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## **MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT UNVEILS PLAN TO FIGHT SMOG IN ONTARIO**

*Industry participation key to reducing harmful air emissions*

TORONTO — The McGuinty government is cleaning up Ontario's air with a five-point action plan to reduce industrial air pollutants, Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky announced today.

“Clean, safe air is essential to protect the health of our people and our communities,” said Dombrowsky. “This government recognizes that reducing industrial emissions is long overdue. Our aggressive five-point plan for industry will help us reduce smog-causing air emissions.”

The five-point plan for cleaner air includes:

1. Applying tough nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) limits -- two of the most significant smog-causing pollutants -- to more industrial sectors than ever before.
2. Making the NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> limits even stricter in future years.
3. Setting tough new air standards, in some cases for the first time, for 29 harmful pollutants, including carcinogens and toxins that could pose a threat to human health.
4. Achieving a better picture of industrial emissions through updated technology.
5. A faster, risk-based approach to implementing new air standards.

Reducing industrial emissions complements the programs Ontario already has in place to reduce air pollution from the transportation and electricity sectors. The components of the five-point action plan are posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for public comment.

The Ontario Medical Association estimates that air pollution in Ontario leads to almost 1,900 premature deaths, 10,000 hospital admissions, 13,000 emergency room visits and 47 million sick days for employees each year. Smog worsens a number of health problems.

“We share a responsibility to protect the health of our people, and we will work with Ontario industries to ensure they contribute their fair share toward cleaner air for Ontarians,” Dombrowsky said. “By setting strong limits for harmful air pollutants and taking better approaches to implementing our air standards, we are delivering real, positive change to improve Ontarians' quality of life.”

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