



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019—March 2020

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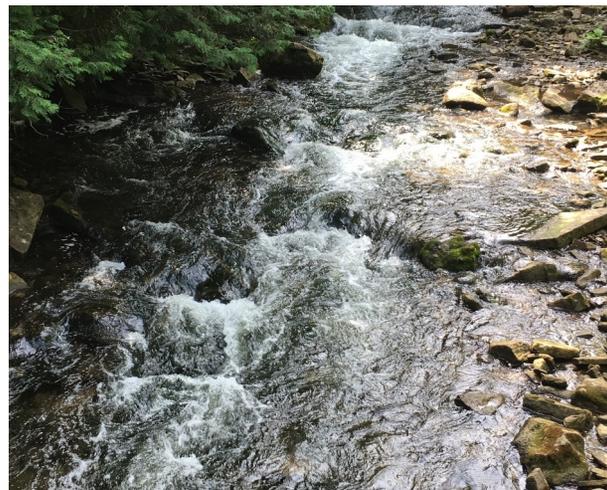
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About Pollution Probe

Pollution Probe is a Canadian charitable environmental organization that is a leading agent of change at the intersection of communities, health and environment. Since 1969, we have been defining environmental problems through research, promoting understanding through education and pressing for practical solutions through advocacy.



OUR MISSION

We seek to improve the health and well-being of Canadians by advancing policy that achieves positive, tangible environmental change.

OUR VISION

We aspire to be recognized as a leading source of information on environmental issues, to partner credibly with government and industry in developing environmental solutions, and to be a trusted voice on environmental policy.

OUR GOALS

We work to constantly improve our ability to discuss, educate and engage people with content that is current and thoroughly researched in order to create change.

OUR VALUES

Inclusive

We consider the interests of all those with a legitimate stake in an issue, and with them we seek opportunities to partner and to build coalitions of support for progressive policy.

Independent

In all business activities, we work to maintain our capacity to act independently in representing the needs of the general public.

Non-Partisan

We seek to work cooperatively with all levels of government and with all political parties to ensure that the environmental needs of current and future generations are addressed.

Results-Oriented

We choose issues and engage in activities when we judge that we may reasonably expect tangible results that improve the environment from our participation.

Focused

We undertake activities that are fundamentally directed at supporting and enabling policy change.

Evidence-Based

We are led by science, basing our positions upon sound research and objective analysis, rather than ideological labels.

Learning

We build our knowledge and capacity by constantly testing our assumptions and validating our impact by surveying our colleagues, by consulting experts and by maintaining an open mind when engaging stakeholders.

Innovative

We always seek new and effective means of achieving our mission, adapting our approach to advocacy as issues emerge and the market evolves.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (as at March 2020)

Chair

Sean Morley

Directors

Natasha Arsenijevich

Michael Brophy

Jennifer Hooper

Fiona Jones

Steve McCauley

Pierre Millette

John Roberts



INTERNS 2019–2020

Alex Christison – Research & Project Assistant

Jessie Gai – Research & Project Assistant

Sabah Ibrahim – Research & Project Assistant

Kelsey Morden – Research & Project Assistant

STAFF (as at March 2020)

Christopher Hilkene – Chief Executive Officer

Richard Carlson – Director, Energy Policy

Melissa DeYoung, PMP – Director, Policy & Programs

Mariana Eret – Policy Analyst

Sabah Ibrahim – Research & Communications Co-ordinator

Sid Markowski, CPA, CA – Director, Finance

Derek May – Senior Project Manager

Steve McCauley – Senior Director, Policy

Tatiana Slobodcicov, CFRE – Annual Giving Manager

Fern Tran – Senior Manager, Corporate Services



Statement from the Chief Executive Officer



We hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy as we navigate the uncharted waters of Coronavirus. I should be writing to you while rolling out our final 50th anniversary celebratory events and announcing exciting new projects. Instead, the team is working remotely and I am almost entirely focused on the well-being of staff and their families so that Pollution Probe can continue to work towards a clean, healthy environment for all.

The Coronavirus is affecting everything that Pollution Probe does. It has had financial impacts. It puts into question a number of projects we have been advancing. It is changing the way we deliver on-going projects. And it is changing the way we work amongst ourselves, as well as with our partners and stakeholders.

However, as I look back at our 50th anniversary and forward to an uncertain future I see a Pollution Probe well positioned to adapt and succeed. We are receiving support and encouraging outreach reaffirming the importance of our work. The team is bold in its thinking and ambitious in what it plans. We now have four robust program areas: Circular Economy, Energy, Great Lakes and Transportation, which address the most pressing environmental issues of our time. I am quite certain that these areas will be woven into Canada's economic recovery plans. We will be working to a better world. Energy and Transportation will be central to addressing climate change and maintaining the cleaner air we are experiencing as a result of lockdowns around the world. The Great Lakes will continue to be a key economic driver for both Canada and the US, and that economic success is dependent on the health of the lakes. A major threat to the Great Lakes is macro and microplastic pollution. Pollution Probe is a leader in all these areas and our help is being called upon.

