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The "Common Sense Revolution" and Ontario's
Environment: An Interim Report

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The "Common Sense Revolution" and Ontario's Environment: An Interim Report

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2.0 Analysis by Subject

Energy:

The "Common Sense Revolution's" only reference to energy issues was a commitment to a 5-year rate freeze for Ontario Hydro. However, once in office, government has eliminated virtually all of the Ministry of Environment and Energy's energy research and efficiency programs. The elimination of energy efficiency requirements from the Ontario Building Code is also being proposed.

In addition, there have been major reductions to the budget of the Ontario Energy Board. There have also been moves to de-regulate the activities of Ontario's gas utilities, including proposals to permit utilities to use consumer gas rates to cross-subsidize their non-natural gas supply related business activities.

The possibility of the privatization of parts or all of Ontario Hydro is under consideration by an Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's electrical system. The government has also attempted, unsuccessfully, to remove labour, environmental and other public interest representatives from the utility's Board of Directors.

Land-Use:

Land-use planning, both on public and private lands, is one of the areas most heavily affected by the "Common Sense Revolution." The amendments to the land-use planning system under the *Planning Act* introduced as a result of the work of the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario have been repealed through Bill 20 (*The Land-Use Planning and Protection Act*), and the protections in the planning process for ecologically significant areas and prime agricultural lands effectively eliminated. The policy statements under the *Planning Act* introduced by the previous government intended to curb urban sprawl and promote intensification have also been effectively repealed. The roles of the Ministries of Environment and Energy and of Natural Resources, in the planning process, where they have been voices for environmental protection and natural resources conservation, have been effectively removed through Bill 20 as well.

In addition, the implementation of the Bill 26 amendments to the *Public Lands Act* seem likely to result in an "open season" on activities on public lands in Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources has indicated its intention to eliminate 90% of the approvals currently required for activities on public lands in the province. In addition, the Bill 26 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* are designed to facilitate the dissolution

of Conservation Authorities and the sale of their lands to private interests. Provincial capital and operating grants to Conservation Authorities are to be significantly reduced.

Major cuts have been made to the budget of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. A significant weakening of the Commission's mandate and of the protection provided to the ecological integrity of the Escarpment also seems likely as part of both the "Red Tape Commission" and provincial agencies, boards and commissions review processes announced on November 29.

Air:

Despite out-dated and inadequate air pollution regulations, significant initiatives to improve protection of the environment or human health from air pollution seem unlikely. In fact, what regulations exist seem likely to be weakened or repealed as a result of the "Red Tape Commission" process.

Water:

The province's water pollution control regulations are a major target of the "Common Sense Revolution." Significant amendments to regulations put in place over the past few years for industrial discharges under the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement Program (MISA) have already been made. These weakened the regulations in a number of significant ways. In addition, further major retrenchments of the MISA requirements, particularly through the weakening of monitoring and reporting requirements, seem likely as a result of the "Red Tape Commission" process. The introduction of water pollution control standards for industrial discharges for sewers, which was originally part of the MISA program, seems unlikely.

The province's support for the provision of sewer and water services through the Clean Water Agency has been the major focus of the budget cuts to the Ministry of Environment and Energy. The agency's annual budget for the operation of sewer and water services, and for the provision of assistance to municipalities for the construction and operation of their own systems, is scheduled for a reduction of \$142.5 M by 1997-98, more than a 50% cut against the Agency's 1994-95 budget. This has major implications for the provision and maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure in Ontario, and consequently, for the health of Ontarians.

The implementation Bill 26 amendments to the *Lakes and Rivers Improvements Act*, as with amendments to the *Public Lands Act*, seem likely to remove many of the constraints on "improvements" (i.e. dams, and diversions) to Ontario's lakes and rivers. The Ministry of Natural Resources has indicated its intention to remove 90% of the approvals currently required under the Act. In addition, as noted earlier, the Bill 26 amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* are designed to facilitate the dissolution of Conservation Authorities and the sale of their lands to private interests, and provincial operating grants

to Conservation Authorities are to be reduced by 70%. This has major implications for water resources management in the province, as the Conservation Authorities were established for the specific purpose of managing water resources on a watershed basis. The province has provided no indication of how the vital functions of Conservation Authorities are to be carried out with such enormous budget reductions, or in the event that Authorities are dissolved.

Waste Management:

Waste management and waste diversion have been the target of many of the new government's "reforms." The previous government's ban on the establishment of new municipal solid waste (MSW) incinerators has been repealed, and the Interim Waste Authority, established by the previous government to establish solid waste disposal sites for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) has been dissolved. The government has provided no indication of how the issue of the need for new MSW disposal capacity in the GTA is to be addressed.

The Ministry of the Environment and Energy's research and education programs to promote solid and hazardous waste reduction, reuse and recycling have been eliminated. Funding support for municipal "Blue Box" programs has also been terminated. The province's regulations requiring the source separation of wastes, the conduct of waste audits, and the development of waste reduction plans seem likely to be weakened or repealed as part of the "Red Tape Commission" review, along with the requirements that a portion of soft drinks be sold in refillable containers.

The Ministry of Environment and Energy is also considering major changes to the waste disposal site approval process. The proposals are reported to include exempting waste disposal sites from the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the adoption of a "permit-by-rule" system for the approval of disposal sites under the *Environmental Protection Act*.⁴ This could result in a proliferation of disposal sites across the province, which could receive wastes from both inside and outside of Ontario.

Mining

The mining industry has been a major beneficiary of the "Common Sense Revolution." The Bill 26 amendments to the *Mining Act* effectively gutted the Act's provisions related to the closure and remediation of mines in the province and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines's Mine Remediation Branch has been virtually eliminated. The Bill 26 amendments to the *Mining Act* also permit mining companies to voluntarily surrender abandoned mines to the province without risk of future environmental liability. In addition, through a separate policy, prospectors have been granted immunity from environmental liability for pre-existing mine hazards under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

In September 1995 the Ministry of Environment and Energy proposed to eliminate the requirements under the MISA program for the post-closure monitoring of discharges from mines, despite the on-going problem of Acid Mine Drainage. The further weakening of the MISA regulations which apply to the mining sector seems likely as a result of the "Red Tape Commission" process, due to heavy lobbying by the industry.

Forestry:

Like the mining industry, the forest industry has been a major beneficiary of the "Common Sense Revolution." The implementation of the Bill 26 amendments to the *Forest Fires Prevention Act*, and the major reductions in the Ministry of Natural Resources budget for forest management, seem likely to virtually eliminate provincial oversight and management of Ontario's public forests. Little consideration seems likely to be given to non-timber forest values, such as biodiversity conservation, in the management of Ontario's forests.

In addition, major reductions have been made in budgets for forestry research and the monitoring of forest conditions, and for public consultation in forest management. In the result, responsibility for ensuring that Ontario's forests are managed sustainably will rest almost entirely with the forest industry.

Wildlife, Wilderness and Parks

The changes in the Ministry of Natural Resource's approach to Forest Management will have major implications for wildlife and wilderness conservation in the province, particularly with respect to the consideration of biodiversity conservation in forest management. This will now be almost entirely at the discretion of forest management companies. More generally, the new government's approach to wildlife and wilderness issue seems exclusively concerned with the interests of sport hunters and fishers. The concerns of other stakeholders have been excluded. The province has also announced the "closure, consolidation, co-location or partnering" of 60 the province's 251 parks. 15 parks, including Missinaibi River Park, a major wilderness waterway park in Northern Ontario, are targeted to be "no longer operated by MNR."

Transportation

Provincial support for public transit has been a major target of the "Common Sense Revolution." In addition, the land-use planning requirements intended to promote urban intensification and reduce urban sprawl, implemented by the previous government in response to the recommendations of Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario, have been eliminated. More positively, there have been significant reductions

in provincial funding for highways and municipal road building. However, the province is continuing to provide major funding to a number of environmentally destructive highway projects, including the Red Hill Creek Expressway in Hamilton.

Public Participation in Decision-Making

The "Common Sense Revolution" has included dramatic reductions in opportunities for public participation in environmental decision-making. These include the expiry of the *Intervenor Funding Project Act*, the exemption of the Ministry of Finance from the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, and the exemption of measures related to "financial restructuring" from the public notice and comment requirements of the *Environmental Bill of Rights* for ten months. The exemptions from the *Environmental Bill Rights* promoted the Environmental Commissioner for Ontario to make a special report to the Ontario Legislature, highly critical of the government's action, in January 1996.

Beyond these regulatory measures, the province has been imposing a 30 day public comment period on all major environmental regulatory proposals, the minimum time period required by the *Environmental Bill of Rights*. Other methods for public consultation on major initiatives, such as hearings by the Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards and the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee, have been removed through the elimination of those bodies.

Furthermore, the Bill 26 amendments to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, made it easier for government agencies to reject information requests, and require the imposition of user fees for freedom of information requests.

