

The Premier  
of Ontario

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre  
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



July 17, 2008

Dear Governors and Premiers of the Western Climate Initiative:

I am writing to inform you of the Province of Ontario's interest in becoming a full partner of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI).

Ontario began participating in the WCI as an observer in August 2007. Over the course of our involvement, we have been impressed by the commitment of participating jurisdictions to meet the climate change challenge.

Ontario has Canada's largest and most diverse provincial economy, and we have undertaken aggressive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the province. In our *Go Green Climate Action Plan*, our government set ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for our province of six per cent by 2014, 15 per cent by 2020 and 80 per cent by 2050, all from a 1990 baseline.

As part of our action plan, our government is implementing a number of transformational strategies:

- We are changing the way we generate electricity in our province. Since 2003, we have drastically cut emissions from Ontario's coal plants and are not stopping there. We are regulating the full closure of coal plants — the only North American jurisdiction committed to doing so — and are investing in renewable, clean energy to pave the way for a low-carbon future for the province. Our coal phase-out initiative is the single largest greenhouse gas reduction initiative across Canada and is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 30 million tonnes per year.
- We are changing the way the province grows. Our efforts to protect the province's 1.8-million-acre Greenbelt in urban Ontario — one of the world's largest Greenbelts — and to introduce sustainable planning reforms to focus growth in our communities have received awards: the American Planning Association's Daniel Burnham Award for the province's Growth Plan and the Canadian Institute of Planners' 2007 Award for Planning Excellence.
- We are changing the way we move people in our urban areas. To that end, we have invested \$6.2 billion since 2003 in public transit and we have launched MoveOntario 2020, a \$17.5-billion plan to build new public transit.

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- We are changing the way we approach planning in the far northern reaches of Ontario. We will work together with citizens, scientists, Aboriginal communities and resource industries to permanently protect more than 50 per cent of the Northern Boreal region, over 225,000 km<sup>2</sup> — one of the world's largest intact ecosystems and a globally significant carbon sink.
- We are changing the way research and innovation occurs in Ontario, through our Innovation Fund and Next Generation of Jobs Fund.

In addition, we are asking the people of this province to do their part by encouraging community-based programs to reduce greenhouse gases, and mobilizing individual actions through conservation and energy retrofit programs. We are also helping our municipalities build their capacity to fight climate change through our Municipal Eco Challenge Fund.

These and other elements form the core of our *Go Green Action Plan*. With this action plan, we are mobilizing our entire society to deal with the most defining and challenging issue of our time. We are confident that the plan will help build a stronger, cleaner Ontario — for today and tomorrow.

My colleagues and I, however, recognize more needs to be done. By working together through the WCI, I believe there is much that we can share from our collective experiences. We support the use of cap and trade as an effective mechanism to reduce greenhouse gases, and we want to work with you to apply our cap and trade experience as the WCI develops rules for emissions trading. We have also joined The Climate Registry to build the foundation for co-ordinated action and reporting across jurisdictions to reduce greenhouse gases.

In Ontario, we believe that sub-national jurisdictions are key players in the global fight against climate change. Provinces and states have an important leadership role to play in developing policies and laws that protect the environment, which may exceed federal actions. The transportation sector is a major source of greenhouse gas pollutants. We recognize the rights and commend the efforts of California, other US states and Canadian provinces to adopt California's rigorous greenhouse gas vehicle standards.

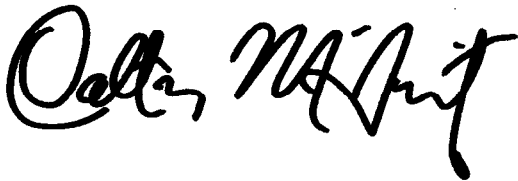
Ontario is the home of auto-making in Canada and we want to partner with the industry in its transformation to a low-carbon future through the development of clean cars, clean fuels and clean technologies. We are also proceeding to develop a low-carbon fuel standard in co-operation with California.

In Ontario, we are continuing to work with our federal government to press for strong action on climate change that is fair to all regions and sectors, and we are committed to developing strong partnerships with our neighbours in the US through initiatives such as the WCI.

I have asked the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of the Environment, to lead our involvement with WCI. John Lieou, Assistant Deputy Minister, Integrated Environmental Policy Division, at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, will be our primary contact and can be reached by telephone at 416-314-6352 or by e-mail at john.lieou@ontario.ca should you require any further information.

I look forward to Ontario working more closely with each of your jurisdictions as this exciting initiative moves forward. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being more prominent and larger than the last name "McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier of Ontario

c: The Honourable John Gerretsen  
John Lieou