

Ministry of the Environment

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**SUBJECT:** Response to petition in the Ontario Legislature

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**Sessional paper No. P-33**

Petition relating to the phasing out of the Drive Clean program

Mr. Harris (Tabled March 04, June 4, 2013)

Mr. Clark (Tabled March 19, April 16, 2013)

Mr. Wilson (Tabled April 8, May 15, 2013)

Mr. O'Toole (Tabled March 26, May 2, 2013)

Ms. Jones (Tabled April 16, May 7, May 14, 2013)

Mr. Milligan (Tabled April 16, 2013)

Mr. McNaughton (Tabled April 22, June 10, 2013)

Mr. MacLaren (Tabled April 29, 2013)

Mr. Smith (Tabled May 15, 2013)

Mr. McDonnell (Tabled May 16, 2013)

Mrs. Munro (Tabled May 16, June 6, 2013)

Mr. Hillier (Tabled May 29, 2013)

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**Response:**

The Ministry of the Environment is committed to reducing air emissions to better protect our health and environment. Motor vehicles are a major domestic source of smog-causing pollutants, responsible for more than 18 per cent of smog-causing pollution created in Ontario. Drive Clean ensures that Ontario's vehicles run cleaner, because even new vehicles can become excessive polluters if their emissions systems are not maintained.

Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario stated in his 2011/2012 annual report "The ECO supports Drive Clean because it identifies and requires the repair of vehicles that are releasing pollutants above provincial standards. Furthermore, emission technologies in vehicles, no matter how advanced, can

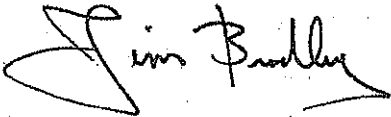
deteriorate over time. Drive Clean will ensure that vehicles remain well-maintained and do not evolve into old polluters" (2011/2012 Annual ECO Report Supplement).

The Drive Clean program is part of a multi-pronged approach to improving regional air quality by reducing emissions of smog-causing pollutants in Ontario. Smog poses a serious health threat, including respiratory and cardiac disease, increased hospitalization and premature death. The Ontario Medical Association reports that smog contributes to almost 9,500 premature deaths per year in Ontario.

Every year, emissions from Ontario cars are 36 per cent less as a result of the Drive Clean program. In fact, in 2010, the program prevented approximately 34,600 tonnes of smog-causing pollutants from being released into the air. That's like eliminating the smog-causing emissions of three average-sized coal plants.

On January 1, 2013, the government completed the modernization of the Drive Clean program by fully implementing a new computerized test called on-board diagnostics (OBD). In doing this, Ontario's Drive Clean program joins more than 30 North American vehicle inspection and maintenance programs that use this test technology.

Drive Clean is one of several ministry initiatives that play an important role in keeping our air clean.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bradley". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

The Honourable Jim Bradley  
Minister of the Environment