Environmental Policy Development

Several of the province's major public advisory bodies on environmental policy issues have been eliminated, including the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the MISA Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards, and the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. These bodies have been replaced by a Policy Advisory Council on the Environment, whose membership reflects the membership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Environmental Policy Committee.

At the same time, the government has established a "Red Tape Commission," chaired by MPP Frank Sheehan, to review all 45,000 regulations made and administered by the province. Regulations which cannot be justified against criteria developed by the Commission are to be eliminated within twelve months. Major industries, including the mining and chemical sectors are lobbying heavily for the weakening or elimination of the

environmental regulations which apply to their sectors. The province has also established a Commission to review the mandates of the province's agencies, boards and commissions, including the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Energy has also issued a new policy exempting lenders from liability under the *Environmental Protection Act*, and to protect the confidentiality of self-initiated environmental audits. New guidelines for the remediation of contaminated sites, employing a permit-by-rule approach to approvals and a "risk-based" approach to clean-up standards are anticipated shortly.

Environmental Research/Education

Environmental and natural resources research and education programs have also been significantly affected by the "Common Sense Revolution." In fact, most of these programs within the Ministries of the Environment and Energy, and of Natural Resources are targeted for elimination. These steps have major long-term implications in terms of Ontarians' understanding of the state and health of their environment. It will also make it difficult, if not impossible, to track the actual impact of the government's initiatives on Ontario's environment and natural resources.

3.0 Conclusions

The June 1995 provincial election has emerged as a major watershed in environmental management in the province of Ontario. Since its election, the Progressive Conservative government has taken a series of initiatives which have major implications for environmental management within the province.

Major changes to the land-use planning regime have been introduced through the *Savings and Restructuring Act, 1996* (Bill 26) and the *Land Use Planning and Protection Act, 1996* (Bill 20). Bill 20 reversed many of the reforms contained in March 1995 amendments to the *Planning Act*, particularly with respect to the protection of environmentally significant areas and public participation in decision-making. In addition, through Bill 26 many of the controls on activities on Crown Lands, and in relation to "improvements" to lakes and rivers, seem likely to be removed. The mandate and capacity of Conservation Authorities was also significantly curtailed through Bill 26. The dissolution of many of the Authorities and the sale of their lands seems a likely outcome.

The new government has also made reductions in the current year (1995/96) operating and capital budgets of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of \$46 million. These reductions are scheduled to grow to more than \$148 million in 1996/97 and over 200 million in 1997/98. 752 positions are to be eliminated from the Ministry's staff.

The primary focus of the reductions to the Environment Ministry's capital budget has been on the operation and support on municipal sewer and water services by the Clean Water Agency, with a total reduction of \$142.5 M from the 1994-95 base year projected by 1997-98. The focus of the cuts to the Ministry's operating budget has been on educational activities, environmental research, environmental technology development and diffusion, energy efficiency, waste diversion, and standards development. There have also been major reductions in the budgets of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Ontario Energy Board.

There have also been major reductions to the budgets of the Ministry of Natural Resources for resources management and in operating funds for Conservation Authorities. These include a reduction in the Ministry's budget more than \$36 million in the current year (1995/96), \$107 million in 1996/97 and \$137 million in 1997-98. The 2,170 positions are to be eliminated within the Ministry. Funding for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' mine closure and remediation program has essentially been eliminated as well. Major cuts have also occurred to operating support for public transit services from the Ministry of Transportation.

In addition to these legislative and budgetary developments, the government has initiated two wide ranging reviews, one focused on the regulations made and administered by the

provincial government and its agencies, boards and commissions, and the other on the government's agencies, boards and commissions themselves. The Ministry of Environment and Energy initiated its component of the regulatory review in November 1995. The primary focus appears to be on the Ministry's regulations related to air and water pollution, including the MISA regulations, and the approval and oversight of waste disposal facilities.

It seems unlikely that any of these regulations will be strengthened as a result of this exercise. Significant retrenchment, particularly with respect to reporting and monitoring requirements is a more probable outcome. The elimination of requirements for approvals for certain types of activities and the adoption of permit-by-rule systems for others, following the models employed in Alberta, also seem likely results. In addition, the Environment and Natural Resources Ministries are withdrawing from most of their functions related to land-use planning.

In the meantime the province has already undertaken a number of significant regulatory "reform" initiatives. These include the repeal of the previous government's ban on new municipal solid waste incineration facilities, the effective suspension of the public notice and comment requirements of the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, for the period between December 1995 and September 1996, and the making of revisions to the monitoring provisions of several of the MISA effluent regulations. In addition, the province has granted exemptions from environmental liability under the *Environmental Protection Act* to lenders and prospectors, and reinforced the confidentiality of self-initiated environmental audits.

The province appears to be attempting to focus on what it considers to be its "core" environmental functions. The changes to the land-use planning system contained in Bills 20 and 26, the reduction and potential elimination of the Conservation Authorities, and the moves to limit the application of the *Environmental Assessment Act* indicate that efforts at long-term environmental planning and ecosystem management are to be abandoned. Similarly, the Ministry of Natural Resources' withdrawal from the oversight of forestry operations and virtual abandonment of wildlife management except for sport game and fish, suggest that efforts to introduce more ecosystem-based approaches to resource management and to ensure the protection of biological diversity, are at an end.

Other initiatives intended to move Ontario's society and economy on to a more environmentally sustainable basis are being eliminated as well. These include termination of the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and Economy, and of most the province's programs related to environmental education, environmental research, the development and diffusion of environmental technologies, community environmental initiatives, energy efficiency, and waste diversion. Efforts both to require the remediation of past environmental damage, and to ensure that provision is made for remediation in relation to the new activities, such as new mines, are also being reduced or eliminated.

What seems likely to be left of the province's environmental functions will be a permitting regime for direct discharges of pollutants to air and water, and for the approval of waste disposal sites. This is at best, a return to the situation which existed in 1971 at the time of the creation of the Ministry of the Environment and the passage of the *Environmental Protection Act*. Indeed, even in these basic, "core" areas, permit-by-rule and voluntary, "self-regulation" systems seem to be under consideration. With respect to land use and broader resource management, the effective result of the province's actions seems likely to be an unrestricted development regime on public and private lands throughout the province, effectively the situation which existed prior to the creation of the Conservation Authorities in 1946.

Such an approach seems to provide little chance of enhancing the environmental sustainability of Ontario's economy and society. The developments with respect to land-use are particularly problematic, as much of the resulting damage is likely to be irreversible. In addition, the reversal of political will at the provincial level and repeal of significant components of the existing environmental protection framework in the province raises serious questions about the ability of the province to meet its obligations under a number of existing intergovernmental agreements, particularly the *1994 Canada-Ontario Agreement on the Great Lakes Ecosystem Basin*, or to assist the federal government in meeting Canada's obligations under the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*. Forward movement on air issue related to the *Canada-U.S. Air Quality Accord* or other emerging issues also seems improbable.

Conclusions

The face of environmental management in the province of Ontario has undergone an enormous transformation over the past ten months. There has been almost a complete reversal of direction by the provincial government. The province has moved from active and extensive efforts to move Ontario's society and economy onto a more environmentally sustainable basis, towards the complete abandonment of any commitment to long-term environmental planning, to ecosystem-based environmental management, or even to the core principle environmental sustainability itself. The long-term consequences of this direction for present and future generations of Ontarians are likely to be severe, and in many cases, irreversible.

Endnotes

1. 'The Commons Sense Revolution," pg. 14.
2. The Project for Environmental Priorities, Election '95/Backgrounder - Highlights of PEP Poll Results (Guelph: Ontario Environment Network, May 1995).
3. The Project for Environmental Priorities, Election 95 - Responses to the Questionnaire (NDP, PC's and Liberals, pg.9.
4. James Rusk, "May exempt dumps from Ontario environment plan, minister hints," The Globe and Mail, October 20, 1995.

