aware of the politicking sure to arise as this issue grows into a central focus of next summer's election.

During his address to the house last week, Arnott also reiterated his party's commitment to protecting ground water and reducing pollution in the province's waterways.

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Q: My marriage is a mess. My husband cheated and I am so angry and hurt. He says he loves me and I do still love him. We have kids and I know that divorce will impact them too. You talked about something like this last month but is there really any hope that this marriage can be saved?

A: Yes, if you love him and he loves you, the marriage can certainly be saved, if you both want it. You will feel anger, rage, betrayal, and terrible hurt. He will feel confused, ignorant, embarrassed, and ashamed. But you can both get beyond this if you are prepared to be whole-heartedly dedicated to saving the marriage. Affairs are like opportunistic diseases. They find a crack in the relationship and work their way in, growing and infecting and pushing the two of you apart.

I begin from a premise that is very different than common thought. I believe that trust does not have to be earned; but it can be lost. You can't prove you haven't done something but you can prove things that you have done. You can show the efforts made to deserve the trust of your loved one. So beginning from a place of trust—trust that your spouse wants to share his life with you; trust that he does not want to be with anyone else; trust that you played a part in the demise of the relationship. You each must commit to certain tasks. Your spouse must commit to ending the affair in all ways. He cannot 'be a friend' and try to help the other woman out. He cannot maintain any messaging whether texts, phone calls or any other forms of communication. You must not ask for or listen to details of the affair. What they did or how they did it is of no relevance to you. You are just punishing yourself and there is no benefit to knowing.

You both must learn to communicate more effectively. You must be accountable for your actions that led to your husband feeling ignored or unloved. He must be able to express his disappointment in himself and be able to share his true feelings without being afraid that he will be attacked and shamed. All of these things may sound simplistic or terribly difficult. They are both, simple and very hard but marriages can be saved after the affair, I have seen it happen many times.

This is a time of year when stress can push people to doing things they may not do otherwise. Affairs are often symptoms of other issues. Now is the time to improve communication styles and clear up indiscretions. Start the New Year with a better and stronger family unit. I wish you joy and peace and new beginnings. Book an appointment now and celebrate what really matters. Do it for you. Do it for him. Do it for the children. It is worth the effort. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

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Q: I'm planning on adding an addition later this year. Do you work in the winter?

A: Yes! In some cases our job is easier due to fallen leaves and weeds that get in the way during warmer times.

While most construction won't start until the spring, there's a lot of work that can be done in the meantime. Site plans, which show the existing conditions and outline the proposed construction, are usually required for new buildings and can sometimes take a few months to be approved by the municipality so it's a good idea to get started now.

Also, if you're planning on selling this spring, get your survey updated now before you put your house on the market to avoid any delays.

As a licensed Ontario Land Surveyor I will be happy to discuss your project, help you create a timeline, and offer suggestions and recommendations about what you can do to get started.