Our 50th anniversary may not have ended on the high note we had anticipated, but the Coronavirus brings into focus the importance of Pollution Probe's work. We enter our Post 50 years with Pollution Probe's leadership being more important than ever. We are up to the challenge.

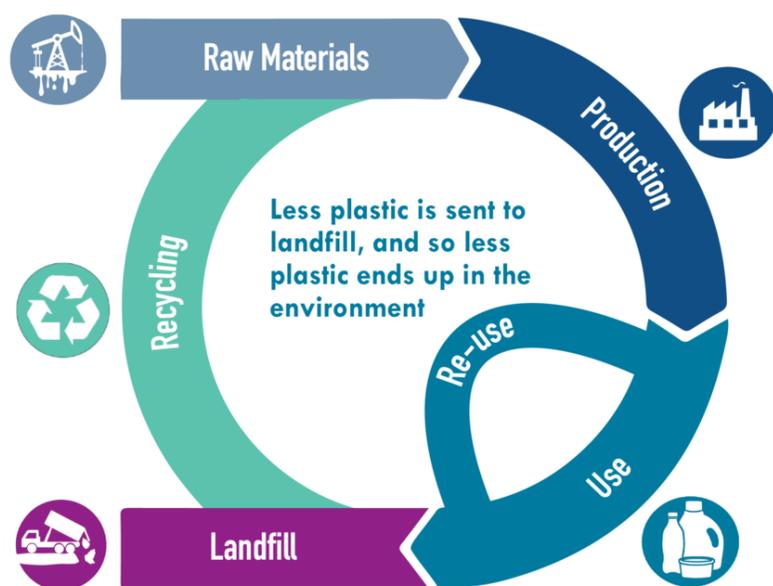
Our thoughts are with all of you. We hope you find this summary of our 50th anniversary pertinent and uplifting. Take care of yourselves and one another (from a distance). Thank you for your continued support of Pollution Probe.

Christopher Hilkene

Programs CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAM

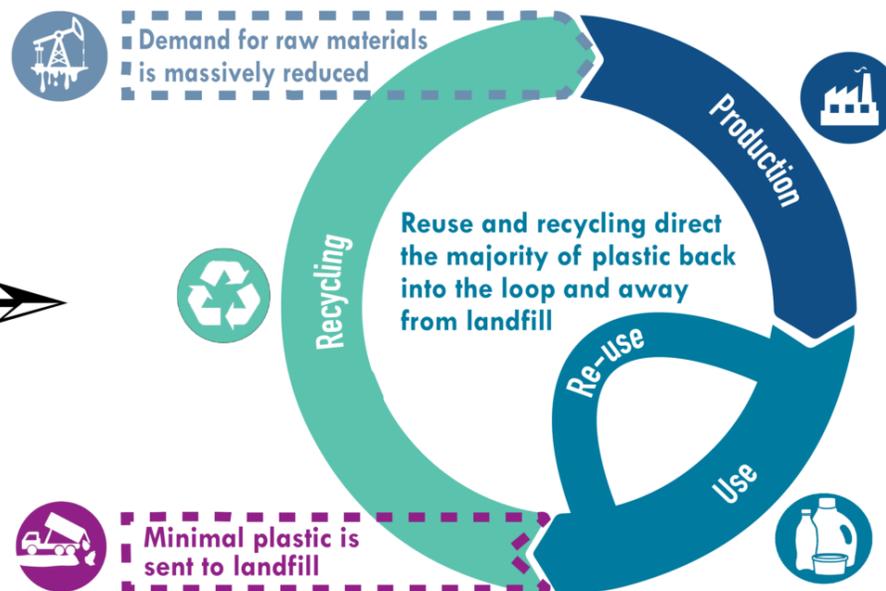
Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment – Canada-Wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste – Phase 2

Canada has adopted a vision of eliminating plastic waste and preventing plastic pollution in oceans, inland lakes and waterways. To advance this vision, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) approved in-principle, a Canada-Wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste and released Phase 1 of a Canada-Wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste focused on five priority result areas: product design, single-use plastics, collection systems, markets and recycling capacity. In January 2020, Pollution Probe was invited to act as regional partners for the CCME's Toronto Workshop to inform Phase 2 of the Action Plan. The workshop provided an opportunity for targeted sectors and subject-matter experts to help identify potential government actions related to consumer awareness, aquatic activities, research and monitoring, clean-up and global action.



Participation in Government Consultations and Committees

The organization continued its participation on a number of committees and working groups including the Government of Ontario's Food & Organic Waste Steering Committee. As a member of the committee, Pollution Probe is contributing to the province's mission to reduce the impact of food waste and organic material. The organization was also one of a select number of organizations invited to attend then Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Catherine McKenna's Toronto announcement of the federal government's plan to ban single-use plastics.



Memorandum of Understanding with the Toronto Zoo

In March 2020, Pollution Probe signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Toronto Zoo to advance common objectives, including a transition to a circular economy, particularly as it relates to plastic pollution, taking a holistic approach to conservation and exploring innovative, non-emitting energy resources. Based on their respective commitments to addressing plastic pollution in a meaningful way, the two organizations will initially explore opportunities to partner on educational initiatives that help raise awareness about the impact of plastics that end up in the environment.



