



Patrick Brown, MPP

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February 1, 2017

Dear Head of Council,

Following my speech to the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA), I would like to take the opportunity to reiterate the Ontario PC Caucus' unequivocal support for natural gas expansion in Ontario.

While I was encouraged by the Liberal Government's announcement of natural gas expansion at the ROMA conference, I remain concerned that they have no real intention on following through with this announcement.

The Liberal Government first announced \$230 million in investments for natural gas expansion in 2014, and we still haven't seen a single cent of that money spent. Meanwhile, the government's announcement at this week's conference amounts to a cut of \$130 million from the original promised investment.

What's more, I question the government's commitment to the future of natural gas in Ontario. Last May, The Globe and Mail reported on a leaked copy of the *Climate Change Action Plan* that was debated within cabinet. The document detailed a plan to phase out the use of natural gas for home heating in a little more than a decade.

While the Liberal Government immediately denied that they had any plan to phase out natural gas once the document was made public, comments made by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Glen Murray suggest otherwise. On May 12, 2016, Glen Murray was quoted as saying in the Legislature "home heating in the future is going to have to come from sources other than natural gas."

The time for action and investment in natural gas infrastructure is now. Ontario has already missed out on business investment opportunities because of a lack of natural gas infrastructure.

An Ontario PC government would make investing in natural gas infrastructure an immediate priority. We would not let rural municipalities continue to be burdened by increasingly expensive electricity prices when more affordable and reliable options are available.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to the office of the Ontario PC Caucus' Municipal Affairs and Housing critic Ernie Hardeman at ernie.hardeman@pc.ola.org.

Sincerely,

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c. MPP Ernie Hardeman, Ontario PC Caucus' Critic for Municipal Affairs & Housing