

PROVINCIAL PLANNING ISSUES – JUNE 2019

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1) Climate Change

The current scientific consensus according to Wikipedia is that:

- Earth's climate has warmed significantly since the late 1800s.
- Human activities (primarily [greenhouse gas](#) emissions) are the [primary cause](#).
- Continuing emissions will increase the likelihood and severity of [global effects](#).
- People and nations can act individually and collectively to [slow the pace of global warming](#), while also [preparing for unavoidable](#) climate change and its consequences.

Climate Change is therefore the number one issue facing the planet today. Extinction of the human species dwarfs any other issue. So why is the Green Party not in power throughout the world, or at least parties with bold "green" policies.

Stephen Hawking suggested that it was greed and stupidity but to this could be added short term thinking and propaganda which is increasingly taking over politics. The richest groups and people are able to muster most influence because they have most resources.

This appears to be the case in the US and Ontario where fiefdoms are run more like a business where natural and human resources are exploited. Ironically in these two entities the most fervently Christian are voting for principles contradictory to Christian or other religious teachings, especially on equality. The poorer elements of society are increasingly being sidelined.

It is worth noting that the happiest/most comfortable peoples are consistently from Scandinavia where community benefits have high values. Scandinavia is the place where North Americans look for high quality living. Lakeview, Mississauga, has won a BILD award for best new community, with ideas coming from Nordic nations. It should be noted that Scandinavia has one of the best equality ratings in the world partly due to local income tax more fairly raising revenue income in some countries.

In the 2018 election Ford was the choice of about 40% of voters yet was opposed by 60% being either Liberal or further left on the political spectrum. His current popularity is about 20%. Yet he is able to dictate the way the Province unfolds over the next 3 years. Clearly democracy has let us down. Our overall system is questionable and looking deeply at our overall system appears not to be workable (Appendix 1)

Ford's policies are based on emotional reactions undiluted by rationality. This is a powerful tool for an electorate on a complex subject and can overwhelm any perceived weaknesses in either his personality or policies.

2) Ford Myths

Ford is progressive. Reality: Ford is probably leading the most regressive government Canada has known. It represents a step back in time where the oligarchs control matters in their self-interest.

Ford is for the people. Reality: This could not be much further from the truth. All Ford's reforms benefit his donors, developers and the elite. The unilateral way he implements policy shows contempt for involving the public and incorporating their ideas. He strips away people's rights and resources leaving the most vulnerable in the community to fend for themselves.

Ford is morally righteous. Reality: Ford was a reputed drug dealer, a role that severely harms those involved.

Ford has Christian values. Reality: Taking from the poor and needy and giving to the very rich (donors/developers/big business in tax cuts and giving them benefits justified by job creation) is fundamentally unChristian and contrary to other religion's beliefs.

Ford is trying to get rid of the deficit. Reality: Ford's budget increases the deficit. Every change in government has done so in the last 30 years.

Ford says spending is out of control: Reality- there is a Revenue issue not a Deficit issue created by tax breaks for those who need it least and will not recirculate it into the economy.

[Jennifer Keesmaat](#) Verified account @jen_keesmaat May 27 Among Canada's provinces, Ontario is the lowest per capita spender. Ontario is last in total spending – 10th out of 10. The lie that spending is out-of-control is being used to fuel the dismantling of our transit, healthcare and schools. We have a revenue problem not a spending problem, something unrecognised by Ford voters.

Ford is democratic: Reality - Ford is suspending local democracy by his dictatorial interference in local matters, for example cutting the size of Toronto's council and making radical changes to years of work on Midtown and Downtown (Appendix 2) If Harris had not cancelled the Eglinton Subway and sold off Highway 407 in a sweet deal and the Fords had not cancelled the LRT, we could have had taller buildings. However transit in Toronto was set back at least 10 years by each of these moves.

Ford is pro planning: Reality - Ford has effectively taken away the peoples participation in Planning Appeals (Bill 108). He has made it impossible/difficult for municipalities to create high quality environments where services and development are in sync unless large tax increases on the general public are imposed. Christopher Hume, Star columnist, in supporting the increase in heights, has lost touch with the evolution principles of Jane Jacobs. Bill 108 is an omnibus bill affecting 13 Statutes revolving around the Environment, Planning, Heritage and Development charges. It is overwhelming in its enormity of impact and effrontery. It almost looks as though the development lawyers drew up Bill 108 themselves. The general public for whom representatives act have been reduced to minimal input into those matters which affect them most. Power has been put into the hands of a small number of people whose main interest is to make money for the development sector including Ford, senior ministers and The Local Planning appeal Tribunal, who will be given similar powers to the OMB. No doubt strongly pro development individuals will be appointed to the body to join the many that are there.

