

The Oshawa Express

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## **Durham needs a reality check**

Dear Editor,

At the conclusion of the G8 meeting and irrespective of the political statements that were issued, it is hard not to see the contrast between what this Country does and what it says.

We all know, except for a few "Reality Deniers", that there is an urgent need to take action to reduce CO2 emissions. Yet, Durham Council has joined the ranks of the deniers by voting to proceed with incineration. This is a project that will add significantly to the air-borne emission levels.

In addition, this will have an adverse impact on health, particularly cancers and respiratory troubles, as well as set the stage for the looming financial disaster that have always accompanied incineration, irrespective of what the "Spin Doctors" may have been saying. Then, there will also be the as-yet-unacknowledged adverse impacts on Local Agriculture.

It would be the epitome of folly to pretend on the international scene to aim for lower emission targets, yet willfully allow the problem to get worse at the local level.

This proposed incinerator is not something that was there before and that we are "stuck" with. Rather, it is a problem that we are creating NOW, when we are pretending elsewhere to be committed to environmental issues. The efforts of this Country should not be jeopardized by the ignorance and/or arrogance of petty politicians who shamelessly ignore the facts compiled and presented by individuals, often at great personal costs.

Moreover, the whole process has made it abundantly clear that the Environmental Assessment process is indeed "broken", as the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has pointed out.

The Federal Government must join forces IMMEDIATELY with the Provincial Government to see that such Crimes Against Humanity, and I do not use these words lightly, are not allowed to proceed, either in Durham Region or elsewhere in the Country. This means, amongst other things, shelving the non-sensical incinerator project, something that present and future generations will be immensely thankful for.

Durham Region desperately needs a reality check and the irresponsibility that the Regional Council has demonstrated should not go unchallenged. This is no time for empty rhetoric, but one for a coordinated action that involves jointly both the Federal and Provincial Governments.

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Oshawa