



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

## JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

Member's Statement

April 25, 2005

Mr. Speaker:

Imagine my shock this past Friday when I received a copy of a Liberal Party press release stating that our Leader, John Tory, was calling for a funding cut to Ontario municipalities and that I was calling for a cut to municipalities in my riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth!

Speaker the press release was targeted at P.C. held ridings and quoted the Member for Perth-Middlesex in an attempt to deflect some of the heat that he is taking in his own riding for the beating some of his own communities are taking under this Liberal Government plan that actually reduces the grants to municipalities by 47 million dollars.

Speaker, I reiterate the challenge issued by our Leader, John Tory: that the Member from Perth-Middlesex produce one quote that supports his claim, or issue a retraction immediately.

Speaker, we know that municipal governments across the province are extremely upset with the impact these Liberal cuts are going to have on their ability to provide services to their ratepayers. We also know that politics can sometimes be rough, but spreading this kind of misinformation is a new low, even for the McGuinty Liberals.

Speaker our party is committed to fighting for a fair deal for municipalities. We have continually urged the government to honour its promise to communities.

As for the Member from Perth-Middlesex, I would urge him to return to the principles of truth and honesty. At the end of the day, they are far more important than getting a taxpayer-funded car and driver as a reward for blind obedience.