



2018 Annual Report



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Meanwhile the climate is changing

A Message from the President

Making progress on climate change policy is not getting easier in Canada, although it should be. Forest fires and flooding scenarios are frequent news items. Reports issued by the United Nations and by the Canadian Government in 2018 highlight the impacts globally and nationally. "Only 12 years left to turn the emission trend around" and "Canada is warming at twice the global average" were two news-bites that were well broadcasted.

In addition, the costs are increasing. By the fall last year there were almost 1 billion dollars of insured losses in Ontario (Insurance Bureau of Canada).

When the federal government's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act was implemented, the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario challenged the federal government, claiming that the legislation is unconstitutional. Recently, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the Federal government and noted that climate change is a "national concern" and that the carbon levy is not legally a tax because the revenues are all returned to individuals and businesses in the province where they are raised. Another finding of the Court was that in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, carbon pricing is a necessary tool, though not sufficient. In the next weeks we will hear the results from the

Ontario case. In Ontario many provincial measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to change were cancelled in 2018:

- The Cap and Trade program was cancelled (while not properly adhering with laws and legislation – another court case),
- The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (Dr. Dianne Saxe) position was eliminated – after 25 years of overseeing the Environmental Bill of Rights and providing reports on the state of the environment to the government
- The end of hundreds of renewable energy contracts and other "green" incentives
- The Ontario budget issued on April 1 cuts in half funding for Conservation Ontario programs that warn people about flooding and protection of property.

Meanwhile, there is no new comprehensive climate change plan. The government released their Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan near the end of 2018. The plan weakened the greenhouse gas reduction target for 2030, and there are few commitments behind the energy-use policies and are thus not likely to be realized.

Climate change is not being taken seriously.

Graham Saunders

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Join us on Thursday, May 16, 2019
6:00 pm Annual General Meeting
6:45 pm "Climate Changes Everything"
With Dr. Dianne Saxe
(Faculty Lounge at Lakehead University)

Climate Changes Everything
 Win Guest Speaker

DATE: THURSDAY, May 16, 2019
Location: Faculty Lounge, Lakehead University
 6:00 pm Come early for the Environment North AGM
 6:45 pm "Climate Changes Everything"

All are welcome!
 Admission is \$10.00 Adults, \$5.00 Students
 Free for Environment North members (including new and renewing)
 For more information go to www.environmentnorth.ca

Dr. Dianne Saxe
 Dr. Saxe was the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario from 2005 to 2008. She is an internationally recognized environmental lawyer and has received numerous awards including the Osprey Hall Law School Alumni Gold Key Award for Achievement.

Logos for Environment North, Lakehead University, and earth care are visible at the bottom.

Forestry and Mining

Ferrochrome processing

Last year, Thunder Bay was among four prospective locations in northern Ontario for a ferrochrome processing facility for minerals from the Ring of Fire.

Members of Environment North attended the two public meetings that were jointly hosted by Fort William First Nations and the City of Thunder Bay. Members also researched the proposed processing methods and invited Hugo Lapointe from MiningWatch Canada to provide the public presentation at the AGM in 2018.

There were two main environmental concerns: greenhouse gas emissions and toxic emissions. There are best practices and new improvements that can be utilized in the processing of ferrochrome. Would they be acceptable? In the end, Thunder Bay was not chosen as a potential site as "the presence of a water body transecting the property reduced the environmental acceptability of the site and costly power infrastructure needs created a further issue." (TBnewswatch.com).

It was recently announced that Noront Resources Limited has chosen Sault Ste. Marie as the location for the facility.

Local Citizen Committees

New Board Member Bruce Hyer joined the local citizen committee (LCC) for the Nipigon Forest Management Unit. Board Member Dr. Julee Boan is the alternate committee member.

Local citizen committees provide input to forest management plans along with Aboriginal communities, various stakeholders and the public. Members of a local citizen committee include people with an interest in forest management, trappers, tourism operators, hunters and anglers.