Framework on a Circular Economy for Plastics

Pollution Probe, the Council of the Great Lakes Region and the Waste Wiki Project at York University convened an expert advisory group to explore critical plastic-related issues and the types of projects that could be prioritized in an effort to address them. Advisory group members include:

- Unilever
- Chemistry Industry Association of Canada
- Proctor & Gamble
- Ice River Springs
- NOVA Chemicals
- Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
- Wes Muir, Manor Hall Group, Veolia
- Clorox/GLAD
- Coca-Cola Ltd.



ENERGY PROGRAM

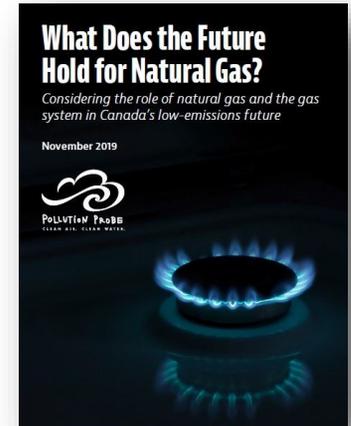
What Does the Future Hold for Natural Gas?

Considering the role of natural gas and the gas system in Canada's low-emissions future

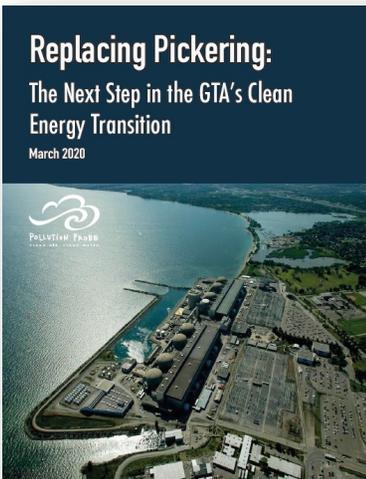
Natural gas and the natural gas system have the potential to play an important role in decarbonizing Canada's energy. Using results from an expert workshop, a public event and a literature review, we prepared a report analyzing the challenges and opportunities for the role of natural gas and the gas system to help map out the sector's options to reduce emissions while continuing to ensure that Canadians have access to reliable energy sources.

The report looks at a number of different ways the gas system could contribute, including increasing energy efficiency, district energy, and innovative technologies. The introduction of low-carbon gas, such as renewable natural gas or hydrogen, will be critical.

The project was supported by Enbridge Gas, SaskEnergy, ATCO, FortisBC and the Canadian Gas Association. Natural Resources Canada also participated in this project.



<https://www.pollutionprobe.org/wp-content/uploads/Future-of-Natural-Gas-November-2019.pdf>



<https://www.pollutionprobe.org/replacing-pickering/>

Replacing Pickering: The Next Step in the GTA's Clean Energy Transition

The Pickering Nuclear Generating Station has supplied clean electricity to Ontario (and the GTA in particular) for almost half a century and is now nearing retirement. As an important element of Ontario's low-emissions electricity system, finding a replacement solution – or solutions – that will keep the system clean must be a priority.

Using results from a literature review and a multi-stakeholder workshop with major utilities, government, industry and civil society, Pollution Probe's report shows that filling the gap with non-emitting options by when Pickering closes in 2025 is an ambitious goal, but it is achievable. What we heard was that increasing energy efficiency and developing small scale clean electricity solutions could fill the gap.

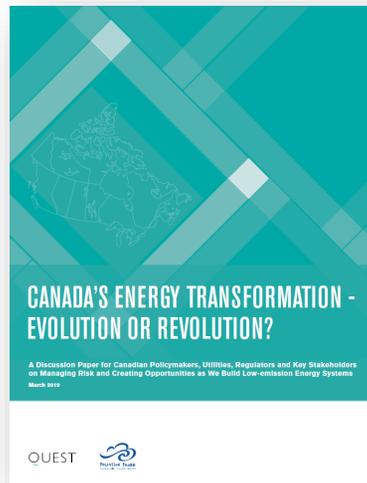
The project was supported by funding from The Atmospheric Fund.

Canada's Energy Transformation - Evolution or Revolution?

With funding from Natural Resources Canada, Pollution Probe and QUEST have developed a Discussion Paper that advances low-carbon innovation in Canada's energy sector.

This new energy paradigm has its sights set on the balance between centralized and decentralized energy systems, assumptions about future energy consumption, and low-carbon or zero carbon fuels. With no guarantee of a seamless transition into this future, uncertainties are creating risks for energy systems, policy-makers, regulators and consumers.

Through a literature review and a series of targeted interviews with energy sector stakeholders from across Canada and abroad, this Discussion Paper has classified the uniqueness of each jurisdiction while exploring the various commonalities between stakeholder experience to produce a detailed examination of the factors that advance or inhibit the achievements of a lower emissions strategy, and the rebalancing of energy systems.



