

From: **Mike Sullivan, NDP** mike.sullivan@yswndp.ca  
Subject: **Fired up over a new gas plant in our community**  
Date: **January 11, 2016 at 9:53 AM**  
To: **Adam** adam@westonweb.ca

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Dear Neighbours and Friends

Many of you will have by now seen [this article in the Toronto Star about the discovery by the residents of Mount Dennis that the province intends to place a gas generating station on the Kodak site](#). The ostensible excuse is that it will exist as backup power for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. What? Are we that gullible? Has the province determined that the privatized Ontario Hydro will become so unreliable that we will need a gas plant to back up power for a transit line? And where's the gas plant for the University Line? Maybe the residents of Forest Hill should expect one soon. Where's the gas plant for the Bloor line? Riverdale? High Park?

Residents of Mount Dennis are correct in objecting. This plant will be part of the for-profit private sector contract for the maintenance of the LRT. It is unreasonable to expect it will only run in 'emergencies'. It will generate power to the provincial grid whenever it is profitable to do so. And as the residents point out, the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity flies in the face of our need to dramatically reduce our carbon emissions. [This recent National Geographic article](#) points out that gas is only slightly better than coal.

Where's the technological advances the rest of the world uses? In Spain the subway is set up so that when one train brakes it generates electricity so another can accelerate. They have already saved 15% of their energy costs, which meant they didn't have to raise fares. In addition, [Spain now provides free car charging stations](#) using the regenerative braking of their transit system.

[Batteries and flywheels are already being used in the US](#) to store braking energy which could lead to a 30% reduction in energy use. Why can't we do the same?

As the world heats up and polar ice caps melt, we should be doing everything we can to avoid burning fossil fuels. Period. Solar Panels on the massive roof of the maintenance facility would be a much greener choice, if Wynne's privatized Ontario Hydro is to be that unreliable.

As always, you can email me your thoughts on this or anything else at [MikeDSullivan@gmail.com](mailto:MikeDSullivan@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

**Mike Sullivan**  
**Former MP**  
**York South - Weston**

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