

Mayor Margaret Quirk
Town of Georgina Council
26557 Civic Centre Road, R.R. #2
Keswick, Ontario
L4P 3G1

November 30, 2023



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

SCOT DAVIDSON

Member of Parliament
York—Simcoe

Re: The Federal Carbon Tax is Unfairly Punishing Georgina Residents

Dear Mayor Quirk and Council,

I am writing regarding the federal carbon tax, which continues to negatively affect the residents of the Town of Georgina (and across York-Simcoe).

As you are aware, Georgina is made up of many rural, small town and suburban communities. It is well established that the federal carbon tax disproportionately affects rural and small-town Canadians more than those living in urban areas.

This is inevitable when homes and businesses are located further away from one another, and public transit and other means of transportation are limited. At the same time, reliable, alternative, efficient energy sources are inadequate, and access to critical services – like hospitals – is extremely challenging.

Residents of Georgina know first-hand these realities of day-to-day life in rural areas, realities that have been made even more difficult due to the rising cost of living, and the planned quadrupling of the carbon tax in the coming year.

While there exists a 10% (increasing to 20% in 2024) supplement for residents of small and rural communities as part of the federal Liberal government's climate action incentive payment (CAIP), **no resident of Georgina or York-Simcoe qualifies for it.**

Because of the manner in which the federal Liberal government determines eligibility for this rural top-up, residents of Georgina are classified as living in the 'Toronto' Census Metropolitan Area, and therefore receive the exact same CAIP as those living in urban areas.

To make matters worse, the federal Liberal government recently announced changes to this criteria to ensure that rural communities that were to be classified as urban in 2024 remain eligible for the rural supplement.

However, this does not affect communities like Georgina, which will continue to be excluded under the government's plans.

This is just further proof that this government is focused only on dividing Canadians. They are completely out of touch with the realities faced by everyday families in communities like ours.

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I am calling on the Mayor and Council of the Town of Georgina to join me in speaking out against the federal government for this decision, which is unfair and disproportionately punishes the residents of Keswick, Pefferlaw, Sutton, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and elsewhere across Georgina.

As His Majesty's Official Opposition, Canada's Conservatives have committed to axeing the inflationary carbon taxes for good and bring home lower prices for every York-Simcoe resident and all Canadians.

But so long as the federal carbon tax remains in place, you have a responsibility to help ensure that Georgina residents are not being punished by the carbon tax just because they call this community home.

I look forward to your support.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Scot Davidson', written in a cursive style.

Scot Davidson
Member of Parliament for York-Simcoe