Individuals will no longer have the right to appear at hearings as participants but will be limited to written comments. LPAT has the prerogative of asking for participants to be cross examined. TLAB is not affected directly as it is constituted under the Toronto Act. Listed buildings (those not designated) will lose their protection.

Radical changes have been made to Midtown and Downtown secondary plans after a decade of work finding a fair balance by Councillors, the public and the development industry. No attempt to negotiate was given and decisions simply handed down. Now local politicians will have the rug pulled from under them so their power is diminished. All Councillors except Councillor Ford oppose this and so will many municipalities across the Province. The City is working on a Governance structure that may help minimise impacts but this will not be ready until the end of the year. Meantime all the stops will be pulled out to strongly oppose the Bill and ensure this complex legislation is understood by the public and how they will be harmed.

While Bill 108 has now become the More Homes, More choices Act. It has not been proclaimed so is not operational. It would be unlikely to be until the regulations, which have yet to be issued, are ready for approval.

Ford is for Affordable Housing: Reality Ford is not prepared to spend on social housing because of the enormous social spending on and tax breaks for the private sector.

Ford has an answer to Climate Change: Reality - Costs of Ontario Climate Plan would be double Liberal carbon Tax, raise household costs. A growing pile of research argues economy-wide carbon taxes are cheaper to administer than regulations targeting specific source of emissions. National Post June 4 2019 (a right leaning Journal and business supporter)

Ford is logical: Reality: Ford has crazed ideas such as suing over Carbon Tax (costing taxpayers \$30m), copying Venezuela in breaking contracts without compensation as in the corner store booze issue (costing \$1b) and having a casino on public lakefront land served by a subway extension (the real need is for the relief line extension to the Bloor West subway line), and allowing commercial and industrial in the Green Belt. (to name a few)

3) List of Ford Government Initiatives (See Appendix 3)

4) Conclusion

Ford has effectively started a war on all fronts in order to enrich his developer and big business friends, in whose pocket he resides. This tends to create chaos rather than stability when Canadians personally are more indebted than ever.

Ford is against the people. I cannot escape the conclusion that Ford is a fraud.

The hope for the future is that polarisation can be overcome by the common enemy - Climate Change.

David Godley, 12 June 2019

Appendix 1 Root Cause of Climate change

[Mark Charles](#) I'm trying to get a message across to the world leaders, that the cause of climate change is MONEY and from there it creates; 1) Human overpopulation, 2) Pollution, 3) Deforestation, 4) Habitat destruction, 5) Wildlife extinction. The political economic monetary system has never solved problems, it has just made them get extremely worse all because "everyone has been brainwashed to think that life is all about MONEY". Corporate decisions are only for profit to increase power, wealth and property and not to benefit the environment and humans." It is not money that people need, it is access to resources". We have lots of crime, corruption, greed, dictatorship etc, all caused by the need of money. Using money is a result of social inequality and elitism because of economic disparity. Humans are not equal when there is no equal power to purchase. Many laws are made to benefit corporations, as they have enough money to lobby, manipulate and bribe government officials for their interests to be made law. Planet earth is being exhumed for profit. "It is not a human right to destroy Mother Nature with human overpopulation". Twitter account

**Appendix 2,3 and 4 Statements of Concern
Appendix 2a 30 May 2019**

Dear Premier and Ministers,

I have reviewed Bill 108 and believe that the opposite of what is intended will happen.

First taxes will rise. More money will be given to the development sector and the taxpayer will have to pay the difference.

Second economic development will be deterred not just from higher taxes but from an impoverished lifestyle in Toronto and urban areas.

Third there will inevitably be a backlash from voters and these provisions, if implemented, will be withdrawn by the next Government.

This proposal has similar effects to allowing commercial development in the green belt which you wisely withdrew.

I would ask that you abandon Bill 108 and go through a process to reform the various acts through the normal democratic process.

Thank you.

David Godley

401 Lake Promenade

Toronto, M8W 1C3

Appendix 2b

Letter to Christine Hogarth, MPP Lakeshore, 4 June 2019

Hello Christine

Thank you for your reply which makes no sense from the planning or Political Point of View. Bill 108 hurts the maximum number of people. Please use rational judgment.

The OMB was a disaster for neighbourhood people in Toronto. It was flagrantly pro development, was contemptuous of the community and degraded the public realm.

The results were directly opposite to the Official Plan which requires stable neighbourhoods and enhancement of character to attract jobs.

The current planning system is unfair because the development sector has far more resources and a strong lobby to undermine the general public which has few resources.

