



Legislative Assembly

**JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP**  
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# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **MCGUINTY SHOULD MAKE DUNCAN APOLOGIZE: YAKABUSKI**

*Energy Minister's comments show Liberal insensitivity to plight of Northern Ontario*

(Queen's Park) – John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and PC Party Energy Critic, believes that Dalton McGuinty should ask Energy Minister Dwight Duncan to apologize for the insensitive comments he made to Northern Ontarians about how they should deal with high energy costs.

In Sudbury this week it was reported that Energy Minister Duncan described the McGuinty Liberal approach for people in the North who can't afford their electricity bills in the following manner. "What I would say is this, turn down the thermostat a degree, use blankets, good red wine, and cuddle up with someone you care about. It will help you get through those cold nights."

"Duncan's comments were completely insensitive and show just how out of touch this government is with the people Northern Ontario and the serious issues they are dealing with," said Yakabuski. "Thanks to McGuinty Liberal broken promises Ontarians have seen their hydro rates go up by 55 percent since 2003. Families and businesses across the province are suffering as a result."

Yakabuski pressed Dalton McGuinty on the issue during Question Period today. He asked whether or not the McGuinty Liberals agreed with Duncan's new energy 'policy' and urged him to ask Duncan to apologize.

"Energy rates in Ontario are sky high, the north is bleeding jobs and instead of help from the McGuinty Liberal government taxpayers are getting nothing but the brush off and snide comments," said Yakabuski.

Yakabuski added: "The McGuinty Liberals have done nothing but turn their backs on Northern Ontario for the last three years. Duncan's comments last week are a prime example of that neglect."