



## *Message from Queen's Park*



*Monthly Column by MPP John Yakabuski*

April 6, 2009

Bill 150, The Green Energy Act which has passed second reading in the Legislature, goes to committee hearings this week. There will be four days of hearings in Toronto, April 6th, 8th, 20th and 21st. The Legislature will break for the week of April 13th. During that week I will travel with the committee to hold hearings in Sault Ste Marie, London and Ottawa. I had requested seven days of committee travel so that all parts of Ontario could be heard from. The liberals would only agree to three. The fact that there are about 3 times as many presenters requesting to appear before the committee as there are spots to accommodate them, should indicate that there is much legitimate concern out there with the impact of this legislation. Energy Minister, George Smitherman would have you believe that anyone who speaks against the act is just against green energy. He feels that their concerns over price of power, health effects of turbines or protection of property should have no avenue to voice their objectives. We disagree!! All Ontarians have a right to be heard. How can we possibly make good decisions if we only listen to one side of an issue? While we were not able to accommodate all requests from Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, we were successful in securing spots for a number of them. I look forward to the presentations. The liberals have tried to STIFFLE debate on this issue and we can't let that happen.

The McGuinty Liberals tabled the budget on March 26th and folks it's going to cost you a pile. So many of the goods and services we purchase today that are exempt from provincial sales tax will now be subject to an extra 8% levy as a result of their decision to proceed with a "Harmonized Sales Tax" effective July 1st, 2010. Who can avoid buying such essentials as gasoline, natural gas, propane, home heating oil and electricity. Well tack on another 8%. Now that's going to hurt those who can least afford it. Even if you can somehow do without these (no one I know comes to mind) one thing none of us can avoid is dying. Under this plan funeral services will now be subject to a further 8% tax. As the saying goes, McGuinty is "Gonna get you comin and goin." To make the trip a little easier though he's going to bribe you with between \$300 and \$1000 of your own money. The last installment will come just prior to the 2011 election. How cynical!! McGuinty knows this is a tax grab pure and simple. He knows that down the road he will reap huge amounts of your hard earned money from this tax. Otherwise, he would not be trying to buy you off with his one year offer of a little sugar to help the medicine go down. His payment to you will stop after one year but he'll keep taking it from you until he's cleaned out the pockets of the last suit you'll ever wear. Don't let him get away with it. Come October 2011 we need to send this tax addicted bunch on a trip of their own, "OUT OF OFFICE!"

Happy Easter to all  
Christ is Risen!

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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