



First public disclosure for the period 2010 to 2014

Nurses, Doctors Release New Coal Death Statistics

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Toronto—Doctors and nurses today made the first public disclosure of projected deaths from Ontario coal plants for the years 2010 to 2014.

At a Queen's Park press conference, they told reporters pollution from the plants will kill about 1,000 people during that period. The health experts called on the McGuinty government to close the facilities by the summer of 2010 – four years ahead of schedule.

“Ontario's coal plants are still killing almost 250 persons each year,” said Wendy Fucile, Past President of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. “And that's in addition to over 100,000 illnesses, such as asthma attacks, people suffer in Ontario. Nurses urge the McGuinty government to take a bold step and shut the plants this year to prevent these tragedies.”

Official energy agency forecasts show that, even without the coal plants, Ontario has 27% more electricity capacity than it will need in 2014.

“We can generate power from renewable sources such as wind and solar and use natural gas cleanly and efficiently instead of coal to easily keep the lights on,” said Jack Gibbons, Chair of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.

When Ontario's coal phase-out is complete, it will represent the single largest greenhouse gas emission reduction in North America – the equivalent of removing almost 7 million cars from our roads.

“We're asking Premier McGuinty to step up to the plate and close the coal plants before the G20 meeting in June,” said Dr. Hilary de Veber, a Board member of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. “Doing this will save a thousand lives. And what a tremendous way to showcase Ontario's climate leadership on the world stage!”

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