Appendix 1

Review of Initiatives affecting Ontario's Environment (by subject)



Energy

Chronology of Changes to Energy Related Policies and Regulations	
Jul 26/95	Minister of Environment and Energy opens the hourly electricity market to spot market electricity sales on experimental basis. This action is taken as a signal that the government would like to open up Ontario's electricity market and reduce or remove Ontario Hydro's monopoly in the electricity market.
Oct 3/95	Minister of Environment and Energy announces that a 5-year rate freeze is being instituted at Ontario Hydro. Minimizing the financial cost of electricity is cited as one means to stimulate economic growth.
Oct 6/95	MoEE energy conservation grants are reduced \$0.7 M as part of government-wide operating budget reductions announced by the Office of the Premier. The Ministry of Environment and Energy will have its operating budget reduced by \$14.9 M in each of the years 1995-96 and 1996-97.
Oct 24/95	Ontario Minister of Environment and Energy endorses national clean air standards proposed by the Task Force on Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels. Proposal includes the promotion of: fuel efficient / alternate fuel vehicles; inspection and maintenance programs; low emission vehicles by 2001; and new fuel standards.
Nov 2/95	Minister of Environment and Energy announces the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System. Mandate of the committee is to evaluate options for phasing in competition in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structural changes to the electrical utility industry; • regulatory reform to ensure a healthy, competitive environment; and • introduction of private equity in the electric utility sector.
Nov 28/95	Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System appointed.
Dec 1/95	The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Communities (\$1.7 M); • home green-ups (\$8.4 M); • energy education, training, standards development and conservation (\$1.2 M). • Ontario Energy Board (\$0.5 M);

Dec 22/95	Minister of Environment and Energy requests Ontario Energy Board to seek stakeholder input on exempting utilities from their prior OEB approval requirements. Such exemptions will allow utilities to participate in a wide range of non-regulated "Designated Business Areas". Changes could result in expansion of natural gas industry, may diminish conservation efforts and result in higher emissions of carbon dioxide.
Jan 10/96	Positions of five board members of Ontario Hydro revoked by the Minister of Environment and Energy. The members were considered to be the strongest advocates of environmental protection on the board.
Jan 19/96	Ontario Divisional Court Judge overturns the Environment Minister's decision of Jan 10, 1996 to relieve five Ontario Hydro Board members of their positions.
Jan 26/96	<p>Ministry of Housing releases a consultation paper entitled "Back to Basics" which focuses on streamlining and simplifying the Building Code. Key directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set only minimum standards for health and safety; • reduce or eliminate energy efficiency and environmental standards in the Building Code; and • new provisions should be cost-effective; • reduce construction costs; harmonization with National Building Code. <p>Such changes would have an obvious impact on land use, urban design, greenhouse gases and atmospheric emissions.</p>

Land Use

Chronology of Changes to Land Use Policies and Regulations	
Jul 13/95	Agriculture Minister announces the province will be withdrawing funding for an agricultural land trust to protect the Niagara Fruit Belt from urban development.
Jul 21/95	Government-wide ministry spending reductions released by the Minister of Finance. Cuts are to capital and operating budgets: Niagara Tender Fruit Lands protection reduced \$15 M over coming decade;
Oct 6/95	<p>Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. The reductions were detailed for each of the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 but do not represent all the reductions that will take place. Effects to land use policy and protection due to cuts to the Ministry of Environment and Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce conservation and planning spending by \$0.68 M for both years; <p>Cuts to Ministry of Natural Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation authorities' operating transfer payments cut by \$1.2 M in both years;
Nov 15/95	Interim report of the Golden Task Force on the Greater Toronto Area. If recommendations proceed sweeping changes could be introduced to the area's land use, services and taxation policy.
Nov 16/95	<p>Government introduces Bill 20, the <i>Land Use Planning and Protection Act</i>. Bill will repeal recommendations of the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario. Key changes: the requirement that planning decisions "be consistent with" Bill 163 will be replaced with "have regard to." In other words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the language of the Act will revert back to what it was before the reform effort; • many provisions related to public participation in planning and decision-making will be diluted or repealed; • loss of provincial approval functions/enhanced municipal control; many revisions to reduce urban sprawl will be removed such as the prematurity test (ensures services/utilities can manage new developments); • the permitting of house apartments; and • the MoEE and MNR will only be able to comment on land use issues, if invited by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
Dec 1/95	Niagara Escarpment Commission budget is reduced \$0.7 M as part of MoEE projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year.

Dec 13/95	Province announces it will market surplus government land throughout Ontario for productive development.
Jan 2/96	A revised draft Provincial Policy Statement to accompany Bill 20 is released by Minister of Municipal Affairs. It reduces the protection for naturally significant features and prime agricultural land, and weakens policies to reduce urban sprawl and intensify development.
Jan 26/96	<p>Ministry of Housing releases a consultation paper entitled "Back to Basics" which focuses on streamlining and simplifying the Building Code. Key directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set only minimum standards for health and safety; • reduce or eliminate energy efficiency and environmental standards in the Building Code; and • new provisions should be cost-effective; • reduce construction costs; harmonization with National Building Code. <p>Such changes would have an obvious impact on land use, urban design, greenhouse gases and atmospheric emissions.</p>
Jan 29/96	<p>The Ontario Legislature enacts Bill 26, the <i>Governments Saving and Restructuring Act</i> and in so doing amends to many acts governing land use. Those with the most significant environmental consequences are summarized below. Almost universally, the Bill converted many of the acts' statutory obligations to regulatory requirements as deemed / if deemed necessary by the minister responsible. Many of the changes could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Most promote resource use/extraction. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i>: reduce or eliminate permitting requirements when constructing, altering or using a dam or other water works; • the <i>Public Lands Act</i>: amends work permit provisions; reduces capacity of courts to order restoration; • the <i>Acts</i> above have been amended in a manner which permits for virtually any activity on public lands and waters unless the minister responsible has prescribed regulations to the contrary; formerly, all activities required permits. • the <i>Municipal Act</i>: easier municipal restructuring, land annexation, and service cost or user fee implementation; • the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>: new provisions could lead to the dissolution of CAs and sale of CA lands in some cases. Limitations placed on scope of CA activities.

Jan 29/96 Ministry of Environment and Energy releases its review of its land use planning process. If recommendations are adopted, it would create an approach consistent with Bill 20: the MoEE would shift its emphasis away from the review of site-specific applications to involvement in official plan policy formulation. Greater municipal authority would be the result in an effort to "streamline and eliminate duplication". In effect, this amounts to the MoEE abandoning its role in land-use planning decisions.

Mar 26/96 Bill 20, the *Land Use Planning and Protection Act* enacted.

Apr 11/96 Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. Effects of this initiative on land use:

- the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will become the principal or only body to deal with land use proposals;
- Conservation Authorities transfer payments will be cut \$5.4 M in 1996-97 and \$7.4 M in 1997-98;

Air

Chronology of Changes to Air Related Policies and Regulations

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| Sep 8/95 | Minister of Municipal Affairs disallows City of Toronto anti-idling by-law. The by-law was intended to curb smog by reducing emissions from vehicles at rest. |
| Oct 24/95 | Ontario Minister of Environment and Energy endorses national clean air standards proposed by the Task Force on Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels. Proposal includes the promotion of: fuel efficient / alternate fuel vehicles; inspection and maintenance programs; low emission vehicles by 2001; and new fuel standards. |
| Nov 20/95 | Minister of Environment and Energy endorses National Action Plan and Voluntary Challenge Registry (the federal government's approach to greenhouse gas reduction) at a meeting of Canada's environment and energy ministers. |
| Nov 29/95 | MPP Frank Sheehan appointed to chair the Red Tape Review Committee. It will review all 45,000 regulations in effect in the Province and attempt to streamline or eliminate as many as possible within 12 months. Some of the regulations which most require modernizing and improving are those related to air quality and could potentially suffer under this review. |

Water

Chronology of Changes to Water Policies and Regulations	
Sep 26/95	<p>Amendments proposed on the EBR to revise MISA Regulation 537/93 which deals with effluent limits for the petroleum sector. Intent of revision is to make original regulation "more efficient, effective, flexible and fair." Numerous other amendments to the Effluent Monitoring and Effluent Limits regulations posted on the EBR Registry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• organic and inorganic chemical sectors to conduct toxicity testing of cooling water;• metal mining sector to receive regulatory exemption for closed and abandoned sites;• certain pulp and paper Sector AOX limits may be relaxed or raised.
Oct 6/95	<p>Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. Cutbacks to Ministry of Environment and Energy capital budget include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$31.8 M from the Ontario Clean Water Agency in the 1995-96 year. More reductions are detailed on April 11, 1996. <p>Reductions to Ministry of Natural Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conservation authorities' operating transfer payments \$1.2 M in both 1995-96 and 1996-97; this reduction is increased on April 11, 1996.
Nov 4/95	<p>Exemption from the Environmental Assessment Process granted to the City of Toronto Western Beaches stormwater storage tunnel by the Minister of Environment and Energy.</p>
Nov 29/95	<p>MPP Frank Sheehan appointed to chair the Red Tape Review Committee. It will review all 45,000 regulations in effect in the Province and attempt to streamline or eliminate as many as possible within 12 months. Water quality protection regulations are likely to be reduced in scope or effectiveness under this review.</p>
Dec 1/95	<p>The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year. The following programs terminated include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• urban and rural beach cleanup / restoration (\$8.2 M);• home green-ups including water conservation (\$8.4 M).

Jan 29/96 Bill 26, the *Governments Saving and Restructuring Act* enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill contained amendments to many acts. Many acts' statutory obligations are converted to regulatory requirements as deemed / if deemed necessary by the minister responsible. Many of the changes could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Most promote resource use/extraction. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to:

- the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*: reduce or eliminate permitting requirements when constructing, altering or using a dam or other water works; permits for virtually any activity on public lands and waters unless the minister responsible has prescribed regulations to the contrary;
- the *Conservation Authorities Act*: new provisions could lead to the dissolution and sale of CA lands in some cases. Limitations placed on scope of CA activities.

