



## *Message from Queen's Park*



*Monthly Column by MPP John Yakabuski*

June 29, 2009

After John Tory lost his bid to return to the Ontario Legislature on March 5th, 2009, our Progressive Conservative Party was left with the question of who would lead it. That question was answered this past Saturday when Niagara-West Glanbrook MPP, Tim Hudak was chosen as our new leader. Mr. Hudak defeated fellow MPP'S Christine Elliott, Randy Hillier and Frank Klees in a "one member - one vote" leadership race.

This was indeed a spirited contest with each candidate doing their very best to articulate why they should lead the PC Party into the next election in October 2011. While it was, as I said an exciting contest, when the final results were announced around 5:30 p.m. at a Markham Hotel declaring Hudak the winner, the four combatants emerged as one in their commitment to defeat Dalton McGuinty and the Liberal government when we next go to the polls. Hudak wasted no time, immediately asking his former rivals to join with him and all PC's to ensure that we are united and strong. He made it clear that we must take Ontario down a different path than the current government is heading. Between now and then, we will develop the policies and platform to do just that.

The recent on-going scandal at e-health, is an example of how this Premier and his government have grown arrogant believing they are not accountable for the messes of their own creation. This agency doled out millions in untendered contracts to firms with liberal party connections and allowed consultants to live like kings. These people were being paid up to \$2,750. per day to chat with each other and sometimes just to themselves. Over 700 million dollars has been spent over the last six years without producing any results. Not a single Electronic Health Record to show for it. When this scandal broke, the Premier and Health Minister, David Caplan reacted by defending Sarah Kramer and Dr. Alan Hudson. As the facts came out and showed this agency to be completely out of control with no regard for taxpayers money, they had no choice but to dump Kramer. She was shown the door but not before receiving \$314,000 of your money, to go quietly. When the scandal only deepened, the premier's hand-picked boy, Dr. Hudson, resigned as well. Now McGuinty says, we have made changes so that this disregard for taxpayers money won't be repeated. It's like closing the barn door after the horses have left.

We live in a political system and it is the politicians who must be held accountable for those working under their direction. The scandal at e-health demands accountability from former Health Minister, George Smitherman, who oversaw the first 5 years, David Caplan and

Dalton McGuinty himself. When they were in opposition, they screamed for minister's heads when even a hint of the smell of scandal was in the air. At e-health the stench is putrid and still they refuse to take responsibility. Arrogance rules in McGuinty's Ontario. 2011 can't come soon enough.

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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Office Contact Information:

Constituency Office  
84 Isabella St.  
Pembroke, ON  
K8A 5S5

[john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org)

Queen's Park Office  
Room 202 N.W., Legislative Building  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A8

[john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org)