

NEWS RELEASE

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Liberals take vacation from responsibilities, states MPP Yakabuski

John Yakabuski wonders, "Is the Minister of Education going to take the whole summer off?"

(Pembroke, ON) - MPP John Yakabuski today said the McGuinty Liberals' "leave them hanging approach" to issuing the long overdue facilitators report on School Closures in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke is typical of the Liberal Governments abandonment of Rural and Small Town Ontario.

"The McGuinty Liberals made great promises about education during the last Provincial Election, but have taken a vacation from their responsibilities since then. The Minister of Education, Gerard Kennedy, going on vacation while thousands of students, parents and teachers await the release of the facilitators report, further illustrates this. Until this report is issued no one will know which schools are to be closed and students don't know where they will be attending school in a few short weeks." Continued Yakabuski.

Yakabuski once again called for the Minister of Education to release the report, "the Minister has had this report on his desk for nearly two months, this is completely unacceptable and I once again say to the Minister, cut short your vacation and release the report on school closures."

"By not releasing the facilitators report in a timely fashion, the McGuinty Liberals are once again snubbing rural and small town Ontario. Time and time again they have shown their disdain for all of us on issues such as Sawmill wood waste and water regulations. Rural health and education always come as a last priority to a government concerned with its urban agenda. Made in Toronto policies do not work in rural Ontario, rural living continues to be damaged by a government that clearly couldn't care less."

Yakabuski said the Minister should read his copy of "the Rural Ontario Challenge" which John gave him back in June. It highlights many of the problems in rural Ontario and expresses the extreme frustration of rural Ontarians, that their concerns have been forgotten and their problems, ignored. Detailed in the report are specific items that span everything from environmental issues, to a lack of support for our farmers, to unfair and excessive taxation. Ultimately, it stress that our wealth, our livelihoods, and the values of rural Ontario are under attack.

"Something must be done immediately to rectify the wrongs of this government and its attitude towards rural issues. The thousands of students, parents and teachers who still await the release of this report, that you have had on your desk for nearly two months, deserve a prompt response Mr. Minister," concluded Yakabuski.

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