



This copy is for your personal non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies of Toronto Star content for distribution to colleagues, clients or customers, or inquire about permissions/licensing, please go to: [www.TorontoStarReprints.com](http://www.TorontoStarReprints.com)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINION

# Peterborough letter: Piccini could prove himself via Catchacoma forest

Fri., July 16, 2021 | 2 min. read

## Engaging with youth is key to climate future: Piccini, June 21

To all appearances, David Piccini, Rob Ford's new appointee to head up Ontario's environment ministry, has his priorities right.

But let's clear the air a bit before we throw our hats into it.

Ford's appointment of Piccini comes suspiciously late in the game. The current Queen's Park administration is openly pro business, and demonstrably delinquent in recognizing and planning for the environment, the climate crisis, and a low-carbon-emissions economy.

Some might see Piccini's appointment as a last-minute bone thrown to those many voters for whom planetary health is the seminal issue of our time. For Piccini, that's a dismal backdrop to transcend. And Piccini says he has no apologies for the premier's cancellation of more than 800 renewable energy projects in 2018.

Not exactly a pitch for the environment. Now, Piccini's litmus test will be his capacity to further a mission that runs counter to Ford's pro-business agenda. For a neophyte that's a tall order.

News reports quote the words of a new minister who has yet to prove himself.

But Peterborough folks are fair, and it behooves us to give Piccini a chance.

For starters, it would be easy pickins for Piccini to advance the province's goal of adding new protected areas, a goal that has been dismally stuck at 10.7 per cent for over 10 years. And the Catchacoma Old-Growth Hemlock Forest, just north of his riding is honourably harvestable low-hanging fruit.

The Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee has worked for 2 years with a range of players to save this rare forest stand from logging, with the notable lack of constructive input from the Ministry of the Environment despite many meetings and submissions of compelling research and data.

Ontario has a failing grade on several fronts when it comes to the environment, but most significantly from Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk. My guess is that Piccini is in a position to stop the current threat of more Catchacoma wreckage

with a stroke of the pen.

In so doing, he could begin the honourable course of moving this province out of the environmental tar pits and into the realm of progressive and far sighted climate crisis prevention.

*Peter Currier, Wolsely Street*

## YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...



### PETERBOROUGH REGION

No new COVID-19 cases in Peterborough, active cases fall, but a new outbreak has been declared

1 day ago

