



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2006

Liberal Flip-Flop on Coal-Fired Plants

Yakabuski highlights Liberal incompetence on Energy File

Queen's Park, Toronto – Today in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Progressive Conservative Energy Critic John Yakabuski challenged Premier Dalton McGuinty and Energy Minister Dwight Duncan to explain the Liberal government's incompetence in light of new recommendations from the Ontario Power Authority. The OPA's discussion paper recommended that Ontario's coal-fired plants remain open until 2014 – seven years longer than the McGuinty Liberals promised.

Yakabuski used the Premier's own words to highlight the extent of the Liberal government's flip-flop on coal-fired energy generation and their continued record of broken promises, and say-anything-for-a-vote politics. "I'd like to read you a couple of quotes. 'We're going to shut down those dirty coal furnaces by 2007, no ifs, ands or buts.' 'Under my plan, Ontario's dirty coal-burning power plants will be shut down by 2007.' Those quotes came from none other than yourself, Premier. You have now broken that promise not once, not twice but three times. How could you be so completely wrong? You now trot out the OPA to say you plan to shut down coal-fired power by 2014. Premier, why would anyone believe a single word you say on this subject, or any other, for that matter? Isn't this just further proof that you will say anything, you will do anything, just to get a vote?"

Yakabuski continued by demanding that the Liberal government reveal the names of the so-called experts who advised them on their coal plant shutdown policy. "Premier, this is about your promise. This is about your credibility. You said that your coal shutdown policy was based on the best advice available to you at that time. I'm going to ask you again today, give us the names of those experts or admit that your policy was just plain and simply made up to get votes."

Yakabuski contends that today's recommendations from the OPA expose the hypocritical, say-anything attitude of the McGuinty Liberals and serve as a stark reminder of a government defined more by broken promises than sound policy.

-30-

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