Apr 11/96 Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. Effects of this initiative on water:

- The Ontario Clean Water Agency which manages municipal assistance for sewers and water treatment will have its budget reduced \$111.4 M in 1996-97 and \$142.5 M in 1997-98;
- Conservation Authorities transfer payments will be cut \$5.4 M in 1996-97 and \$7.4 M in 1997-98;

Waste

Chronology of Changes to Waste Policies and Regulations	
Jul 5/95	Ontario Government announces the dismantling of the Interim Waste Authority. Responsibility for waste management is returned to the GTA municipalities. Province to assume only standard setting and site regulation in future.
Jul 31/95	Ontario government formally posts its proposal to repeal the ban on new municipal solid waste incinerators on the <i>Environmental Bill of Rights</i> environmental registry. Proposal includes new emission standards for incinerators. Ontario Government proposes exemption order under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> which would effectively require many municipalities to consider incineration as an alternative.
Aug 19/95	Ontario Northland Transportation Commission given approval to actively plan for use of Kirkland Lake abandoned mine for waste disposal.
Aug 31/95	The wrap-up of the Ontario Waste Management Corporation. Responsibility for hazardous waste management assigned to the private sector instead of seeking a public sector solution. Savings detailed in Premier's Statement of Oct 6/95.
Sep 7-15/95	Four separate approvals for a waste disposal site were issued on either an emergency basis, or that delay in approval may cause greater environmental harm, or that approval would provide time to study alternatives. All but one was explicitly excepted from public comment.
Oct 6/95	Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. Cutbacks affecting waste management include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redesign municipal recycling support program (\$3.22 M); • elimination of OWMC and three committees: ACES, EAAC, MISA total \$0.8 M.
Oct 20/95	Minister of Environment and Energy announces that the Ontario government will review the Environmental Assessment process. A possible outcome of the review could be the exemption of new landfills from the Environmental Assessment process.

Nov 29/95	MPP Frank Sheehan appointed to chair the Red Tape Review Committee. It will review all 45,000 regulations in effect in the Province and attempt to streamline or eliminate as many as possible within 12 months. Waste management regulations are likely to be diminished.
Dec 1/95	<p>The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year. Terminated programs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recycling, reduction, reuse support (\$5.6 M); • household hazardous waste funding (\$0.2 M); • home green-ups (\$8.4 M);
Dec 13/95	Ministry of Environment and Energy lifts ban on new municipal solid waste (MSW) incinerators.
Jan 2/96	A new guideline for emissions from new municipal solid waste incinerators issued by the Minister of Environment and Energy. Limits are performance-based and require continuous stack monitoring.
Jan 11/96	The MoEE announces new guidelines on the EBR Registry: "Guidelines for the Utilization of Biosolids and Other Wastes on Agricultural Land" will amalgamate former guidelines for sewage sludge with draft interim guidelines on the agricultural application of waste other than sewage sludge.

Mining

Chronology of Changes to Mining Policies and Regulations	
Sept 26/95	Proposal posted EBR Registry to repeal requirements of MISA Metal Mining Sector Monitoring and Effluent Regulation for post-closure monitoring of mine discharges.
Oct 6/96	Reductions to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines: mine-site rehabilitation program redesign \$1.3 M in 1996-97.
Oct 24/95	Ministry of Northern Development and Mines announces the replacement of the current mine closure review process with a self-regulating system. The onus for financial assurance and certification that a mine is properly closed will be placed on the officials of mining companies. Ministry oversight reduced / eliminated.
Dec 13/95	Minister of Environment and Energy announces a new policy governing the liability of prospectors for environmental damage. Assumption of responsibility for contamination at former industrial/mineral sites waived for new users of these sites.

Jan 29/96 Bill 26, the *Governments Saving and Restructuring Act* enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill amends the *Mining Act* as summarized below. Many of the changes promote resource use/extraction could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to the *Mining Act*:

- generally reduce obligations for reporting, financial assurance, mine closure, decommissioning and rehabilitation;
- potentially expose the public to increased environmental, health and economic costs.

Changes to the *Public Lands Act* which have a bearing on mining activities:

- amend work permit provisions;
- reduced capacity of courts to order restoration;
- the *Act* is amended in a manner which permits for virtually any activity on public lands and waters unless the minister responsible has prescribed regulations to the contrary; formerly, all activities required permits.
- approval requirements for prospecting activities likely to be eliminated.

Forestry

Chronology of Changes to Forestry Policies and Regulations

- Oct 6/95 Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. Reductions to Ministry of Natural Resources:
- fire management \$0.5 M;
 - sustainable forestry/ environmental assessment implementation program \$19.1 M;
 - nursery closures \$0.4 M.
- Jan 29/96 Bill 26, the *Governments Saving and Restructuring Act* enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill contained amendments to the *Forest Fire Prevention Act* as summarized below:
- repeal fire, travel and work permit provisions which will allow people into and activities to take place in forest fire prevention zones in an unregulated manner;
 - the amendments to this *Act* and others amended by Bill 26 permits virtually any activity on public lands and waters unless the minister responsible has prescribed regulations to the contrary; formerly, all activities required permits under these *Acts*.
- Apr 11/96 Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. Effects of this initiative on forestry policy and practices:
- streamline forest management to reduce budget by \$34.6 M in 1996-97 and \$45.9 M in 1997-98;
 - reduce park financing \$9.1 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
 - consolidate or close 60 of the Province's 251 parks to save \$5.1 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
 - wind down the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council to save \$0.3 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
 - reduce fire fighting operations by \$4.0 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
 - Conservation Authorities transfer payments will be cut \$5.4 M in 1996-97 and \$7.4 M in 1997-98; CA transfer payments for capital works reduced as well.

Wildlife, Wilderness and Parks

Chronology of Changes to Wildlife, Wilderness and Parks Policies and Regulations	
Aug '95	Ministry of Natural Resources releases a proposed land use plan for the Temagami Region which would open virtually all of the lands outside of provincial parks to mining, forestry, and other forms of development.
Oct 6/95	Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. These reductions are in addition to those made in Jul. Reductions to Ministry of Natural Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • park staff reductions \$0.06 M in 1995-96 and 1996-97; more reductions announced on April 11, 1996
Nov '95	Minister of Natural Resources dispatches correspondence to Federal Environment Minister opposing the timeline for the phase-out of lead shot for water fowl hunting.
Jan 5/96	"Temagami Area Draft Land Use Proposal" placed on EBR Registry. The Comprehensive Planning Council will submit its recommendations to the MNR on Mar 1, 1996.
Jan 29/96	Bill 26, the <i>Governments Saving and Restructuring Act</i> enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill contained amendments to many acts. Those with the most significant wildlife and wilderness consequences are summarized below. Almost universally, the Bill converted many of the acts' statutory obligations to regulatory requirements as deemed / if deemed necessary by the minister responsible. Many of the changes could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Most promote resource use/extraction. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>Game and Fish Act</i>: creation of an account separate from consolidated revenue fund to manage monies collected from fees and licences; expenditures at Minister's discretion;

Feb 23/96 Minister of Natural Resources announces a number of fish and game policy changes:

- MNR plans to reintroduce bobwhite quail from the US in 1996-97;
- elk herd restoration by reintroduction;
- two fishing rods per angler now effective on Lake Erie; and
- pursue changes to allow the hunting of migratory birds with raptors.

In addition, the fish and wildlife account created by Bill 26 is announced as well as a separate foundation to receive donations from citizens for fish and wildlife management.

Apr 11/96 Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. Effects of this initiative on the protection of wilderness:

- streamline forest management to reduce budget by \$34.6 M in 1996-97 and \$45.9 M in 1997-98;
- reduce park financing \$9.1 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
- consolidate or close 60 of the Province's 251 parks to save \$5.1 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;

Parks to no longer be operated by the MNR:

Batchawana Bay	Obatanga
John E. Pearce	Pakwash
Lake Nipigon	Peche Island
Lake on the Mountain	Peter's Woods
Mark S. Burnham	Port Bruce
Middle Falls	Potholes
The Shoals	Tidewater

- wind down the Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council to save \$0.3 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
- reduce fire fighting operations by \$4.0 M in 1996-97 and again in 1997-98;
- Conservation Authorities transfer payments will be cut \$5.4 M in 1996-97 and \$7.4 M in 1997-98; CA transfer payments for capital works reduced as well.

