



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

NEWS RELEASE

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Yakabuski stands with Ontario farmers

(Toronto) John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, called on the McGuinty government yesterday to restore funding immediately for Ontario's farmers. In a statement Yakabuski made in the Ontario Legislature he said, "farming is going through the biggest crisis in memory: low prices, unfair competition, and no support from this government. At the same time, this government is burdening them down with overregulation. They have no money to get their crops in the ground, yet they want them to pay for nutrient management." He added, "the government has turned its back on the needs of farmers and instead, imposed new regulations that threaten rural farm livelihoods. I am frustrated and disappointed by the McGuinty governments lack of concern for our farmers and their obvious disinterest for the difficulties many are experiencing."

A massive protest converged on the lawns of Queens Park yesterday and thousands of farmers from across the Province stood together to show their outright aggravation with the McGuinty government. Many spoke about not being able to sustain themselves due to low earnings and the added burden and additional cost of new laws. Others shared their frustrations with the fact that unlike other jurisdictions, such as Quebec and Michigan, Ontario farmers are more likely to experience irrecoverable losses because they do not receive fair subsidies.

"Time and again, farmers in my riding have said that they are under compensated and over burdened by this government. To add insult to injury, several liberal caucus ministers were absent from Question Period yesterday, again confirming their indifference for the plight of Ontario's farmers or acknowledge the great distance that many traveled to present their views," Yakabuski said. "Dalton McGuinty and his government take our farmers and the good work that they do for granted. Their evident lack of interest is a slap in the face to rural Ontario."