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**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF ONTARIO’S LITTER LAWS SOUGHT**

**TORONTO (November 20, 2012)** Two Toronto residents have applied to have Environmental Commissioner of Ontario Gord Miller review the provincial Ministry of the Environment’s lack of attention to littering.

Sheila White and Alex King, of Scarborough, have filed their 106-page application under Section 61 of Ontario’s Environmental Bill of Rights asking Miller to get Ontario paying attention to littering and litter prevention.

“Littering is about as common as high blood pressure. Ontario’s environment ministry should be looking at ways to help prevent it,” said White. “Municipalities pay the entire cost of littering without any help from the government or industry product stewardship programs. The province should be actively engaged in litter reduction and prevention.”

The last time Ontario examined littering was in 1977 when Premier Bill Davis established a Litter Control Commission, prior to the Blue Box recycling era.

“Our biggest concern is for the environment,” said King. “Littering has many costs, yet education, enforcement, legislation and policy leave much to be desired.”

Other jurisdictions such as the UK, Australia, USA, other Canadian provinces, Singapore, even Borneo are leaps ahead of Ontario in addressing littering as a green crime, an anti-social, ‘gateway’ behaviour. In Ontario, there are two ineffective laws and little else, White says.

King and White operate the Litter Prevention Program, a live, interactive performance that teaches people not to litter, and [www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com), a free resource. Their goal is to reduce the rate of people who litter, estimated conservatively at three in ten and as high as 75 per cent. They’ve been studying the perpetual problem of litter since 1999 and developed their program, involving music and audience involvement, through their work with clean-up days as community leaders.

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For more information, contact

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[litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)