Transportation

Chronology of Changes to Transportation Policies and Regulations	
Jun '95	Toronto subway expansion temporarily halted. The Province retracts funding for Eglinton Avenue Line but maintains support to the Sheppard Line. Metro Toronto uncertain about its ability to finance even this line in the face of other fiscal restraints.
Jul 5/95	Photo radar system of highway speed control abolished.
Jul 21/95	Government-wide ministry spending reductions released by the Minister of Finance. Cuts are to capital and operating budgets for the 1995-96 fiscal year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal road budget cut by \$74 M; • GTA rapid transit budget cut \$42 M; • provincial highway and other MTO initiatives \$69 M; • reduce GO Transit grant \$15 M;
Aug 29/95	Transport Minister announces that the MTO will defer the development of new GO Transit commuter rail services.
Oct 6/96	Reductions to the Ministry of Transportation for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 fiscal years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal transit operating subsidies \$16 M; • GO Transit operating subsidy \$3.8 M; • service, staff, board and program reduction \$19.6 M.
Oct 24/95	Ontario Minister of Environment and Energy endorses national clean air standards proposed by the Task Force on Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels. Proposal includes the promotion of: fuel efficient / alternate fuel vehicles; inspection and maintenance programs; low emission vehicles by 2001; and new fuel standards.
Nov 30/95	Five year, \$100 million funding announced for the Red Hill Creek Expressway in Hamilton-Wentworth.
Dec 8/95	Funding announced for the completion of Highway 416 between Ottawa and Highway 401.

Environmental Bill of Rights, Public Participation in Decision-Making

Chronology of Changes to EBR, Public Participation Policies	
Nov 29/95	<i>Ontario Regulation 482/95</i> promulgated. Effect is to exempt the Ministry of Finance from the Environmental Bill of Rights, and temporarily suspend specific public notice requirements for cost-cutting measures for the next ten months even if they could be environmentally significant in their impact. The Regulation itself was not posted on the EBR registry.
Nov 29/95	Government introduces Bill 26 the <i>Government Savings and Restructuring Act</i> . This Bill would implement changes to a wide range of legislation including conservation and mining legislation.
Jan 17/96	The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario presents "Special Report to the Speaker of the Legislature". In it, she criticizes the government for violating the spirit and intent of the <i>Environmental Bill of Rights</i> through the promulgation of Regulation 482/95..
Jan 29/96	<p>Bill 26, the <i>Governments Saving and Restructuring Act</i> enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill contained amendments to many acts. Those with the most significant environmental consequences are summarized below. Almost universally, the Bill converted many of the acts' statutory obligations to regulatory requirements as deemed / if deemed necessary by the minister responsible. Many of the changes could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Most promote resource use/extraction. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the <i>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>: easier to reject requests that are considered frivolous or vexatious. Information granting will become more subjective; • the <i>Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i>: easier to reject requests that are considered frivolous or vexatious. Information granting will become very subjective; • Both sets of amendments require the establishment of fees for both applying for, and retrieving information.
Feb 5/96	Fees for both applying for, and retrieval of information set under freedom of information acts.

Mar 29/96 The Ontario Government announces on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry that it will allow the *Intervenor Funding Project Act* to expire on Apr 1, 1996. Its expiration will make citizen participation in *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Ontario Energy Board* and *Consolidated Hearings Act* processes less feasible.

Apr 1/96 *Intervenor Funding Project Act* expires.

Policy and Regulation Development

Chronology of Changes to Policy and Regulation Development	
Sep 12/95	The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy is disbanded. Office closed on Nov 17/95. ORTEE's mandate was the establishment of a sustainability strategy for Ontario.
Sep 27/95	Throne speech includes indication that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced spending/deficit; • expenditure reduction will be priority; • transfer payments will be lowered; • government will be restructured; • land use legislation will be changed; and • the Ontario government intends to conduct two major reviews that have implications for environmental protection: the 'red tape review' for all of the Province's 45,000 regulations, and another for the Province's boards, agencies and commissions.
Sep 29/95	Environment and Energy Minister Brenda Elliott announced the termination of three committees: the Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards; the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee and the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement Advisory Committee. The committees, in brief, performed the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MISA: advised on pollutant limits in industrial waste water. • EAAC: forum to comment on the EAA's rules and application to specific projects. • ACES: specific contaminant guideline establishment e.g. tritium.
Sep '95	MoEE creates a committee called the Policy Advisory Council on Environment. The stakeholder committee will represent various stakeholder interests and advise the Minister on policy matters. The committee may hold some informal roundtable sessions and consultations. The Committee membership closely mirrors the membership of the PC Party of Ontario's Policy Committee on the Environment.

Oct 6/95 Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. These reductions are in addition to those made in Jul. The Ministry of Environment and Energy had its operating budget reduced by \$14.9 M in each of the years 1995-96 and 1996-97. The 1996-97 cutbacks are part of, but not the final and total. Programs, boards and committees affected:

- reduce environmental monitoring, analytical testing and standards development (\$1.85 M);
- downsize boards and committees (\$0.8 M);
- reduce program administration and support (\$4.0 M);
- reduce energy conservation grants (\$0.7 M);
- reduce regional operation's program delivery (\$1.4 M);
- redesign compensation for emergency response program (\$0.65 M);
- elimination of ACES, EAAC, MISA advisory committees plus the OWWC (\$0.8 M).

Nov 1/95 Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy announces review of all of its 78 regulations within twelve months. The MoEE states that the review will focus on streamlining, removal of duplicative purpose and easing of reporting requirements. It is purported that the review is not intended to compromise environmental integrity and as a first step will not involve changes to the acts from which the regulations arise. Many submissions to the review committee by industrial groups who would like to see regulations limited in scope and comprehensiveness.

Nov 29/95 MPP Frank Sheehan appointed to chair the Red Tape Review Commission. It will review all 45,000 regulations in effect in the Province and attempt to streamline or eliminate as many as possible within 12 months. The Commission "has been established to review the appropriateness of existing regulatory measures of the government especially as they affect businesses and institutions and to make recommendations to Cabinet on:

- The elimination or amendment of any inappropriate regulatory measures; and
- The design of an ongoing evaluation/impact test and review process for the approval of any new regulatory measures.

Nov 29/95 Ontario government announces that another committee of government will review the mandates of the Province's agencies, boards and commissions.

Dec 1/95	<p>The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year. Funding is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Appeal Board \$0.07 M; • Environmental Compensation Corporation \$0.05 M • Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment \$0.23 M; grants programs support/administrative \$2.72 M.
Dec 18/95	<p>Minister of Environment and Energy announces a new policy governing the liability of lenders when they assume a site with environmental damage. An exemption from environmental liability has been granted to lenders for the clean-up of sites of which they take possession. Creditors can now investigate a property in cases of insolvency without assuming liability for past environmental damage.</p>
Dec 19/95	<p>New guidelines are released by Minister of Environment and Energy that reinforce the confidentiality of environmental audits and place limits on government access to information contained in self-initiated environmental evaluations. The Ministry will now only seek access to such information under certain conditions such as emergencies involving serious risk and after seeking counsel.</p>
Apr 11/96	<p>Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. This initiative is likely to have a stifling effect on the development of new and effective policy.</p>

Environmental Research / Education

Chronology of Changes to Environmental Research and Education

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|----------|---|
| Oct 6/95 | Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. Effect on the Ministry of Environment and Energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reduce environmental research grants \$1.0 M in each of 1995-96 and 1996-97; Reductions to Ministry of Natural Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• science, management, Great Lakes, aboriginal and field programs \$10.2 M in each of 1995-96 and 1996-97; |
| Dec 1/95 | The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year. Programs terminated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• environmental research and public education \$2.3 M; |

Appendix 2

Review of Initiatives affecting Ontario's Environment (chronologically)

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Appendix A: Chronology of Initiatives of the Ontario Government affecting Environmental Protection

The following items detail changes brought about by the provincial government since June 8, 1995 in straight chronological order (without subject organization).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Initiative</u>
Jun 8/95	• The Progressive Conservatives received their mandate on this day.
Jun '95	• Toronto subway expansion temporarily halted. The Province retracts funding for Eglinton Avenue Line but maintains support to the Sheppard Line. Metro Toronto uncertain about its ability to finance even this line in the face of other fiscal restraints.
Jul 5/95	• Photo radar system of highway speed control abolished.
Jul 5/95	• Ontario Government announces the dismantlement of the Interim Waste Authority. Responsibility for waste management is returned to the GTA municipalities. Province to assume only standard setting and site regulation in future.
Jul 13/95	• Agriculture Minister announces the province will be withdrawing funding for an agricultural land trust to protect the Niagara Fruit Belt from urban development.
Jul 21/95	• Government-wide ministry spending reductions released by the Minister of Finance. Cuts are to capital and operating budgets: <u>Operating</u> * Freeze MoEE direct assistance to business to save \$3 M; * Niagara Tender Fruit Lands \$15 M over coming decade; <u>Capital</u> * municipal road budget cut by \$74 M; * GTA rapid transit budget cut \$42 M; * provincial highway and other MTO initiatives \$69 M; * reduce GO Transit grant \$15 M; * provincial portion of Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Works cut by \$73 M; Also, the Minister announces value-for-money audits of Ontario Bus Industries and Toronto's Ataratiri land reclamation project.
Jul 26/95	• Minister of Environment and Energy opens the hourly electricity market to spot market electricity sales on experimental basis.
Jul 31/95	• Ontario government formally posts its proposal to repeal the ban on new municipal solid waste incinerators on the <i>Environmental Bill of Rights</i> environmental registry. Proposal includes new emission standards for incinerators. * Ontario Government proposes exemption order under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> which would effectively <i>require</i> many municipalities to consider incineration as an alternative.
Aug 19/95	• Ontario Northland Transportation Commission given approval to actively plan for use of Kirkland Lake abandoned mine for waste disposal.
Aug '95	• Ministry of Natural Resources releases a proposed land use plan for the Temagami

Region which would open virtually all of the lands outside of provincial parks to mining, forestry, and other forms of development.

