



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

NEWS RELEASE

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Yakabuski named Energy Critic in Opposition Shadow Cabinet

Queen's Park – Opposition Leader John Tory yesterday announced several changes to critic portfolio's and assigned Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski the role of energy critic, an important position in the opposition shadow cabinet and a portfolio which Mr. Yakabuski says he is eager to pursue. These are changes that come to re-align Progressive Conservative Caucus members with the government's new ministerial portfolios.

Noting endless broken promises and gross negligence on the energy file Yakabuski stated that he intends to hold Dalton McGuinty and his government to account for problems that have plagued Ontario's energy sector since the liberals came into office. "It is no secret that Ontarian's have suffered this summer as a result of poor planning by this government," he said, referring to blackouts that nearly left Ontarian's in the dark on numerous occasions throughout the summer months. "My constituents are furious that the Premier has asked them to cut energy consumption, and yet, there is no long term plan in place to meet the demands our residents and industries require, outside of buying electricity at high costs from the United States."

Yakabuski went on to say that the Premier's promise to close all coal fired generating stations by 2009 is ridiculous and unrealistic. He stated that given that fact that there are again no plans to replace this power or bring new power online, the security of Ontario's supply would be jeopardized. He noted that ultimately this plan would send the price of power through the roof and put Ontario at a severe economic disadvantage, hurting jobs, and stifling growth and prosperity.

"It is evident that Dalton's energy plan, or lack thereof is hurting Ontarian's, our industries, and everyone's pocketbook" Yakabuski said. "I am eager to begin my new role as energy critic for our party and will do all that I can to ensure that McGuinty answers to the people of Ontario."

Opposition Leader John Tory noted that MPP Yakabuski's keen interest in the energy portfolio made him an excellent choice for the role. "I know John to be a strong advocate for his constituents and on all issues he feels are important," said Tory. "With so many problems facing the energy sector and this government's failure to solve them, we need a person like MPP Yakabuski who will stand up to Mr. McGuinty and challenge him on these issues."

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Alternatively, our office in Pembroke can be reached at (613) 735-6627 or in Toronto at (416) 325-2170.