In Toronto there is no need for more housing other than social housing which needs large sums of public money. Deep affordability will not only make housing cheaper but support the needed service sector to ensure a vibrant economy.

House prices are now largely determined by the global economy including laundered money. It is unlikely that giving a free hand to developers would be effective in bringing down prices. We already have nearly enough housing approved to last to 2041. Thousands more

units are in the pipeline and Toronto has large swaths of land available for development and redevelopment beyond this. In fact all the forecast housing in the Official Plan can be accommodated in the "Avenues" designation.

Bill 108 would be a disastrous step and negatively affect the electorate, job creation and equality in the planning system. Any reform needs to be generated by the people rather than implementers who are simply trying to optimise their interests.

Please be true to your promise of "For the people".

David Godley
401 Lake Promenade
Toronto, M8W 1C3

Appendix 2c
Letter to MPP for Lakeshore, Christine Hogarth, 5 June 2019

Hello Christine,

I have just been to the Lakeview public meeting to discuss a proposal by Salaki Urban Designers.

The planning presentation and public engagement were inspirational for a community that could eventually reach 20,000 people.

Developers now have a framework on which to base their projects.

Bill 108 puts this in jeopardy by potentially altering the laws which will let developers off the hook and not provide enough soft and hard services for implementation.

This will happen across Ontario where good planning will go down the tube.

Not only will Bill 108 abandon the people it will undermine all municipalities and representatives of those who voted for you.

Because Bill 108 was developed in private. The Province has no idea what the implications are. At least go through a proper process before you make a decision, please.

Thank you.

David Godley,

Appendix 2d

"Councillor Josh Matlow The Star 7 June 2019.

"The Province has ripped the heart out of our community's plan for complete neighbourhoods with affordable housing, parks, jobs, child care and necessary infrastructure." (Bill 108 limits recovery of funds for community benefits). By removing requirements for sunlight, skyviews, Doug Ford is planning for developer's profits, not resident's needs.

Appendix 2e

Toronto Star 8 June 2019, Development changes leave city in limbo, Jennifer Pagliaro

"Resident's Associations said they're sick of how the Province and others have been quick to label them as anti-development." "We would like to take aim at NI MBYism" said south Eglinton Ratepayer's and Residents 's Association President, Al Gort, who says his group has welcomed the pending arrival of 21,000 new units and 35,000 new residents. "We we accommodate growth, we understand growth, but what we are looking for is sound planning and this is not a plan that represents sound and good planning."

Appendix 2f

Unpublished letter to the Star 9 June 2019

I am relieved to hear J.P. Boutros is no longer a member of the Planning Department!

The City already has enough housing units approved to satisfy demand until about 2041 and lots more proposals are in the pipeline. In Toronto development land and redevelopment land is plentiful.

There is already a strong pro-development tilt at the Provincial level for appeals.

The idea supporting high density at transit hubs without consideration of other matters is contrary to good planning and to the Official Plan. The basis of the Official Plan is to attract business and jobs through good urban design.

Over-development will mean services are not provided and a poorer quality of life will result. For example we do not have subways currently to support extra development in the downtown or midtown. This is the result of constantly changing proposals unilaterally.

Perhaps the author never learned how regional planning can spread development pressures to a wider area where cities are hungry for economic development.

If J. P. Boutros really wants to make Toronto a better place, advocating for housing for lower incomes would be an effective option. Only social (subsidised) housing is actually needed and has long been neglected.

He/she can be assured there is no deficit problem; only a revenue problem. According to former City Planner Jennifer Keesmaat, Ontario has the lowest expenditures of any Province.

Yours truly, David Godley
401 Lake Promenade
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416.255.0492

Appendix 3 Provincial Cuts Year 1

Here's a list of everything the Ford government has cut in its first year in office:

Environment

- Cancelled Cap and Trade
- Ended electric and hydrogen vehicle incentive program
- Cut 700+ green energy projects
- Shut down White Pines Wind Project
- Proposed cuts to protections of species at-risk
- Removed electric vehicle chargers from GO station parking lots
- Slashed 50 per cent of flood management funds given to conservation authorities
- Eliminated funding for 50 Million Tree Program
- Ended Drive Clean, a mandatory biannual emissions test program for vehicles and light-duty trucks more than seven years old
- Axed the Green Ontario Fund, which provided funds through cap and trade to help make properties more energy-efficient