- Aug 29/95 • Transport Minister announces that the MTO will defer the development of new GO Transit commuter rail services.
- Aug 31/95 • The wrap-up of the Ontario Waste Management Corporation. Responsibility for hazardous waste management assigned to the private sector instead of seeking a public sector solution. Savings detailed in Premier's Statement of October 6/95.
- Sep 7-15/95• Four separate approvals for a waste disposal site were issued on either an emergency basis, or that delay in approval may cause greater environmental harm, or that approval would provide time to study alternatives. All but one was explicitly excepted from public comment.
- Sep 8/95 • Minister of Municipal Affairs disallows City of Toronto anti-idling by-law. The by-law was intended to curb smog by reducing emissions from vehicles at rest.
- Sep 12/95 • The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy is disbanded. Office closed on November 17/95. ORTEE's mandate was the establishment of a sustainability strategy for Ontario.
- Sep 26/95 • Amendments proposed on the EBR to revise MISA Regulation 537/93 which deals with effluent limits for the petroleum sector. Intent of revision is to make original regulation "more efficient, effective, flexible and fair."
 - Numerous other amendments to the Effluent Monitoring and Effluent Limits regulations posted on the EBR Registry:
 - * organic and inorganic chemical sectors to conduct toxicity testing of cooling water;
 - * metal mining sector to receive regulatory exemption for closed and abandoned sites;
 - * certain pulp and paper Sector AOX limits may be relaxed or raised.
- Sep 27/95 • Throne speech includes indication that:
 - * reduced spending/deficit reduction will be priorities;
 - * transfer payments will be lowered;
 - * government will be restructured;
 - * land use legislation will be changed; and
 - * the Ontario government intends to conduct two major reviews that have implications for environmental protection: the 'red tape review' for all of the Province's 45,000 regulations, and another for the Province's boards, agencies and commissions (for details, see section Regulatory/Policy Reviews).
- Sep 29/95 • Environment and Energy Minister Brenda Elliott announced the termination of three committees: the Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards; the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee and the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement Advisory Committee. The committees, in brief, performed the following functions:
 - * MISA: advised on pollutant limits in industrial waste water.
 - * EAAC: forum to comment on the EAA's rules and application to specific projects.
 - * ACES: specific contaminant guideline establishment e.g. tritium.
- Sep '95 • MoEE creates a committee called the Policy Advisory Council on Environment. The

stakeholder committee will represent various stakeholder interests and advise the Minister on policy matters. The committee may hold some informal roundtable sessions and consultations.

- Oct 2/95 • A proposal for a new streamlined pesticide licensing system announced by Minister of Environment and Energy. Licences would be reduced from the current 53 to 15 and re-certification requirements would be created for certified growers.
- Oct 3/95 • Minister of Environment and Energy announces that a 5-year rate freeze is being instituted at Ontario Hydro.
- Oct 6/95 • Government-wide operating budget reductions released by the Office of the Premier. These reductions are in addition to those made in July. The Ministry of Environment and Energy had its operating budget reduced by \$14.9 M in each of the years 1995-96 and 1996-97. The 1996-97 cutbacks are part of, but not the final and total. Programs, boards and committees affected:
 - * reduce environmental research grants (\$1.0 M);
 - * reduce environmental monitoring, testing and standards development (\$1.9 M);
 - * downsize boards and committees (\$0.8 M);
 - * reduce program administration and support (\$4.0 M);
 - * redesign municipal recycling support program (\$3.22 M);
 - * reduce energy conservation grants (\$0.7 M);
 - * reduce conservation and planning spending (\$0.68 M);
 - * reduce regional operation's program delivery (\$1.4 M);
 - * redesign compensation for emergency response program (\$0.65 M);
 - * elimination of ACES, EAAC, MISA advisory committees plus the OWMC as cited above (\$0.8 M).
- In the same document, the Premier's Office announces government-wide capital budget reductions. The Ministry of Environment and Energy had the following items reduced from its capital budget:
 - * \$31.8 M from the Ontario Clean Water Agency.
- Reductions to Ministry of Natural Resources:
 - * fire management \$0.5 M;
 - * sustainable forest / timber EA program \$19.1 M;
 - * nursery closures \$0.4 M;
 - * park staff reductions \$0.06 M;
 - * conservation authorities' operating transfer payments \$1.2 M;
 - * science, management, Great Lakes, aboriginal and field programs \$10.2 M;In total, \$31.3 M in 1995-96 and the same amount to the same programs in 1996-97.
- Reductions to the Ministry of Transportation:
 - * municipal transit operating subsidies \$16 M;
 - * GO Transit operating subsidy \$3.8 M;
 - * service, staff, board and program reduction \$19.6 M;In total, \$39.4 M in 1995-96 and \$36.2 M in 1996-97.
- Reductions to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines:
 - * mine-site rehabilitation program redesign \$1.3 M in 1996-97.

- Oct 24/95 • Ontario Minister of Environment and Energy endorses national clean air standards proposed by the Task Force on Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels. Proposal includes the promotion of: fuel efficient / alternate fuel vehicles; inspection and maintenance programs; low emission vehicles by 2001; and new fuel standards.

- Oct 24/95 • Ministry of Northern Development and Mines announces the replacement of the current mine closure review process with a self-regulating system. The onus for financial assurance and certification that a mine is properly closed will be placed on the officials of mining companies. Ministry oversight reduced.

- Nov 1/95 • Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy announces review of all of its 78 regulations within twelve months. The MoEE states that the review will focus on streamlining, removal of duplicative purpose and easing of reporting requirements. The review is not intended to compromise environmental integrity and as a first step will not involve changes to the acts from which the regulations arise.

- Nov 2/95 • Minister of Environment and Energy announces the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System. Mandate of the committee is to evaluate options for phasing in competition in these areas:
 - * structural changes to the electrical utility industry;
 - * regulatory reform to ensure a healthy, competitive environment;
 - * introduction of private equity in the electric utility sector.

- Nov 15/95 • Interim report of the Golden Task Force on the Greater Toronto Area. If recommendations proceed sweeping changes could be introduced to the area's land use, services and taxation policy.

- Nov 16/95 • Government introduces Bill 20, the *Land Use Planning and Protection Act*. Bill will repeal recommendations of the Commission on Planning and Development Reform in Ontario. Key changes:
 - * the requirement that planning decisions "be consistent with" Bill 163 will be replaced with "have regard to." In other words, the language of the Act will revert back to what it was before the reform effort;
 - * many provisions related to public participation in planning and decision-making will be diluted or repealed;
 - * loss of provincial approval functions/enhanced municipal control;
 - * many revisions to reduce urban sprawl will be removed such as the prematurity test (ensures services/utilities can manage new developments) and the permitting of house apartments.

- Nov 20/95 • Minister of Environment and Energy endorses National Action Plan and Voluntary Challenge Registry (the federal government's approach to greenhouse gas reduction) at a meeting of Canada's environment and energy ministers.
 - Exemption from the Environmental Assessment Process granted to the City of Toronto Western Beaches stormwater storage tunnel by the Minister of Environment and Energy.

- Nov 28/95 • Advisory Committee on Competition in Ontario's Electricity System appointed.

- Nov 29/95 • MPP Frank Sheehan appointed to chair the Red Tape Review Committee. It will review all 45,000 regulations in effect in the Province and attempt to streamline or eliminate as

many as possible within 12 months.

- Ontario government announces that another committee of government will review the mandates of the Province's agencies, boards and commissions.
- Nov 29/95 • *Ontario Regulation 482/95* promulgated. Effect is to exempt the Ministry of Finance from the Environmental Bill of Rights, and temporarily suspend specific public notice requirements for cost-cutting measures for the next ten months even if they could be environmentally significant in their impact. The Regulation itself was not posted on the EBR registry.
- Government introduces Bill 26 the *Government Savings and Restructuring Act*. This Bill would implement changes to a wide range of legislation including conservation and mining legislation.
- Nov '95 • Minister of Natural Resources dispatches correspondence to Federal Environment Minister opposing the timeline for the phase-out of lead shot for water fowl hunting.
- Nov 29/95 • An economic statement is delivered by the Finance Minister in the legislature. The statement largely consolidates the cutbacks announced to date by the government. In total, the MoEE's operating budget is reduced ~\$15 M and its capital budget by ~\$31.8 M for a total of \$46.7 M for 1995/96. Staff has been reduced by 63 members. See table below for the effect over 1995-1997.