SAY NO TO NUCLEAR WASTE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

1. Transportation: There is increased risk and cost with increased transportation distances. Highways in northwestern Ontario may be associated with increased risk. For example, 42% (in 2016) and 41% (in 2017) of all collisions from Shabaqua to Ignace involve transport trucks, the highest percentage on the route from Parry Sound to Ignace.

2. Nuclear Waste Management Organization documents contain a statement: "Provision of optional temporary shallow storage at the central site, if needed." They state that this contingency plan is "not currently included" in their implementation plan, however, it may mean that the highest level nuclear waste is placed into temporary shallow repositories on the chosen site for decades before a deep geological repository is built.

3. A safety case cannot be made for a deep geological repository that would last up to 250,000 years. Refer to "Rock Solids" by Gene Watch.

4. We have a responsibility to future generations in Northwestern Ontario to protect the lands, water and its inhabitants.

For more information visit:
www.environmentnorth.ca
www.knownuclearwaste.ca
www.nuclearwaste.ca

The "Ignace and area" location is the furthest along in the process. One borehole has been drilled near Ignace and there are plans to drill more. Boreholes are drilled to a depth of 1 kilometre and provide valuable geological information. Plans are also underway for boreholes at the other sites.

It is anticipated that the preferred site will be selected in 2023 – only four years from now.

Community Resilience

Environment North partnered with Ontario Nature and the Indigenous Learning Program at Lakehead University in a Sacred Water Circle project. The project brings together Indigenous knowledge and science and connecting grassroots organizations who work toward the improvement and protection of water.

Board Members, Scott Harris and Karen Peterson, joined the Thunder Bay Public Advisory Committee for the Lake Superior Remedial Action Plan. At meetings, they learned of the status of wildlife along the shore and harbor cleanup projects.

Environment North provided support for the Wendell Beckwith Film Project. Local film maker Jim Hyder is telling the intriguing story of Wendell Beckwith, part of the recent history of Northwestern Ontario. Find out more at <https://www.gofundme.com/wendell-beckwith-film-project>

Board Member Scott Harris wrote an article for the Chronicle Journal about "What makes people care?" Scott discusses past societal transformations and looks for key elements that motivate people to make change.

Many members of the Board attended a presentation by the Canadian Environmental Law Association. This has led to an ongoing relationship with the organization, in particular with Kerrie Blaise, the counsel for the new northern services project. Kerrie Blaise was subsequently a speaker at and Environment North Environmental Knowledge seminar. The title of her presentation was "How the Law can Help to Protect the Environment". An article with the same title was written for the Chronicle Journal by Board President Graham Saunders and Member Kerstin Muth.

Nuclear Waste

Environment North continues to monitor developments in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's siting process. Currently, five communities remain engaged in the site selection process: Ignace, Manitouwadge, Hornepayne, and two in southern Ontario.

Board Member Dodie LeGassick continues to make presentations, radio interviews and write articles in order to share concerns about disposing of nuclear waste. The main concerns are described above.

The Federal Government GHG emission commitments:

2030 target = 517 Megatonnes CO₂eq

2050 target = 148 Megatonnes CO₂eq

“.....All of which means we can't make the transition overnight, and the longer we delay, the more difficult it will become. It also means we can't simply plan to swap one source of plentiful energy for another, without reducing consumption. Mass transit, building codes, building retrofits and other efficiencies will be very important.”

David Hughes, Earth Scientist
[Canada's Energy Outlook 2018](#)

FAST FACTS

27%

of Canada's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2017 were from the Oil and Gas Industry, or 195 Megatonnes (Mt) out of a total of 712 Mt. A bit less, 24% was from Transportation.