Health

- Cancelled free prescription medication given to those under 25 through the Pharmacare program
- Cancelled the opening of new overdose prevention sites
- Cut the Liberals' promised \$2.1 billion over four years for new mental health funding to \$1.9 billion over 10 years
- Revoked current and future funding for the College of Midwives of Ontario
- Dissolved Local Health Integration Networks and merged them under one new umbrella body called Ontario Health
- Slashed the number of regional ambulance providers from 59 to 10
- Proposed ending OHIP's medical emergency coverage for Ontarians travelling outside the country
- Planned to cut Toronto Public Health by \$1 billion over the next 10 years. That translates into cuts in school breakfast programs, daycare and restaurant inspections, water-quality testing, pre- and postnatal care for single mothers, and detection of emerging threats to public health. (Reversed retroactive acts; future cuts remain)
- Scrapped funding for three supervised drug-use sites (two in Toronto, one in Ottawa)
- Trimmed \$1 million in funding from Leave the Pack Behind, an agency that helps young people quit smoking

Education

- Rolled back sex-ed curriculum
- Removed \$100-million budget for school repairs (due to cancellation of cap and trade)
- Cancelled Ontario's first planned French-language university
- Removed \$25 million from the Education Programs-Other (EPO) Fund, which will limit grants available for school programs like after-school jobs for youth in low-income neighbourhoods; tutors in classrooms; leadership programs for racialized students; daily physical activity for elementary students and more
- Dropped financial assistance for college and university students by more than \$300 million
- Removed free tuition for low-income students
- Cut tuition fees by 10 per cent
- Scrapped over \$300 million in funding for three satellite university campuses
- Increased class sizes, potentially resulting in over 3,400 lost teaching jobs over next four years
- Cancelled three summer curriculum-writing sessions, including one that was mandated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and two others relating to American Sign Language and Indigenous languages for kindergarten students
- Shutdown the Harmony Movement, which provides diversity, equity, and inclusion education
- Scrapped the Ontario College of Trades

Legislative positions

- Privatization Officer
- Chief Scientist
- Investment Officer
- Environmental Commissioner's Office
- Ontario Child Advocate
- French Language Commissioner
- Voluntary buyouts offered to thousands of Ontario public service workers

Before Ontario Premier Doug Ford was elected last June, he made an array of ambitious campaign promises. He also vowed to create a "government for the people" that would rein in spending.

Friday marks a year since the Progressive Conservatives were elected and began their budget cuts. In April, Ford's government laid out its plan to eliminate an \$11.7-billion deficit from their budget, titled "Protecting What Matters Most". That phrase has been used repeatedly to justify their cuts, including reductions in the budgets of 13 ministries, as well as a blueprint of shrinkage across public sectors and programs — impacting everything from trees to libraries to financial assistance for victims of crime.

In commenting on the government's decision to adjourn till Oct. 28, one week after the federal election, Conservative house leader Todd Smith said the PC government has "achieved so much."

The Ontario premier agreed, adding recently that his government was "moving at lightning speed."

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Justice

- Reduced legal aid by 30 per cent
- Disbanded Anti-Racism Directorate
- Withheld \$14.8 million in promised funding from existing and new sexual assault centres
- Dissolved Ontario's Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the tribunal that has awarded financial assistance to crime victims since 1971, as well as the law that provides financial aid to the victims of violent crime

Municipal affairs

- Cut Toronto City Council in half

- Planned to cut funds to repair social housing
- Asked municipalities and school boards to find 4 per cent in “efficiencies” (i.e., cuts) to services

Social services

- Cut \$1 billion from social services across the board
- Scrapped Basic Income Pilot Project
- Cancelled \$1 increase minimum wage
- Cut Workplace Safety Insurance Board payments to injured workers by 30 per cent
- Killed Bill C-148, which provided part-time workers the same pay as full-time workers, guaranteed 10 days off (2 days paid) and more
- Removed rent control for new units
- Severed library services funding in half
- Ended the Roundtable on Violence Against Women
- Slashed \$84.5 million funding for children and at-risk youth, including children’s aid societies
- Cut \$15 million from the Ontario Trillium Foundation

Research

- Cut funding to MaRS Discovery District
- Eliminated funding for public policy think tanks such as the University of Toronto’s Mowat Centre, which conducted research on Ontario’s role in Canada and the world, as well as the Institute for Competitiveness & Prosperity, launched under former PC premier Mike Harris
- Cut funding to two artificial intelligence institutes by \$24 million
- Cancelled a technology accelerators program of \$9.5 million, a college-based applied research projects worth \$6.7 million; \$5 million in funding to the Institute for Quantum Computing; \$1.5 million in funding to the Lazaridis Institute, and \$750,000 for bioindustrial innovation.
- Pared \$5 million in funding for stem cell research
- Eliminated funding for Gambling Research Exchange Ontario