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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

**\$4B+ Subsidy Included in Ford Government's
Massive Energy Storage Project Deal**
*Billions in carbon credits and infrastructure dollars
offered to the Federal Government*

Save Georgian Bay is calling on municipalities around Georgian Bay to adopt Resolutions in opposition to TC Energy's ("TCE") Ontario Pumped Storage Project and its \$4 billion++ subsidy.

Department of National Defence ("DND") documents, obtained through a federal Access to Information Process ("ATIP") request, show that TCE "have claimed that they have been willing to give DND the Greenhouse Gas Credits that will come with this project" and that "TCE has made the claim that [4th Canadian Division Training Centre] will be able to benefit directly from this project by drawing power directly from the site, which could be done at a reduced cost."

At \$170 per tonne, 490,000 tonnes in credits is worth \$83.3 million annually throughout the project's expected 50-year lifespan, which would amount to \$4.165 billion! "Why are we giving away carbon credits to the federal government when that benefit should be staying in Ontario?" Tom Buck of Save Georgian Bay questions.

The documents also show that TCE has "agreed to replace (at their cost) all affected infrastructure on and off-site" and that TCE will be "responsible for covering all costs" including "any costs incurred from clearing unexploded ordinance" from the land and water. Costs include building (or re-building) up to 43 new pieces of infrastructure. This is a massive federal military base upgrade that has nothing to do with Ontario taxpayers.

That's essentially cleaning up and re-building the base - a \$250 million subsidy, ultimately paid for by Ontario taxpayers, for the federal DND! "Why should Ontario taxpayers foot the bill for replacing federal military infrastructure?" Buck asks, adding "This deal, in so many ways, is just not fair to Ontarians. It's not good value for money."

Save Georgian Bay has enlisted the help of several retired engineers familiar with power generation and storage in Ontario. They are not convinced this project will even be needed when it finally comes on line, in 10 years.

If developed, the open-loop pumped storage facility would be co-located on the existing Canadian Army's 4th Canadian Division Training Centre, north of Meaford, Ontario. To function, the facility must pump 23 billion litres of water 150 metres up the Niagara Escarpment, dumping it into a man-made reservoir, and releasing it daily back into Georgian Bay. For context, that's 9,200 Olympic sized swimming pools worth of water in a hole the size of Toronto's High Park being flushed back down the escarpment every day. The project can't begin until a 375 acre hole (the size of 187 CFL football fields) is blown into the Niagara Escarpment to make the reservoir.

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Save Georgian Bay is a volunteer group of concerned citizens that oppose the TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project, a massive open-loop energy storage facility in Meaford Ontario, due to the significant and irreversible environmental harm to the escarpment and Georgian Bay it would cause.

Further information is available from:

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