

Toronto, April 22nd 2015

An Open Letter to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

On behalf of Sustainable Canada Dialogues, we applaud your government for introducing carbon pricing in Ontario. Ontarians can stand tall knowing our government is aligned with others in Europe, British Columbia, Québec and California that are successfully acting on climate change.

With its decision to put a price on carbon and other greenhouse gasses, the Ontario government has taken a major step forward in transitioning to a sustainable economy and society. The successful implementation of this policy will be crucial for building Canada-wide momentum, thus your leadership and ongoing commitment has national significance.

It is crucial for Ontario now to design a regulatory system that works; one that is effective, fair and applies to all sectors that contribute to Ontario's greenhouse gas emissions. It should incorporate auctioning of a substantial proportion of allowances, transparently use all revenues generated, and minimize opportunities for corporate 'gaming' of the system. There are many options for effectively using revenues generated by carbon pricing: those include cutting income taxes, boosting clean infrastructure and technology, supporting energy efficiency, and helping vulnerable households and businesses to adjust.

We hope the leadership shown by British Columbia, Québec and now Ontario will inspire Canada's federal government to recognize the urgent need for a national climate change plan. As you rightly pointed out during the Premiers' Summit on Climate, Canada's per capita emissions are among the highest in the world. The time for action is now and we are proud of Ontario.

It is with pleasure that we offer our help to analyze the many options.

Yours truly,

The Ontario team on behalf of the 60 scholars of Sustainable Canada Dialogues,

Steven Bernstein, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto
Sarah Burch, Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo
Irena Creed, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario
Deborah de Lange, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University
Jose Etcheverry, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University
Irene Henriques, Schulich School of Business, York University

Andreas Heyland, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph
Matthew Hoffmann, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto
Liat Margolis, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto
James Meadowcroft, School of Public Policy and Administration, Carleton University
Taysha Palmer, Knowledge Transfer Consultant
Brent Sinclair, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario
Sonia Wesche, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa

About the Authors:

Sustainable Canada Dialogues is an initiative of the UNESCO-McGill Chair for Dialogues on Sustainability. It is a network of over 60 scholars from every province in Canada, representing disciplines across engineering, economics, and natural and social sciences. Last month, the group released *Acting on Climate Change: Solutions from Canadian Scholars*. View the position paper at: <http://www.sustainablecanadadialogues.ca/en/scd>