

*A message from Doug MacKenzie, C4CA Chair & Chief Executive Officer,  
on behalf of the Board of Directors*

Congratulations – and thanks!

Once again our community has stepped up to stand up for what's right.

More than 2,500 C4CA supporters descended on Queen's Park yesterday – many traveling on 42 buses chartered for the occasion – to rally against the proposed Oakville gas-fired power plant.

Our message? The proposed location makes no sense because there's no safety buffer and our airshed is already toxic.

Chants, drums, music and impassioned speakers got the attention of Premier Dalton McGuinty, who, when questioned by the news media, chose to respond that, rather than reconsider the location, he would be working to mitigate the community's fears.

Michael "Pinball" Clemons, who lives in Oakville, launched the rally with a "kids first" chant and urged the government to do the right thing.

I was pleased to welcome a number of special guests including Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, members of the clergy, Carol Chudy, Co-Chair Clean Affordable Energy Alliance, Peter Orphanos, Chairman of the Peel Region Sierra Club and Oakville Councilors Tom Adams, Keith Bird, Cathy Duddeck, Marc Grant, Alan Johnston, Max Khan, Jeff Knoll and Ralph Robinson.

Other speakers calling for reconsideration of the plan included Oakville Mayor Rob Burton and Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa and MP Terence Young, Oakville.

Liberal MPP Kevin Flynn, who represents Oakville, said he will introduce a private member's bill next week calling for a legislated setback from communities for any gas-fired plant constructed in Ontario.

The rally was organized by Nancy Robertson and her team of 100 volunteers. A CBC radio report Tuesday afternoon called the rally's organization "Olympic".

In fact, the story has been covered by every Toronto daily, our community newspapers, The Oakville Beaver and The Mississauga News, most television stations, as well as the CBC and other radio stations and dozens of blogs and Web-based news sites around the world.

While the online articles have drawn some negative comments charging "Nimby-ism", many positive comments have been contributed by C4CA supporters.

This isn't the first time the community has stepped up. When negative articles about Oakville were published in The Toronto Star, more than 100 letter-writers protested, standing up for our right to a safe community and clean air.

Again, thanks and congratulations to those who participated in the rally. It's that kind of determination that's going to win this campaign!

Citizens for Clean Air  
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