<https://www.pollutionprobe.org/wp-content/uploads/Canadas-Energy-Transformation-Evolution-or-Revolution.pdf>



On April 25, 2019 Yasmin Ratansi, MP met with Pollution Probe, Quest and general public at Ontario Science Centre to announce a federal investment for Pollution Probe to study utility companies' regulations and policies to find innovative ways to manage energy demand and reduce emissions.

Smart Energy Communities Benchmark

In partnership with QUEST Canada, the Smart Energy Communities Benchmark (formerly Scorecard) is the first tool of its kind to help local governments and utilities understand where their community stands relative to its peers on a range of 10 critical community energy indicators. By driving action in each of the 10 areas, a community can capture the benefits of what we call a Smart Energy Community. Such a community benefits from new opportunities for local economic development, lower energy costs, a cleaner environment, and improved community resilience.

The Benchmark can be found at
<https://smartenergycommunities.ca>

Visualizing a Clean Energy Future

Using data from multiple Energy Futures projections, we created an interactive web tool explaining how the changes needed for Canada to meet its Paris Agreement emissions reductions targets might impact the lives of everyday Canadians. The project will continue to evolve as more and increasingly sophisticated data becomes available, providing further insights into what the future might hold.

The website can be found at
<https://www.pollutionprobefeatures.com>

Webinars

On Tuesday June 18, 2019, Energy Exchange held the webinar 'Pathways for the Future of Natural Gas'. With Canada needing to transition to a low-carbon economy, it's time to figure out the role of the natural gas system. Pollution Probe examined the challenges, opportunities, and areas for action on the topic.

On Tuesday September 17, 2019, Energy Exchange held the webinar 'Youth and Energy: A Growing Voice'. Canada's energy system is changing, and while everyone has a role to play, young people are becoming a stronger voice in the transition. The webinar had energy industry experts talking about the evolving role of youth in the sector and the challenges and opportunities when it comes to youth energy engagement. Speakers included Eryn Stewart, Indigenous Clean Energy and Lumos Energy, Lana Norton, Women of Powerline Technicians, Meredith Adler, Student Energy and Wesley Normington, Relay Education.



LIFE IN 2050

Policy Drinks and Workshops

On May 23, 2019, Pollution Probe brought energy experts to a Toronto pub for another Probe Policy Drinks, this one on the future of natural gas, and how the gas system could be used to help decarbonize our energy systems. Speakers included Alex Benzie from QUEST Canada, Robert Stasko from the Hydrogen Business Council. This Probe Policy Drinks was held the same day as our expert workshop on the future of natural gas.



GREAT LAKES PROGRAM

Pharmaceuticals & Citizen Science in the Great Lakes

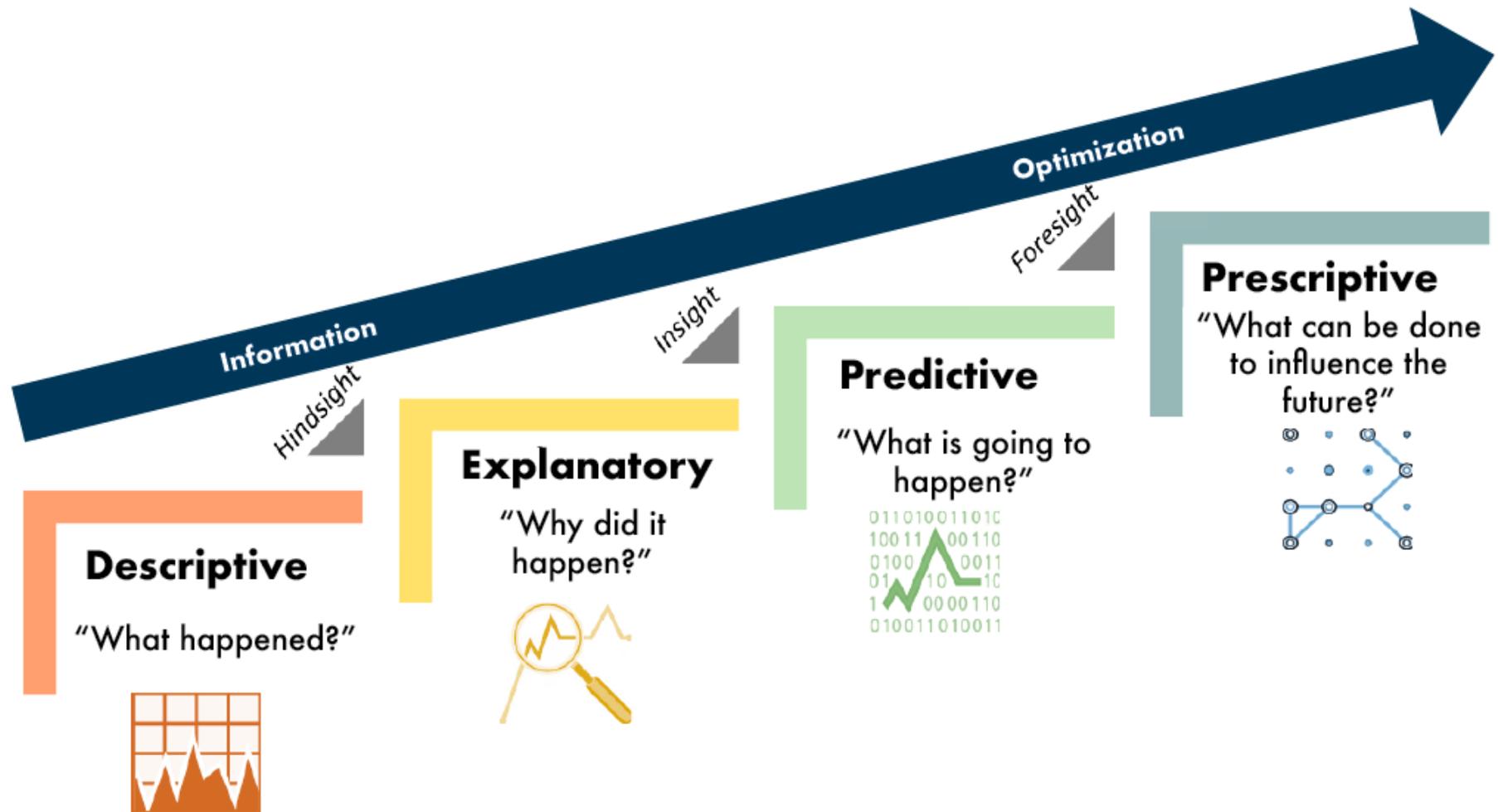
Pollution Probe’s report, Citizen Science in the Great Lakes: A Tool for Engagement on Pharmaceuticals and Other Emerging Issues, was completed in support of Environment and Climate Change Canada, and provides an overview of the types of processes and methods that should be considered by those looking to develop a citizen science program related to potential emerging contaminants, including pharmaceuticals, in the Great Lakes. The guide explores how citizen science can help to create a more complete picture of the pharmaceutical issue in the lakes, engage Canadians of all ages and walks of life in learning about and protecting them, and building a coordinated approach to research, analysis and action moving forward.



