

Climate plan will cost

It was truly touching to hear Premier Kathleen Wynne say last week that she wants to build a cleaner, greener world for her grandchildren. But after seeing the multi-billion-dollar price tag for her government's new climate change action plan, many Ontarians fear she's leaving their grandchildren, as well as hers, a poorer province with fewer opportunities as well as fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

To say this is not to fault Wynne and the Liberals for recognizing the serious threat climate change poses to the planet and for committing themselves and Ontario to comprehensive action to stop it. Thousands of scientists around the world concur the burning of fossil fuels by humans is altering the Earth's climate so rapidly and in so many dangerous ways that it imperils the future of our species. The Liberals deserve credit for not ignoring an impending crisis and, indeed, doing something to avert it.

The question remains: Is the Liberals' plan the right one? We have major doubts. Their classic, tax-and-spend strategy involves taking billions of dollars more out of businesses and homeowners, then using that money to persuade everyone to change how they work and live.

Most of this cash will come from a cap-and-trade program for industrial polluters, and the government expects this to raise \$1.9 billion a year. But the carbon tax will hit ordinary Ontarians, too, driving up the cost of the natural gas they use to heat their homes and the price of the gasoline they use to power their vehicles. The Liberals insist their initiative will cost the average household just \$13 more a month. If you believe that, we have some Northern Ontario swampland you might be interested in buying.

Flush with all that new cash in its pocket, the government plans to spend \$8.3 billion over five years to coax people and businesses to convert to more energy-efficient heating systems, buy electric or hybrid cars, convert big trucks to natural gas, add more biofuel to gasoline and enable the agriculture and industrial sectors to adopt low-carbon technologies.

Ontarians have good reason to be skeptical of Liberal pledges. Despite their best intentions, they're notoriously bad managers. Their scheme to boost electric car sales seems naïve, as well as doomed.

Thankfully, at least, Ontarians have just two years left before they can pass judgment on it and its Liberal creators in the next provincial election.

The Independent & Free Press

The Independent & Free Press is published Thursday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. The Independent & Free Press is a member of the Ontario Press Council, which is an independent ethical organization established to deal with editorial concerns. For additional information or to file a complaint, contact info@ontpress.com or call 416-340-1981.

Navy's only sub breaks down en route to naval exercises...



THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

905-873-0301
 Publisher: Neil Oliver
 General manager: Steve Foreman (sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)
 Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell (ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)
 Managing editor: Chris Vernon (cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)
 Distribution manager: Shelley Papineau (spapineau@metroland.com, 905-234-1019)
Classifieds/Real Estate
 Kristie Pells (realestate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)
Advertising Sales
 Jenny Hawkins (jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)
 Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)
 Rachael Scutt (rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)
 Kelli Kosonic (kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)
Classified Call Centre
 1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1499
 classifieds@metroland.com
Accounting 1-866-773-6575
Editorial
 Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer (emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)
 Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer (kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)

Production
 Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca, 905-234-1017)
 Get the latest headlines delivered to your inbox by signing up for our twice weekly electronic newsletter. Go to www.theifp.ca and click on Newsletter sign-up at the bottom of the homepage.

Letters to the editor

Town should promote exercise

I recently read the letter to the editor from the June 9, 2016 edition titled 'Let the kids play' and am saddened by the situation.

The letter mentions some kind of bylaw about basketball nets located on the boulevard. I tried to find this bylaw but the alphabetical listing of bylaws on the Town website does not seem to have a bylaw that would apply.

Even if such a bylaw exists, to what end does the Town intend to deprive these kids of some well deserved outdoor athletic time? The letter mentions a threat from the bylaw officer that the municipality would potentially come by with a truck and take the basketball net away.

I hope that this is a lost in translation type situation and that the town is not actually considering the theft of this basketball net.

I get the impression that there is a greater issue at stake, likely a dispute between neighbours, but I hope cooler heads will prevail and the Town does not allow these kids to lose their hoop.

The letter implies that the hoop currently on Milfoil Street was a replacement for a broken hoop that had been in place for several years. Removing it now would be a shame. Place me firmly on the side of the kids and sport. I hope the town is too.

James Bonney,
Georgetown

Sometimes new isn't always better

The paper's story Jan. 14 announcing the relocation of the Service Ontario office to 174 Guelph St. from the old location at 374 Guelph St. touted the new location as having increased accessibility features. This, then ostensibly was the reason for the move. Really?

The new location is a small converted

raised 1950s-style bungalow with parking for five to six cars at most. Okay, the new location does have a wheelchair ramp, but hey, the old location had a street level entrance with limitless parking.

The new location is tiny and completely inadequate. It most certainly does not have increased accessibility features. The old location was much better. In my view the citizens of Halton Hills are poorly served by this blatant cost saving measure.

Tom Burns,
Georgetown

Letters Policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length.

Publication is not guaranteed.

Email: cvernon@metroland.com
 Mail or drop off: Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 77, Georgetown, ON, L7G 4B1.