



Update on Save Georgian Bay's Ongoing Efforts (and How You Can Help)

November 22, 2023

Dear Supporters of Save Georgian Bay,

As we approach the Minister of Energy's next announcement regarding the future of the proposed TC Energy Pumped Storage Project, expected at the end of November only a few short days from now, we want to update you on our recent findings, meetings with political leaders, audits/investigations we are requesting be undertaken, and how you can contribute to our efforts.

Newly Uncovered and Disturbing Information

We have continued our deep dive into the Department of National Defence ("DND") and Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO") documents received through the Access to Information and Privacy ("ATIP") process. We have recently uncovered the following disturbing information:

1. **Anti-Competitive Procurement:** The \$4-8 billion project is being evaluated under an anti-competitive, sole-sourced, rate-regulated approach, contrary to the Independent Electricity System Operator ("IESO") recommendation for a "competitive mechanism." The IESO is currently developing a "competitive mechanism." Minister Smith advised that future similar projects would be evaluated under that framework, but that there is no time to wait for the framework in order to evaluate this project within it. *Save Georgian Bay believes competitive quotes should be sought for the 1000 MW 8-hour, on-demand, carbon-free electricity need.*
2. **Politics over Consumer and Taxpayer Value:** Based on the analysis provided by the IESO, the Ontario Pumped Storage ("OPS") project is not forecasted to provide sufficient value to Ontario's electricity consumers. According to the IESO, "Based on the project's long development timeline, it is not expected to contribute to meeting short or medium term needs." Save Georgian Bay asserts that *by superseding the IESO's sound analysis and advancing the project through Gate 1, the Minister of Energy is prioritizing politics over the best interest of Ontario's electricity consumers.*

3. **\$4 Billion+ Subsidy to Federal Government:** Ontario (through TC Energy) has offered the Federal Government (through DND) the carbon credits associated with this project. At \$170 per tonne, the 490,000 tonnes in carbon credits is worth \$83.3 million annually, or an approximately \$4.165 billion subsidy across the lifetime of the project. *Save Georgian Bay argues that this substantial subsidy should remain in Ontario.*
4. **\$250 Million Subsidy for Rebuilding the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre:** Ontario electricity consumers and taxpayers (through TC Energy) will pay an estimated \$250 million for clearing unexploded ordnance (est. \$150m) and for new facilities (est. \$100m), *a burden Save Georgian Bay believes should not be placed on them.*

Political Relationships at Play

We have investigated the players involved in this project, discovering that *decision-making about this project is being inappropriately politically influenced.*

1. Save Georgian Bay has learned that **TC Energy's primary lobbyists are cozy with Minister Smith and Premier Ford.** Rubicon Strategy Inc. is headed by Kory Teneycke, Premier Ford's Campaign Manager, and Sussex Strategy Inc.'s executives have close ties to the Minister of Energy and Premier Ford.
2. Additionally, it has come to light that **undue political pressure to agree to "willing host" status was placed on our mayor** and council at the ROMA conference.

Meetings with Political Leaders

In the past few weeks, we had the opportunity to share our recent findings with various levels of government, meeting with **Hon. Todd Smith**, Minister of Energy, **Rick Byers**, MPP, and **several council members**. I am pleased to report that at these meetings our political representatives openly shared their thoughts about the project and patiently listened to ours. We gained valuable insights about where to focus our efforts.

We continue to seek opportunities to meet with **Steven Guilbeault**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada and **Andrea Khanjin**, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Requests for Audits and Investigations

As part of our ongoing efforts, in the coming days, Save Georgian Bay will make a request to the **Auditor General of Ontario** for an audit and to the **Integrity Commissioner of Ontario** for an investigation.

How You Can Help

We remain optimistic that these avenues will yield positive outcomes. Just as the Ford government reversed its decision on the Greenbelt, *we believe that the pumped storage project can be the next major reversal of a proposed project.* We need your help more than ever. Here's what you can do:

1. **Send a Letter** – Have your voice heard! You can send an easy “one-click” letter to our political representatives through the Georgian Bay Association here <https://gba.good.do/TCEpumpstorage/TCEpumpstorage/>
2. **Engage on Social Media** – Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). Re-post, share, and comment to expand our reach.
3. **Save the Bay Polar Dip** – It's almost that time of year again! Join us for the 3rd annual Save the Bay Polar Dip. Send us a message if you are interested in volunteering or stay tuned for your chance to sign up to dip!
4. **Financial Support** – Our dedicated volunteers power much of Save Georgian Bay's crucial work. At times, we enlist external professionals like consultants and lawyers, and the funds raised primarily cover their fees. Ongoing expenses include website hosting, social media subscriptions, communications, and advertising. Looking ahead, peer reviews of environmental studies will be a significant cost. Support our cause by contributing to uncovering facts, petitioning governments, and informing citizens about TC Energy's pumped storage project. Donate via our [Small Change Fund “Save the Bay Project”](#) for a tax receipt or directly on our [website](#).

Your support is crucial in our fight to Save Georgian Bay. Together, let's preserve the well-being and beauty of Southern Georgian Bay.

Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Tom Buck
for Save Georgian Bay
www.savegeorgianbay.ca