Table 1: Ministry of Environment and Energy Budgetary Impacts

Event	Operating	Capital	Totals
Actual Expenditures 1994/95	\$272 M	\$271 M	\$543 M
Jul-Oct '95 Reductions	(\$14.9 M)	(\$31.8 M)	(\$46.7 M)
Nov '95 Reductions for 1996-97	(\$14.1 M)	(\$23.2 M)	(\$37.3 M)
Totals	\$243 M	\$216 M	\$459 M

- Total cumulative ministry reduction for 1995-1997 is projected to be \$84 M or about 16%. Expenditure and reduction estimates are preliminary; reductions could increase over time.
- Nov 30/95 • Five year, \$100 million funding announced for the Red Hill Creek Expressway in Hamilton-Wentworth.
- Dec 1/95 • The Ministry of Environment and Energy announces some projected operating budget cutbacks for the 1996/97 fiscal year:
 - Terminated programs
 - * recycling, reduction, reuse support (\$5.6 M);
 - * household hazardous waste funding (\$0.2 M);
 - * urban and rural beach cleanup / restoration (\$8.2 M);
 - * green Communities (\$1.7 M);
 - * home green-ups (\$8.4 M);
 - * energy education, training, standards development and conservation (\$1.2 M);
 - * environmental research and public education (\$2.3 M);
 - Reduced Funding

- * Niagara Escarpment Commission (\$0.7 M);
 - * Ontario Energy Board (\$0.5 M);
 - * Environmental Appeal Board (\$0.07 M);
 - * Environmental Compensation Corporation (\$0.05 M);
 - * Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (\$0.23 M);
 - * grants programs support/administrative (\$2.72 M).
- Total operating and capital budget reductions for 1996/97 is \$37.3 M.

- Dec 8/95 • Funding announced for the completion of Highway 416 between Ottawa and Highway 401.
- Dec 12/95 • Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority given clearance to expropriate land in Etobicoke for a new mixed park and private housing development.
- Dec 13/95 • Province announces it will market surplus government land throughout Ontario for productive development.
 - Ministry of Environment and Energy lifts ban on new municipal solid waste (MSW) incinerators.
 - Minister of Environment and Energy announces a new policy governing the liability of prospectors for environmental damage. Assumption of responsibility for contamination at former industrial/mineral sites waived for new users of these sites.
- Dec 18/95 • Minister of Environment and Energy announces a new policy governing the liability of lenders when they assume a site with environmental damage. An exemption from environmental liability has been granted to lenders for the clean-up of sites of which they take possession. Creditors can now investigate a property in cases of insolvency without assuming liability for past environmental damage.
- Dec 19/95 • New guidelines are released by Minister of Environment and Energy that reinforce the confidentiality of environmental audits and place limits on government access to information contained in self-initiated environmental evaluations. The Ministry will now only seek access to such information under certain conditions such as emergencies involving serious risk and after seeking counsel.
- Dec 22/95 • Minister of Environment and Energy requests Ontario Energy Board to seek stakeholder input on exempting utilities from their prior OEB approval requirements. Such exemptions will allow utilities to participate in a wide range of non-regulated "Designated Business Areas." Changes could result in expansion of natural gas industry, may diminish conservation efforts and result in higher emissions of carbon dioxide.
- Jan 2/96 • A revised draft Provincial Policy Statement to accompany Bill 20 is released by Minister of Municipal Affairs. It reduces the protection for naturally significant features and prime agricultural land, and weakens policies to reduce urban sprawl and intensify development.
 - A new guideline for emissions from new municipal solid waste incinerators issued by the Minister of Environment and Energy. Limits are performance-based and require continuous stack monitoring.
- Jan 5/96 • "Temagami Area Draft Land Use Proposal" placed on EBR Registry. The Comprehensive Planning Council will submit its recommendations to the MNR on March 1, 1996.

- Jan 10/96 • Positions of five board members of Ontario Hydro revoked. The members were considered to be the strongest advocates of environmental protection on the board.
- Jan 11/96 • The MoEE announces new guidelines on the EBR Registry: "Guidelines for the Utilization of Biosolids and Other Wastes on Agricultural Land" will amalgamate former guidelines for sewage sludge with draft interim guidelines on the agricultural application of waste other than sewage sludge.
- Jan 19/96 • Ontario Divisional Court Judge overturns the Environment Minister's decision of January 10, 1996 to relieve five Ontario Hydro Board members of their positions.
- Jan 26/96 • Ministry of Housing releases a consultation paper entitled "Back to Basics" which focuses on streamlining and simplifying the Building Code. Key directions:
 - * set only minimum standards for health and safety;
 - * reduce or eliminate energy efficiency and environmental standards from Code
 - * new provisions should be cost-effective;
 - * reduce construction costs;
 - * harmonization with National Building Code.
 Such changes would have an obvious impact on land use, urban design, greenhouse gases and atmospheric emissions.
- Jan 29/96 • Bill 26, the *Governments Saving and Restructuring Act* enacted by the Ontario legislature. The Bill contained amendments to many acts. Those with the most significant environmental consequences are summarized below. Almost universally, the Bill converted many of the acts' statutory obligations to regulatory requirements as deemed / if deemed necessary by the minister responsible. Many of the changes could have significant negative economic as well as environmental consequences. Most promote resource use/extraction. Accountability to the provincial legislature is diminished. Summarized briefly are the changes to:
 - * the *Forest Fire Prevention Act*: repeal fire, travel and work permit provisions;
 - * the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*: reduce or eliminate permitting requirements when constructing, altering or using a dam or other water works;
 - * the *Public Lands Act*: repeal fire, travel and work permit provisions; reduces capacity of courts to order restoration;
 - * the *Acts* above have been amended in a manner which permits for virtually any activity on public lands and waters unless the minister responsible has prescribed regulations to the contrary; formerly, unacceptable and permitted activities were defined by the *Acts*.
 - * the *Mining Act*: generally reduce obligations for reporting, financial assurance, mine closure, decommissioning and rehabilitation; potentially expose the public to increased environmental, health and economic costs;
 - * the *Game and Fish Act*: creation of an account separate from consolidated revenue fund to manage monies collected from fees and licences; expenditures at Minister's discretion;
 - * the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*: easier to reject requests that are considered frivolous or vexatious. Information granting will become more subjective;
 - * the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*: easier to reject requests that are considered frivolous or vexatious. Information granting will become very subjective;
 - * Both freedom of information acts established the ability to set fees for both applying

for, and retrieving information.

- * the *Municipal Act*: easier municipal restructuring, land annexation, and service cost or user fee implementation;
- * the *Conservation Authorities Act*: new provisions could lead to the dissolution and sale of CA lands in some cases. Limitations placed on scope of CA activities.

- Jan 29/96 • Ministry of Environment and Energy releases its review of its land use planning process. If recommendations are adopted, it would create an approach consistent with Bill 20: the MoEE would shift its emphasis away from the review of site-specific applications to involvement in official plan policy formulation. Greater municipal authority would be the result in an effort to "streamline and eliminate duplication".
- Feb 5/96 • Fees for both applying for, and retrieval of information set under freedom of information acts.
- Feb 23/96 • Minister of Natural Resources announces a number of fish and game policy changes: MNR plans to reintroduce bobwhite quail from the US in 1996-97; elk herd restoration by reintroduction; two fishing rods per angler now effective on Lake Erie; and pursue changes to allow the hunting of migratory birds with raptors. In addition, the fish and wildlife account created by Bill 26 is announced as well as a separate foundation to receive donations from citizens for fish and wildlife management.
- Feb 26/96 • Ontario Public Service Employees Union begins province-wide strike. Inspection, monitoring and enforcement activities of many departments affected. Most notably, water and sewage treatment operating procedures/guidelines may have been violated. Other areas may have also been affected (eg. spills, MISA reporting).
- Mar 25/96 • Province-wide strike of Ontario Public Service Employees ends.
- Mar 26/96 • Bill 20, the *Land Use Planning and Protection Act* passed.
- Mar 29/96 • The Ontario Government announces on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry that it will allow the *Intervenor Funding Project Act* to expire on April 1, 1996. Its expiration will make citizen participation in *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Ontario Energy Board* and *Consolidated Hearings Act* processes less feasible.
- Apr 1/96 • *Intervenor Funding Project Act* expires.
- Apr 11/96 • Ontario government releases "Interim Report on Business Planning and Cost Savings Measures" which outlines the re-shaping of government through "new business directions" for ministries and "cost-savings measures" that the province is implementing. Each ministry is responsible for carrying out its own business plan within the financial constraints that it is assigned. This initiative is likely to have a stifling effect on the development of new and effective policy.

