

Durham Regional Council appoints new Regional Chair



Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham would like to advise residents that Gerri Lynn O'Connor has been appointed to the position of Regional Chair. O'Connor will be officially sworn in shortly, making her the fifth Regional Chair, and the first female to hold

this role. O'Connor has 34 years of municipal experience, including 29 years as Mayor of the Township of Uxbridge. She is a long-time resident of Durham Region, having moved to Uxbridge, at the age of eight, from her hometown of North Bay. After earning a diploma from Shaw College, she held positions as assistant to a buyer for a major corporation and at a recording studio. Her interest in politics, however, was spearheaded while working as a reporter for a local newspaper; covering

the major decisions of Uxbridge Council. Hoping to make a change, O'Connor was elected, as a local councillor, in 1980; a Regional Councillor in 1982; and moved into the role of Mayor in 1985. Although she took a break in 2006, to focus on family, O'Connor returned to serve as Mayor in 2010. Throughout her time on Durham Regional Council, O'Connor has served as the Chair of the Planning & Economic Development Committee for 17 years. She was also Chair of the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for eight years. Under her leadership, Uxbridge has had significant improvements, including infrastructure (roads, culvert and sanitary sewer projects), enhanced community facilities

(a new fire hall, outdoor recreational spaces, and more), a designation as the Trail Capital of Canada (due to a network of trails that link to the Trans-Canada Trail and the Oak Ridges Trail), additional economic development opportunities, strong financial reserves, and various other initiatives. O'Connor will hold this position until November 30, 2018 (the current term of council). The Office of the Regional Chair was declared vacant today by Regional Council, after the passing of long-term Regional Chair Roger Anderson. Regional Councillors voted to move forward with the appointment of a current member; electing O'Connor to the role. It was believed that, with less than a year remaining in the current

term of council, a current Regional Councillor would have the experience and knowledge necessary to step into the role. In Ontario, the Municipal Act sets out the responsibilities of the Regional Chair. The Regional Chair is both the head of council and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Region. This position has a very important role to play—acting as the head of Durham Regional Council and Chief Executive Officer of the municipality; presiding over all meetings of Regional Council; being a member of all standing committees; promoting and advancing the Regional position on matters; and representing Durham Region on various boards, committees and organizations; and other significant duties.

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Doug Ford Makes Commitment to Fire Hydro One's \$6-Million Man

Ontario PC Leader Doug Ford announced his intention to fire the current CEO, as well as the entire Board, of Hydro One, and put an end to the Liberal practice of making millionaires on the backs of taxpayers, should the Ontario PCs form government after June 7.

"It is morally indefensible, at a time when seniors are fearful of heating their own homes, when businesses are closing down and good jobs are moving out of our province, and when taxpayers are facing financial hardships - all due to skyrocketing hydro bills - that this Board and this CEO are laughing themselves to the bank," said Ford. Ford's announcement came shortly after the release of a Fraser Institute collection of research essays confirming how the Wynne Liberal hydro mess has had a devastating impact on families and jobs including:

Residential electricity costs increased 71 per cent between 2008 and 2016, more than double the national average increase of 34 per cent.

In 2016, Toronto residents paid, on average, \$60 more a month for electricity than the average Canadian.

Large industrial users in Toronto saw electricity prices jump 46 per cent between 2010 and 2016, while the average increase in electricity costs for the rest of Canada was only 14 percent for large industrial users.

Ontario's high electricity prices reduced employment in manufacturing by some 75,000 jobs between 2008 and 2015.

Despite presiding over this unprecedented rip-off, the CEO of Hydro One was handsomely rewarded with a \$4.5 million salary, and \$1.7 million performance raise in 2017, and now earns a total of \$6.2 million a year.

"When families and seniors in Ontario are forced to choose between heating and eating, we have Liberal insiders and their friends getting rich on the backs of those struggling to make ends meet," Ford continued. "This has got to stop."

Under the Liberals' watch, since 2003, Ontario residents have seen their hydro bills triple,

adding up to more than \$1,000 a year for the average Ontario family.

"If the PCs are elected on June 7, and upon becoming Premier, my first act will be to use every tool available to the Government

of Ontario remove Kathleen Wynne's \$6 Million dollar man and the entire Board of Hydro One, and restore accountability and trust for the people of Ontario," concluded Ford.

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