In support of this work, Pollution Probe was invited to be a part of the first-ever SETAC Connects event, held as part of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North American Conference, in Toronto on November 7, 2019. The conference attracts over 2000 attendees from around the world and the new program provided an opportunity for not-for-profit organizations to interact with scientists and promote the activities that they are working on. Science communication and citizen science sessions explored lessons learned and opportunities for collaboration with others working in the field.

Phase 2 of the Watershed Planning and Big Data Project

In partnership with the Council of the Great Lakes Region, Pollution Probe is working to improve watershed management through the use of innovative technology and data science. The initial phase of the project found that rethinking the ways in which we collect and process watershed data could greatly benefit the individuals and organizations involved in the management of Great Lakes watersheds. This past spring, the organizations partnered with tech giant IBM on a Big Data Design Thinking Workshop to begin designing a smart computing data platform that would help predict watershed trends and prescribe sustainable development practices in the Great Lakes Basin. The outcomes from this workshop will constitute the foundation upon which an innovative data platform will be built, providing a real-world tool capable of supporting the stakeholders and decision-makers working to protect the Great Lakes region and its vital resources.



Presentations and Participation in Government Consultations and Committees

In April 2019, Pollution Probe and the Council of the Great Lakes Region were invited to present at the Great Lakes Guardian Council meeting held at Ryerson University. The two organizations discussed the outcomes of their 2018 Great Lakes Plastics Forum, convened in Toronto, and how to effectively prevent and clean up plastic pollution on land and in our waterways. In addition, Pollution Probe's CEO, Christopher Hilkenne held a fireside chat with then Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honourable Rod Phillips, at the 10th annual Canada Water Summit, held in Collingwood, Ontario. The discussion covered topics ranging from the Great Lakes, wastewater, stormwater and water sustainability.



The Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA) is a 5-year work plan outlining how Canada and Ontario will work together to restore and protect the Great Lakes. The 2014 COA was set to expire in December 2019, and based on its extensive experience related to Great Lakes issues, Pollution Probe was invited to participate at the federal government's consultation to inform the development of a new draft agreement. This draft COA includes a new result on reducing plastic pollution in the Great Lakes Basin.

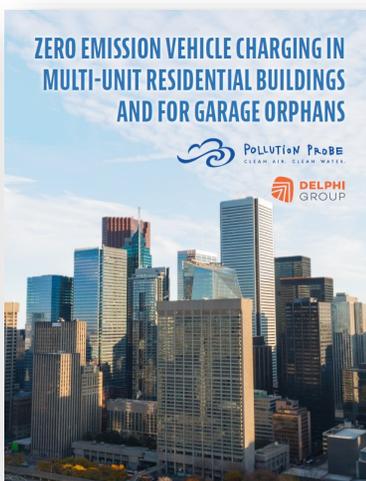
Pollution Probe continued in its role as a member of the Annex 3 Chemicals of Mutual Concern Executive Sub-committee in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annex contributes to the achievement of the objectives of the GLWQA by protecting the environment and human health through cooperative and coordinated measures to reduce the anthropogenic release of chemicals of mutual concern (CMCs) into the lakes. This includes the identification of CMCs, targeted action through preparation of binational strategies, monitoring and evaluation of the process and collaborating with stakeholders on science and research priorities, among other actions.

