



Legislative Assembly

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NEWS RELEASE

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Liberal Coal Plan Flawed from the Start
Yakabuski demands names of advisors

Queen's Park, Toronto - Today in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Progressive Conservative Energy Critic John Yakabuski continued to press Premier Dalton McGuinty and Energy Minister Dwight Duncan to reveal the names of the so-called experts that advised the Liberal government that coal-fired plants could realistically be closed by 2007. Yesterday, the Ontario Power Authority recommended that coal-fired generation plants must remain open until at least 2014 – seven years longer than the date the McGuinty Liberals promised.

Yakabuski raised concerns about the McGuinty Liberal's competency and credibility stating, "Premier, this is about your judgment and your credibility. On whose advice were you willing to rely in order to determine an issue as important as the energy future of the province of Ontario? Premier, provide those names now or just admit that you made the whole thing up because you will say anything, you'll do anything, just to get a vote."

Yakabuski also pointed out that it is worrisome that the Premier would base Ontario's energy future on the advice of anonymous experts, and then blame failed policy on that advice. Mr. Yakabuski then said that the McGuinty Liberals will take any credit they can when announcing good news, but will immediately pass the buck when announcing news that might garner negative media coverage or affect their poll numbers. "Premier, when you guys want to trot out something that you perceive to be positive on the energy file, your energy minister stands up, puffs himself up like a rooster and says, 'We're taking control of the energy file in the province of Ontario,' yet when you're about to get egg on your face, you trot out one of your paid agencies, like the OPA, to be the bearer of bad news, to be the ones who reveal that you have broken yet another McGuinty Liberal promise."

Yakabuski believes that such blatant flip flops, and a consistent record of broken promises, and say-anything politics, are evidence of a government that puts its own interests ahead of those of the people of Ontario.

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For more information or a personal interview please contact John Yakabuski at (416) 325-2170