



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

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

### MEMBERS' STATEMENT

April 26, 2006

#### Energy Costs

**Mr. John Yakabuski (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** When politics trump need, the people are always the ones left to pay the price. This is becoming clearer every day here in Ontario.

When Dalton McGuinty was in opposition, he knew that his promise to shut down almost a quarter of the province's generational capacity was total nonsense. He knew that, at a time when our supply was tenuous, shutting off the power to almost two million homes was not the responsible thing to do. He knew that he could not follow through with his commitment. Experienced people in his caucus and industry leaders told him so.

He knew that any alternatives to coal-fired generation would be much costlier even than clean coal technology. He knew that natural gas plants were sitting idle all over North America because they were too expensive to operate. He knew that power from wind would be very expensive, impossible to control and therefore unreliable. He knew that his energy policy would place extreme financial hardship on the people of Ontario.

Do you know what? None of that ever mattered to Dalton McGuinty because he didn't care. He focused on one goal: to be Premier. The facts were never an issue if they got in the way of his goal.

Well, people are now paying the price here in McGuinty's Ontario: \$2,000 per family per year in new taxes and fees; skyrocketing property taxes; gas prices and mortgage rates on the rise. Couple this with the certainty of still higher electricity prices, already up 55% under this regime, and Ontarians have come to the conclusion that in October 2007 it will be time for Dalton McGuinty to pay the price.