Pollution Probe was one of the only Canadian organizations to participate in the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Marine Debris workshop related to developing a Great Lakes Land-Based Marine Debris Action Plan. The workshop was held at the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium in Toledo, OH from August 28 - 29, 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to review work undertaken related to ensuring that the Great Lakes, its coasts, communities and wildlife are free from the impacts of marine debris and to develop a new action plan for the next five years.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Modal Optimization as a Contributor to Reducing GHG Emissions in Canada

The objective of this project was to identify modal optimization solutions that can be implemented by a variety of stakeholders and that will contribute to Canada's climate targets, including net zero by 2050, by improving energy efficiency across the transportation sector and determining the optimal way to move people, goods and services. The study examines trends, GHG reduction potential, economic impacts, key stakeholder groups, technology readiness, and optimal locations in Canada related to mode shifting.



<https://www.pollutionprobe.org/zev-charging-in-murbs/>

Zero Emission Vehicle Charging in Multi-Unit Residential Buildings and for Garage Orphans

This project culminated in the development of an actionable guidance document focused on the deployment of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) in multi-unit residential buildings and garage orphan households, targeted at key stakeholder groups such as all levels of government, EVSE providers, residential property developers and managers, and utilities. The project report outlines the unique barriers to zero emission vehicles charging faced by these residents and identifies best practices and potential solutions for addressing them. The research methodology for the study combined an in-depth literature review with a series of interviews with key subject matter experts and stakeholders.

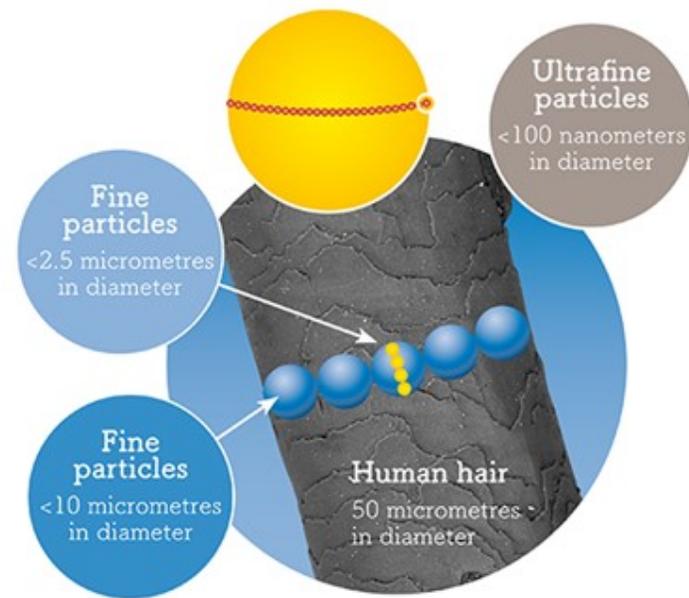


Opportunities for Low-Carbon Mobility Actions in Canadian Municipalities: Best Practices and Guidance

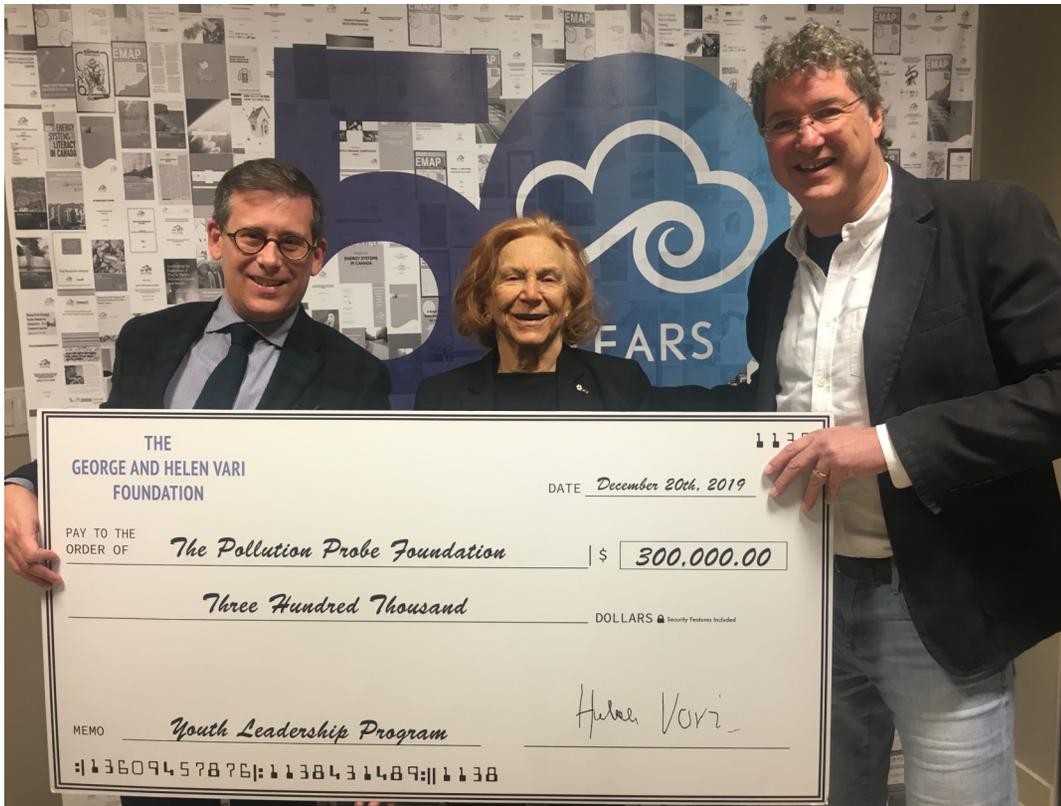
This comprehensive study explored a wide variety of collaborative actions that Canadian cities can lead to encourage the use of ZEVs across all modes of transport to address GHG and air pollutant emissions and alleviate congestion. The project report serves as a public-facing best practice guide for municipalities to inform the establishment of low-carbon mobility actions. Four broad areas for municipal action to encourage the use of ZEVs were identified: low-emission zones, restricted road access, parking space removal, and congestion pricing. These broad areas for actions were supplemented with 32 complementary areas on topics ranging from infrastructure and public transit, to financial levers, regulatory instruments, partnerships, and urban planning and design.