38%

of Canada's GHG emissions in 2017 were from Alberta. (273 Mt are from Alberta, 159 Mt are from Ontario and 78 Mt are from Quebec)

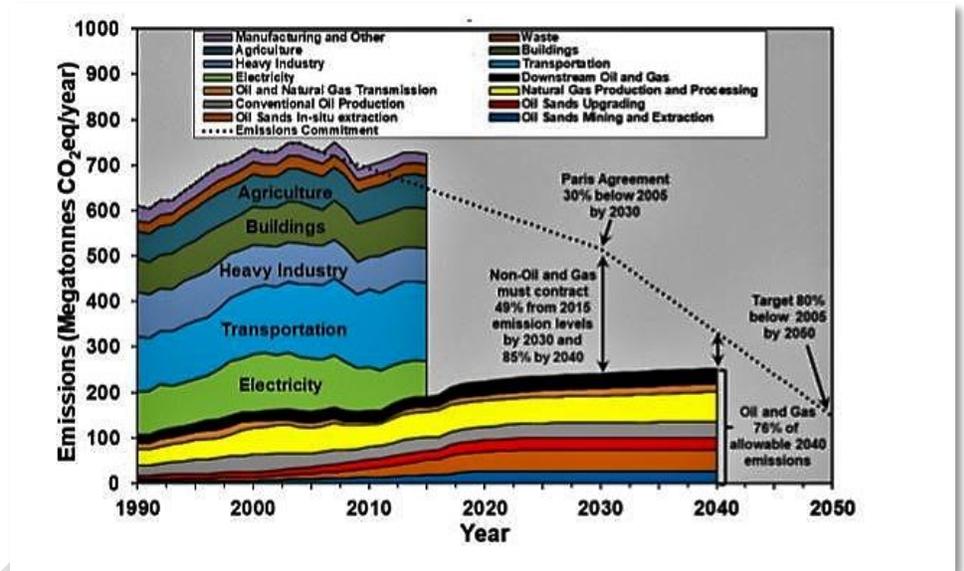
FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Canada's Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#)



The Pine River

Canada's GHG emissions by sector, with projections to 2040 if oil and gas production expands according to projections, Source: Canada's Energy Outlook 2018



Climate Change

On April Fool's Day the federal government's carbon tax was implemented in four provinces that had inadequate greenhouse gas reduction plans including Ontario. In 2018 the Ford Government cancelled Ontario's Cap and Trade program and other measures designed to reduce Ontario's GHG emissions. While Environment North originally would have preferred a different carbon pricing strategy, the cap and trade program had become established and was functioning. Environment North sent comments to the government regarding Bill 4, the Cap and Trade Cancellation Act, 2018 and the "Made in Ontario" Environment Plan.

The Cap and Trade Cancellation Act consisted of six pages with a mere 26 word reference to a new climate plan: "The Minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, shall prepare a climate change plan and may revise the plan from time to time".

Cancelling a vital program was a problem made worse as there was no replacement. When the Made in Ontario plan was released it had a weakened reduction target and a paucity of concrete policies. Environment North detailed the increased costs from damages.

Locally, Environment North helped to financially support the EcoSuperior Agent of Change Climate Action project. The goal of this project was to inspire young people to become engaged citizens able to respond to the climate change. 150 youth gathered at Fort William Historical Park to learn, build skills and develop greenhouse gas reduction plans at their schools. The results of their campaigns should be published this spring. While the Canadian federal government has committed to the Paris agreement of limiting global temperature increase to 2 degrees, they still have not sufficiently explained how they can meet the national GHG reduction plan while expanding the fossil fuel industry. An excellent overview of "Canada's Energy Outlook" is provided by David Hughes. The graph above illustrates how much the non-oil and gas sectors would need to shrink their GHG emissions if the oil and gas industry expands. To meet the 2030 target, the non-oil and gas sectors would need to decrease by almost half. Alternatively if all sectors were to share the burden of reducing equally, each would need to reduce GHG emissions by 26 percent.

Regional, national and international weather and climate news was provided regularly to Environment North members in the form of the e-newsletter *Weather Whys* by Graham Saunders, president of Environment North.