Appendix 3

Budgetary Reductions to the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

1. Ministry of Environment and Energy (MoEE) 1995/96 Fiscal Year

MoEE Operating 1995-96 Budget Reductions (Announced October 6, 1995)

Reduce Environmental Research Grants	\$1,000,000
Reduce Environmental Monitoring, Analytical Testing and Standards Development	\$1,852,000
Downsize Boards and Committees	\$791,000
Reduce Program Administration and Support	\$4,117,000
Redesign Municipal Recycling Support Program (Blue Box)	\$3,220,000
Reduce Energy Conservation Grants	\$700,000
Reduce Conservation and Planning Spending	\$680,000
Reduce Regional Operations Program Delivery Spending	\$1,402,700
Redesign Compensation for Emergency Response Program	\$650,000
Sunset Ontario Waste Management Corporation and MAC, EAAC, and ACES	\$440,000
Total 1995/96 Operating Reduction	\$14,850,700

MoEE Capital Budget Reductions
Announced October 6, 1995

Reduce Municipal Assistance Plan (Clean Water Agency)	\$31,800,000
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Total 1995/96 Capital Reduction **\$31,800,000**

Total Reductions to MoEE 1995/96 Budget **\$46,650,700**

2. Ministry of Environment and Energy (MoEE) 1996/97 Fiscal Year

MoEE Operating 1996/97 Reductions
Announced November 29, 1995

Eliminate Municipal recycling, reduction, reuse support (Blue Box)	\$5,600,000
Eliminate Municipal Landfill/waste Facility Assistance	\$3,600,000
Eliminate Municipal Household Hazardous Waste Funding	\$200,000
Eliminate Miscellaneous Waste Grants to Municipalities	\$850,000
Eliminate Urban Beaches Restoration	\$3,500,000
Eliminate Rural Beach Clean-Up	\$4,700,000
Eliminate Green Communities Program	\$1,660,000
Eliminate Home Green-ups Program	\$8,430,000

Eliminate Energy Education and Training	\$455,000
Eliminate Energy Standards Development	\$220,000
Eliminate Institutional, Residential and Community Energy Management Programs	\$527,000
Eliminate Public Education Grants	\$691,000
Eliminate Support to Non-Governmental Organizations	\$735,000
Eliminate Environmental Research Program	\$1,600,000
Reduce Grant Programs	\$2,720,000
Reduce Support to Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment	\$230,000
Reduce Support to Environmental Compensation Corporation	\$50,000
Reduce Support to Environmental Appeal Board	\$70,000
Reduce Support to the Ontario Energy Board	\$510,000
Reduce Support to the Niagara Escarpment Commission	\$700,000
Total 1996/97 Operating Reductions	\$37,324,100
MoEE Capital 1996/97 Reductions Announced April 11, 1996	
Reduce Municipal Assistance Plan (Clean Water Agency)	\$111,400,000
Total 1996/97 Capital Reduction	\$111,400,000
Total Reduction to MoEE 1996/97 Budget	\$148,724,100

3. Ministry of Environment and Energy 1997/98 Fiscal Year

MoEE 1997/98 Operating Budget Reductions Announced April 11, 1996	
Redesign of Evaluation and Compliance	\$25,300,000
Focusing on Core Business	\$15,900,000
Better Management	\$17,100,000
Total 1997/98 Operating Reduction	\$58,300,000
MoEE Capital 1997/98 Budget Reductions Announced April 11, 1996	
Reduce Municipal Assistance Plan (Clean Water Agency)	\$142,500,000
Total 1997/98 Capital Reduction	\$142,500,000
Total Reduction to MoEE 1997/98 Budget	\$200,800,000

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Ministry of Natural Resources 1995/96 Fiscal Year

MNR Operating Budget Reductions
Announced October 6, 1995

Reduce Fire Management	\$530,300
Timber Environmental Assessment/Sustainable Forestry	\$19,039,700
Close Tree Nurseries	\$380,500
Reduce Parks Ontario Staff	\$64,400
Reduce operating Grants to Conservation Authorities	\$1,200,000
Reduce Aboriginal Programs	\$1,871,000
Downsize and Re-Engineer Field Operations	\$1,151,800
Eliminated Selected Operations Programs	\$1,012,200
Reduction in Great Lakes Management Program	\$459,700
Reduction in Policy and Planning Activities	\$1,259,900
Reduce Corporate Support and Management	\$1,512,200
Reduce Science and Information Resource Activities	\$2,925,600

Total 1995/96 Operating Reduction **\$31,278,500**

MNR Capital Budget Reductions
Announced October 6, 1996

Delays in Conservation Authorities Program	\$1,920,000
Delays in Parks Program	\$1,417,000
Airfleet Reductions	\$186,000
Delays in Land Acquisition Program	\$22,000
Cancel Muskoka Floor Damage Control Program	\$150,000
Delays in Forest Renewal Program	\$20,000
Delays in Forest Infrastructure Program	\$30,000
Defer Fire Infrastructure	\$161,600
Defer Telecommunications Improvements	\$196,000
Defer Water Control Programs	\$27,200
Delays in Roads/Bridges Program	\$467,100
Delays in Fisheries Infrastructure Programs	\$263,000
Delays in Field Infrastructure Programs	\$111,200

Total 1995/96 Capital Reduction **\$4,971,100**

Total MNR 1995/96 Budget Reduction **\$36,249,600**

2. Ministry of Natural Resources 1996/97 Fiscal Year

MNR 1996/97 Operating Budget Reductions
Announced April 11, 1996

Streamline Forest Management Activity	\$34,600,000
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Implement New Provincial Parks Business Plan	\$9,100,000
Withdrawal from Land-Use Planning	\$3,200,000
Rationalize Provincial Parks	\$5,200,000
Wind Down Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council	\$300,000
Streamline Data Acquisition and Management	\$2,000,000
Reduce Air Fleet	\$700,000
Rationalize Fire Program Bases	\$4,000,000
Reduce Resource Management Staffing	\$13,400,000
Reduce Regulatory Permitting	\$3,200,000
Eliminate Game and Fish Hearing Board	\$10,000
Internal Administrative Savings	\$13,900,000
Reduce Grants to Conservation Authorities	\$5,400,000
Eliminate Freight Equalization to Commercial Fishers	\$60,000
Rationalize Minor Transfer Payments	\$300,000

Total 1996/97 Operating Reductions **\$95,370,000**

MNR Capital 1996/97 Budget Reductions

Reductions to Parks, forest management, air fleet, land acquisition, telecommunications and transfers to Conservation Authorities	\$12,100,000
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Total Reductions to MNR 1996/97 Budget **\$107,470,000**

3. Ministry of Natural Resources 1997/98 Fiscal Year

MNR Operating Budget Reductions
Announced April 11, 1996

Streamline Forest Management Activity	\$45,900,000
Implement New Provincial Parks Business Plan	\$9,100,000
Withdrawal from Land-Use Planning	\$3,200,000
Rationalize Provincial Parks	\$5,200,000
Wind Down Temagami Comprehensive Planning Council	\$300,000
Streamline Data Acquisition and Management	\$6,500,000
Reduce Air Fleet	\$1,500,000
Rationalize Fire Program Bases	\$4,000,000
Reduce Resource Management Staffing	\$18,100,000
Reduce Regulatory Permitting	\$3,200,000
Eliminate Game and Fish Hearing Board	\$10,000
Internal Administrative Savings	\$16,700,000
Reduce Grants to Conservation Authorities	\$7,400,000
Eliminate Freight Equalization to Commercial Fishers	\$60,000
Rationalize Minor Transfer Payments	\$400,000

Total 1997/98 Operating Reductions **\$121,570,000**

MNR 1997/98 Capital Budget Reductions

Announced April 11, 1996

Reductions to Parks, forest management, air fleet,
land acquisition, telecommunications and
transfers to Conservation Authorities

\$15,800,000

Total Reductions to MNR 1997/98 Budget

\$137,370,000

Glossary of Acronyms Used

3Rs	- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
ACES	- Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards
AECL	- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited
AOX	- Adsorbable Organic Halides
CANDU	- Canadian Deuterium-Uranium Reactor
CCME	- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CFC	- Chlorofluorocarbons
CIPSI	- Canadian Industry Packaging Stewardship Initiative
COA	- Certificate of Approval
EAAC	- Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee
EBR	- Environmental Bill of Rights
EPA	- Environmental Protection Act
GO	- Government of Ontario
GTA	- Greater Toronto Area
HBFC	- Hydrobromofluorocarbons
HCFC	- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HFC	- Hydrofluorocarbons
IJC	- International Joint Commission
M	- Millions of dollars, Canadian
MISA	- Municipal - Industrial Strategy for Abatement
MNR	- Ministry of Natural Resources
MoEE	- Ministry of Environment and Energy (Ontario), also OMEE
MPPs	- Members of Provincial Parliament
MSW	- Municipal Solid Waste
MTO	- Ministry of Transportation (Ontario)
ODS	- Ozone Depleting Substances
OEB	- Ontario Energy Board
OECD	- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORTEE	- Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy
OWMC	- Ontario Waste Management Corporation
OWRA	- Ontario Water Resources Act
PCB	- Polychlorinated Biphenols
TSS	- Total Suspended Solids

