



Legislative Assembly

**JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP**  
**Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Yakabuski Calls Promissory Note for Municipalities**

Queen's Park, Toronto - John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and PC Party Critic for Management Board, is demanding that Liberal Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretsen act in good faith and pay his bills. Yakabuski's question of the Minister in the Ontario Legislative Assembly today followed concerns expressed by Bob Sweet, Warden of Renfrew County and Chair of the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, about the money Eastern Ontario municipalities are owed for provincial services such as social housing, child care and ambulance services.

Municipalities are troubled about Gerretsen's announcement at the annual conference of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association for a \$200 million transition fund—an amount that is expected to cover the entire province. According to the Minister's announcement, the fund would “focus on” what the province owes municipalities for 2003. Municipalities say the amount is incredibly inadequate for the expenses they incurred on behalf of the province, plus there was absolutely no mention of re-imbusement for 2004.

Yakabuski pointed out in the legislature that one of the Liberals' promises in the last election was for guaranteed, stable, long-term funding for municipalities. “Pay them today,” said Yakabuski. Yakabuski later commented, “since broken promises have been the mantra of the McGuinty Liberal Government, it is difficult for municipal representatives to trust that the government will forward the money owed in its full amount and in a timely fashion.”

Yakabuski added, “As a former Mayor, the Minister should know that it is impossible for municipalities to prepare their 2005 budgets without some certainty that they will actually get the money the province owes the municipalities for both 2003 and 2004.”

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For further information or a personal interview contact John Yakabuski at 416-325-2170 or 613-735-6627