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS

Graham Saunders (president)
 Karen Peterson (vice-president)
 Lea Matyuska (treasurer)
 Susan Grinstead (secretary)
 Julee Boan
 Scott Harris
 Lucy Laframboise
 Bruce Hyer
 Dodie LeGassick

Joining the Board in 2018 was Bruce Hyer. Bruce has a long history with Environment North and has been a board member in previous years. Bruce was given Environment North life-time membership status at the AGM in 2018. Among his passions is protecting the boreal forest. As a member of Environment North he was instrumental in increasing protected areas from 6 to 14% during the *Lands for Life* process. Originally from the United States, he was one of the main proponents in banning a number of pesticides in his home state of Connecticut.

If you are interested in becoming a member or a board member or have any other inquiries please contact us by email or connect with a board member.

(environmentnorth@gmail.com)



2018 Financial Report

<i>Receipts</i>	2018	2017
Donations: Individual	\$ 20.00	0
Donations: Corporate	586.00	38.04
Project Fundraising	0	0
Grants/Project Funding	0	0
Memberships	380.00	615.00
Other (interest)	117.53	131.49
Total Receipts	\$1,103.53	\$784.53

<i>Expenditures</i>	2018	2017
Charitable programs	\$ 1,903.69	\$ 1,154.52
Meeting & Communication	1,804.76	1,261.86
Fundraising, Conferences	0	0
Salary & Benefits	0	0
Membership Fees Paid	0	0
Honorariums	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Banking Fees	59.50	30.00
Other disbursements	0	0
Total Disbursements	\$3,767.95	\$2,446.38

2018 Assets		2018 Liabilities	
Bay Credit Union PCA	\$ 517.43	Lake Superior Initiative	\$ 392.11
Bay Credit Union Term	11,073.15	Climate Initiative	440.46
Profit Sharing Account	76.29	Food Initiative	186.60
		Enduring Property	10,647.70
Total	<u>\$11,666.87</u>	Total	<u>\$11,666.87</u>

Acknowledgements

The board members of Environment North thank all of the members and donors for their continued interest and support!

We also thank the Chronicle Journal for publishing our articles on environmental issues that affect Northwestern Ontario.

We welcome new members!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Environment North please fill out the membership form available on our website. (membership fees are charitable donations)

Included with your membership:

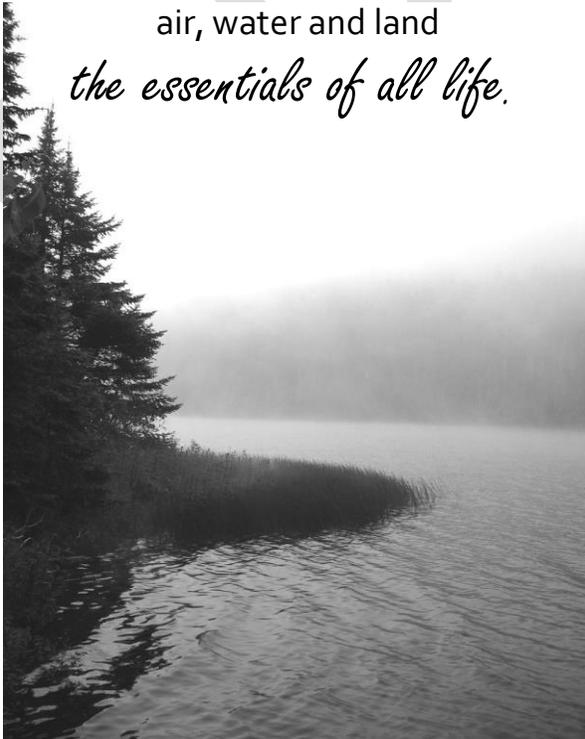
“Weather Whys”

A regional weather, climate and environmental newsletter by Graham Saunders.

Weather Whys is delivered right into your electronic mailbox.



Environment North’s specific actions revolve around respect and shared responsibility for air, water and land
the essentials of all life.



A regional non-government charitable organization focused on environmental sustainability

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