

**July 18, 2013**

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli  
Minister of Energy  
4th Floor, Hearst Block  
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1**

The Provincial Council of Women of Ontario (PCWO) congratulates you on your July 16th announcement that the Government of Ontario will “put consumers and conservation first” and “pursue all cost-effective conservation and efficiency measures before investing in new higher-cost power plants.” We also commend you for involving the public in discussions around the newly released background document, “Conservation First: A Renewed Vision for Energy Conservation in Ontario.”

PCWO has called for Government legislation, policies, and programs that promote renewable power, energy conservation and energy efficiencies as the least costly and pollutant energy sources since the mid 1970s, and over the last 20 years we have often encouraged the Government to move more solidly in this direction, with substantive investments.

Therefore, we very much appreciate your determination to thoroughly involve your Ministry in this promising area of planning and investment, which will see substantive environmental and economic benefits for Ontarians.

Nevertheless, PCWO is disturbed that while your Ministry’s “Conservation First: A Renewed Vision for Energy Conservation in Ontario” doesn’t touch on nuclear power, the Ministry’s latest, and accompanying, proposal “Ontario’s Long Term Energy Plan-Discussion Guide: Making Choices” recently placed on the Environmental Registry for comment, continues to include plans for two new nuclear reactors at Darlington. Costs for these reactors could well total over \$34 billion, which is not to mention

cost over-runs, waste burial plans having to be expanded and funded, and tax payer liability costs.

PCWO is therefore very disappointed that such strong Ministry support for the very costly and dangerous nuclear option remains, as Ontarians enter into discussions with your Ministry on moving energy conservation and efficiencies onto the “front burner.” This nuclear mind-set, if acted upon, will most certainly hold back a truly conservation and energy efficiency agenda and thwart Ontario’s efforts to move more quickly into a truly “green”, economically sustainable future.

Sincerely,  
Mary Potter, President

cc Angela Bischoff, Outreach Director, Ontario Clean Air Alliance