Workshop on Ultrafine Particle Emissions from Transportation

While CO2 emissions have been steadily declining in most vehicle classes, there are concerns that the introduction of certain fuel-saving technologies, such as gasoline direct injection (GDI) engines and turbochargers, has inadvertently caused a major spike in emissions of ultrafine particle (UFP) emissions, which can lead to adverse impacts on air quality and human health. This workshop, hosted in partnership with the University of Toronto's Transportation and Air Quality Research Group, showcased findings from top researchers in a variety of fields at the nexus of transportation and human health. It was attended by a wide range of experts from industry, government, academia and the not for profit sector.



THE GEORGE AND HELEN VARI FOUNDATION YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM



There is increasing recognition that young people will be at the forefront of addressing some of the most challenging environmental issues of our time. Youth across the globe are already playing an important role, striking in the name of climate change and banding together to demand meaningful change on critical environmental issues. It is evident that young people today will play a critical role in ensuring future environmental resources are effectively managed and protected.

This year, Pollution Probe established the George and Helen Vari Foundation Young Leaders Program to support young Canadians who are interested, or just starting out, in the environmental field.

The program will increase capacity-building across academic campuses and throughout communities by providing young people with greater opportunities to participate in, and contribute to, real environmental change. An investment in young people at this important stage in their careers will generate long-term benefits to the environmental community, academia, government, industry and the public, as they continue down the path to becoming future leaders and stewards of the environment.

As part of the program, Pollution Probe worked with fourth-year students at York University who were exploring innovative means of supporting students in recycling used paper cups on campus and reducing the amount of waste heading to landfill.



Events PADDLE THE DON

“Pollution Probe regrets to announce the untimely passing of the Don River and invites all grief-stricken parties to weep and gnash their teeth at a funeral!” - a poster in 1969.

Now, 50 years later, Pollution Probe team participated in the Paddle the Don event in Toronto. We were there to celebrate the revitalization that has occurred since then and to prompt thinking about the Don’s next 50 years.



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS SOCIAL

Sponsored by Power Workers' Union



The event brought together people from Probe's entire 50 year history. A panel made up of Brian Kelly (a founder), Ken Ogilvie (former ED), Bob Oliver (former ED) and Hon. John Godfrey shared their perspectives on Probe's past, present and aspirations for its future.



POLLUTION PROBE SOCIAL AND LUNCH & LEARN



Enjoying a nice summer day together



Probe's version of a fireside chat with our CEO



Lunch & Learn with guest speaker Jim Whitestone, former Assistant Deputy Minister, Climate Change and Environmental Policy Division, Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.



POLLUTION PROBE CONFERENCE & GALA *Past, Present & Future*

Conference

The 2019 Gala was preceded by a conference dedicated to planning for the next several decades of advancing real environmental change. Established and emerging environmental leaders from across the country were assembled at the conference and put to task on two desired outcomes: developing a vision for Canadian environmental stewardship out to 2050 and identifying key near-term actions that would support the fulfilment of that vision. To guide targeted discussions, the conference focused on four themes inspired by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals - **Energy & Transportation, Climate & Ecology, Circular Economy, and Society & Politics.**



<https://www.pollutionprobe.org/2019-gala-conference/>

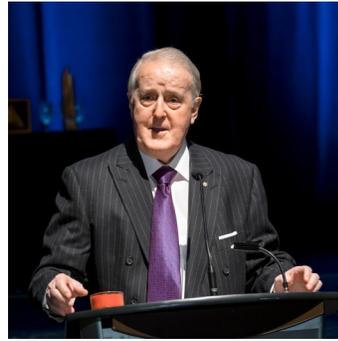
Networking Reception & Silent Auction

After the conference concluded guests were invited to attend a vibrant Networking Reception and Silent Auction, where they were able to relax after a day of thought-provoking and insightful discussions.



