

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3 Tel: 416 314 6790

Email: Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Dear Mr. Yurek,

According to the Toronto Globe and Mail's Wency Leung, "scientists are now learning that chronic exposure to even relatively low levels of air pollution may increase people's risk of developing a whole host of **chronic diseases** – even those **affecting the brain**". She is citing the Chief of Environmental and Occupational health at Public Health Ontario.

We already know of the high numbers of "heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic pulmonary disease" related to **dust and fine particulate matter**. This new science calls on you to dramatically reduce the parts per million of dust to air in Ministry standards, and to cause the reduction of dust and PM2.5 particles in the air we breathe.

Take Oxford County as an example: After years of neglect under previous governments, a public hue and cry led to official of the MECP beginning monitoring in 2013. Even at that their results are likely questionable given the notifications they provide to some of the most obvious, visible offenders. Now Walker industries want to add to the peril of negative impacts to human and environmental health.

Walker seeks to

- Run more than 340 diesel trucks in and out of Oxford spewing fine particulate matter
- Haul in 7.4 million tonnes of trash and dump it into a quarry, raising dust storms of various materials.
- Cover the trash with contaminated soil, sending dust from various synthetics, organics etc. into the air which people breathe in the vicinity.

Due to the cumulative effects of these activities, "**every organ system can be impacted**" according to Kimberly Yolton, professor of pediatrics and director of research at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. In BC, Michael Mehta of Thompson Rivers University has been arguing for taking air pollution seriously. In the USA, Yolton and Dr. Kim Cecil have shown that myo-inositol levels are indicators that **children**, exposed to these hazards, are especially vulnerable.

I urge you to **prevent further damage** to the air of our region by stopping Walker's dump, to bring MECP standards in line with science in order to protect human health, and to act swiftly.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3 Tel: 416 314 6790

Email: Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Dear Mr. Yurek,

The David Suzuki Foundation has asked all its friends to consider “Why we vote”. “We have heard from thousands of citizens” writes Jodi Stark, of the Foundation.

I hope you too have been hearing from residents of Ontario about the many **environmental threats** facing us. One complex series of them relates to the **waters of the Thames River**. Lethal tides of blue-green algae in Lake Erie have already taken victims. It is clear that the Thames cannot continue to pump pollution into the Great Lakes. It is equally clear that **we cannot let Walker industries pump pollutants** into the Thames River.

Yet, dumping trash into the watershed is exactly what they plan. It will inevitably affect the waters of the Thames, the ground water flowing from Oxford towards Lake Erie, and the **drinking water** of communities in Southwestern Ontario. This is something you can stop. With luck, your future federal colleagues will help you protect human and environmental health.

For many, why we vote is for a party, an MPP, and your cabinet colleague who vowed to stop the dump. **Ernie Hardeman tells us that you will act.** We are counting on you to stop Walker’s dump plan.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3 Tel: 416 314 6790

Email: Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Dear Mr. Yurek,

In May of 2016, Walker Industries, the people who plan to haul tonnes of trash into Oxford County, said they would complete their Environmental Assessment studies and release them for “Government and Public Review” by December 19, 2018. That is only one of multiple **deadlines that they have missed**.

The public in Oxford County and Southwestern Ontario is highly interested in environmental issues. Comment, to the tune of 124 000 letters along with phone calls, visits to your ministry and our local MPP, emails and so on shows that. What’s harder to account for is Walker’s constant delays.

I would suggest, as have multiple scientists, is that it is impossible to say that Walker’s planned dump can be safe for the environment and for humans. **All liners leak**; synthetics, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, microplastics etc. will get into the water, air and land. These will be catastrophic and must be stopped.

It seems that Walker is close to a halt given their multiple recent announcements of delays. Please do not prolong the agony; **tell them it is over**; tell them “No dump in Oxford”.

People will thank you.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3 Tel: 416 314 6790

Email: Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Dear Mr. Yurek,

I am astonished that in 2019, Walker Industries continues to plan a dump in the headwaters of the Thames River, near Beachville. There are numerous reasons. One of the most persuasive for a legislator like you should be that **the plan infringes on the law.**

On April 13, 2015, then Chief R.K. Miskokomon of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation wrote your predecessor and others to say that “As a rights-bearing First Nation in southern Ontario, we are taking this opportunity to express our disapproval of the proposed landfill at the Carmeuse Lime (Canada) Beachville Operations”. This is the location where Walker plans to build a dump.

Further, he wrote that “we request a **cancellation of the Terms of Reference** for the proposed Landfill site” citing a number of factors including that

- “Aboriginal consultation **requirements have not been met by the Crown**”, an error that the previous government did not address
- “the siting of this landfill is within the site selection area for our **land claims** settlement lands”, a process with again the previous government did not resolve in truth and to reconciliation
- “future operation of the landfill may impact our aboriginal and treaty rights” including “our **ancestral fishing area**. George Henry, an elder and elected band counsellor frequently added that the Chippewas have a right to drink from the river and eat fish in it.
- “we have grave concerns” including “**cumulative effects**” which science tells us are not being properly measured or reduced.

The Chippewas of the Thames are not alone in objecting to Walker’s planned dump. Settler communities along the headwaters know it will be a **disaster for many in southwestern Ontario**, adjoining Great Lakes states, and provinces downstream.

All these give you more than enough reason to identify the error in the process under the previous government, the urgency of using valid science and good sense of respecting aboriginal and human rights by protecting the Thames waterway from Walker’s planned dump. I invite you to **fix this problem.**

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street

Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3 Tel: 416 314 6790

Email: Jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org

Dear Mr. Yurek,

What happens when **pollution flows downriver**? What happens when polluted rivers flow over and infiltrate aquifers? I am sure you can imagine.

What is actually happening already is that in downriver communities, people leave their houses “to go somewhere else to shower”. The **water is so contaminated** that touching the skin is a health hazard. When the family turn on the tales, “the smell is atrocious”.

You are no doubt **shocked** that this could be the case anywhere in Ontario. I am **appalled**. The quotations come from a person who lives in the Thames River basin near the Southwold-area dump known as Green Lane. Green, indeed! It not green; it is putrid.

Walker Industries want to add further insult and injury to the Thames River and its communities by building **another dump upriver** from Southwold and your constituency. Evidence shows that this should not happen. Walker’s dump needs to be stopped, by you.

The person sharing this information, a person of great faith and honesty, says to “please forward to whomever, if this is news”. I would assume it must be **news to you** because you are newly in the Environment portfolio. Otherwise, you would surely have acted to remedy the effects of Green Lane, and to prevent added catastrophes. Act swiftly.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: