



Key Environmental Bills Stuck in the Legislative Pipeline in Ontario

By [Marc McAree](#), Partner and Certified Environmental Law Specialist
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February 21, 2014

The Ontario Government is hoping for quick action on four important proposed environmental bills currently stalled on the order paper. Given the instability of the current minority Government, there may only be a small window of opportunity to pass these proposed statutes before a provincial election is called (or forced):

- ◆ *Bill 6, the Great Lakes Protection Act, will establish a new Great Lakes Guardians' Council and require "public bodies" to undertake certain initiatives to protect and restore the ecological health of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin*
- ◆ *Bill 83, the Protection of Public Participation Act, will create a fast track judicial process for identifying and dismissing "strategic lawsuits against public participation" (SLAPPs)*
- ◆ *Bill 91, the Waste Reduction Act, will replace the current act with one based on "individual producer responsibility" and a revamped Blue Box funding formula*
- ◆ *Bill 138, the Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act, will add Part VI.1 to the Environmental Protection Act to prohibit the use of coal to generate electricity at certain specified facilities after December 31, 2014.*

Environment Minister Requests Programming Motion

Environment Minister Jim Bradley has asked the opposition NDP to support a "programming motion". This may untangle the procedural deadlock and "secure quick passage" for the proposed environmental legislation. The motion will serve to:

- ◆ Schedule committee meetings for Bill 6, the *Great Lakes Protection Act*, then schedule two hours of Third Reading debate followed by a final vote
- ◆ Send Bill 83, the *Protection of Public Participation Act*, to an immediate Second Reading vote, then schedule committee hearings followed by two hours of Third Reading debate and a final vote
- ◆ Send Bill 91, the *Waste Reduction Act*, to committee where the Government will table amendments
- ◆ Send Bill 138, the *Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act*, to committee.

Current Status of Bills

Bill	Status	Willms & Shier Law Report
Bill 6, <i>Great Lakes Protection Act</i>	1 st Reading Feb. 25, 2013, carried 2 nd Reading on Oct. 9, 2013, and sent to Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills	See June 2012 publication
Bill 83, <i>Protection of Public Participation Act</i>	1 st Reading June 4, 2013, subject to 5 days of 2 nd Reading debate	See September 2013 publication
Bill 91, <i>Waste Reduction Act</i>	1 st Reading June 6, 2013, subject to 16 days of 2 nd Reading debate	See June 2013 publication
Bill 138, <i>Ending Coal for Cleaner Air Act</i>	1 st Reading Nov. 25, 2013	

We will report on future developments as they arise.

[Marc McAree](#) is a partner at *Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP* in Toronto and is certified as a Specialist in Environmental Law by The Law Society of Upper Canada. You can reach Marc at 416-862-4820 or at mmcaree@willmsshier.com.

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