Gala Dinner

With close to 400 attendees including leaders across the full spectrum of the Canadian environmental sector, the Gala was a resounding success. We were privileged to welcome some extra-special guests – the Right Honourable M. Brian Mulroney, Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner Autumn Peltier, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and many more!



Pollution Probe Award

The 2019 Gala celebrations featured not one but three awards.

Rising Star Award

Autumn Peltier is a 15-year-old Anishinaabekwe and citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, a member First Nation of the Anishinabek Nation, and located on Manitoulin Island in Northern Ontario. She is a water protector, also referred to as a Water Warrior, who has been advocating for the protection of Nibi (water) and Mother Earth since the age of eight.



Environmental Leadership Award

The 2019 Environmental Leadership Award was presented to the Right Honourable M. Brian Mulroney. As Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney displayed exceptional commitment to environmental protection, negotiating the Canada-U.S. Acid Rain Accord and passing both the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and Canadian Environmental Protection Act.



Peter Middleton Legacy Award

The award was dedicated to Pollution Probe's early founders: John Coombs, Monte Hummel, Brian Kelly, Ruth Kelly, Ann Love, Geoff Love, and Peter Love.

Thank you to our 2019 Gala Sponsors

Gala Presenting Sponsor



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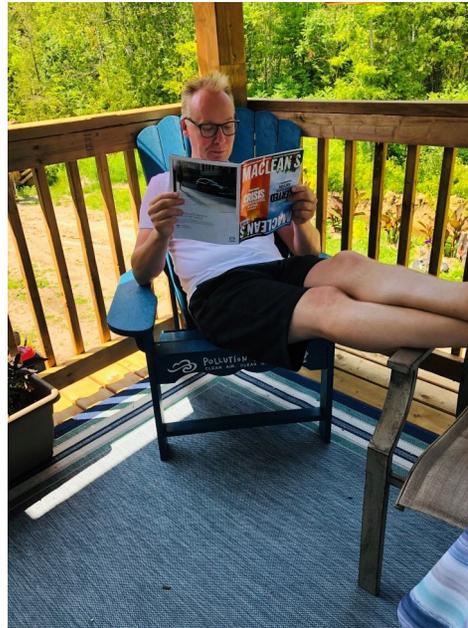
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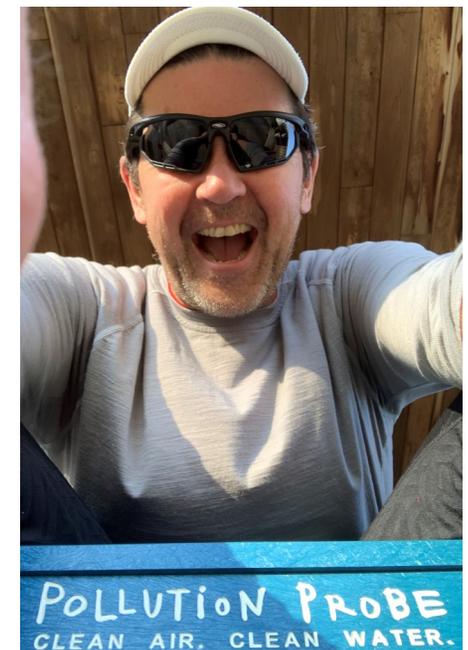


50 YEARS POLLUTION PROBE ADIRONDACK CHAIR



Our custom engraved 50th Anniversary Adirondack chairs are available thanks to our friends at Ice River. Each chair is made from over 27,000 recycled bottle caps. They are a living, breathing example of what can happen when you are all-in dedicated to a closed-loop plastics economy.

Our friends and supporters are excited to have them in the office, on their patio, at home and even at the Toronto Zoo.



Donor Recognition **SPONSORS AND MAJOR SUPPORTERS** April 2019 – March 2020

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Support Pollution Probe Today!

By giving your financial support to Pollution Probe, you join thousands of committed Canadians who are helping to ensure that clean air and clean water remain high on our national agenda.

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Financial Information - The Pollution Probe Foundation

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31

	2020	2019
Assets		
Current	\$ 676,921	\$ 720,813
Intangible and capital	7,526	13,759
	\$ 684,447	\$ 734,572
Liabilities		
Current	\$ 664,208	\$ 587,464
Net Assets		
Investment in capital and intangible assets	7,526	13,759
Unrestricted	(87,287)	33,349
Reserve fund	100,000	100,000
	\$ 684,447	\$ 734,572

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31

	2020	2019
Revenues		
Program contributions	\$ 1,079,154	\$ 1,606,102
Donations and other income	643,646	483,621
Total revenues	1,722,800	2,089,723
Total Expenses	1,849,669	2,112,148
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ (126,869)	\$ (22,245)

The presentation of the fiscal 2019/2020 Condensed Statement of Financial Position and Condensed Statement of Operations is derived from the Audited Statements of the Pollution Probe Foundation, as audited by Welch LLP.

Complete audited financial statements, including related notes to the financial statements, are available upon request from Pollution Probe.



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Our charitable registration number is **10809 2701 RR0001**