



Message from Queen's Park



Monthly Column by MPP John Yakabuski

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Three weeks into the fall session it's clear that our battle to protect taxpayers from the McGuinty government's addiction to your hard earned money will go on for some time.

The lines are becoming more entrenched as the Premier sends out his MPP's to sell this new tax to the public. They're trying to convince people that a \$2.5 billion dollar a year tax grab will be good for them. They want people to believe that paying 8% more for the things they can't do without will somehow be a benefit. We know that just isn't true.

From a senior living alone, to a family of two adults and four children, everyone will feel the hurt that this tax will inflict on their finances.

When you get through paying the extra 8% on your hydro, your heating, and your gasoline for your vehicle, if you have anything left they'll want a piece of that too.

A senior couple who enjoys golf for example, and budget carefully in order to do so, will find that the cost is going up 8%. A family who enrolls their children in minor hockey will also see these fees going up. With the tax being applied to ice rentals that cost will have to be passed on to the users. If families are forced to pull their kids out of hockey because they simply can't afford it any longer as a result of this tax grab, that will be truly regrettable. It will not only be unfair to the family who was forced to pull their kids, it will mean the remaining ones will have to pay more.

With less kids enrolled, and the rate per player higher, it is likely that other parents will soon be forced to pull theirs causing rates to rise again.

You can see where I'm going here, can't you.

The liberals would have you believe that there is broad support for this tax. To be fair some business spokespeople do support the idea of a blended system from the point of view of administering it. Let's be clear. Small businesses, you know, the ones you visit everyday, the ones who live in your community, well, they overwhelmingly oppose this.

As the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) Ontario Director Satinder Chera said, “Governments have clearly dropped the ball in their handling of this critical tax reform initiative.”

As I travel through my riding, everywhere I go, the message is the same. People are angry and worried. They plead with us to do everything we can to stop the government from bringing in this tax. As one senior widow said to me, “I’m struggling to pay my gas and hydro bills now. I just don’t see how Ill be able to do it if they add this tax onto them.”

Our Leader Tim Hudak and our entire Caucus have pledged to fight this tax grab tooth and nail. Here’s how you can help us. Go to www.daltonsalestax.com and join the online petition or call my office and we will let you know where you can sign one of my petitions which calls on the government to reverse its plan to go ahead with this new tax.

Together let’s hope we can get the message across to the liberal government that the people say NO!

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