



Legislative Assembly

**JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
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NEWS RELEASE

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Residents Plagued and Frightened by Rash of Fraudulent Driver's Licences

Queen's Park, Toronto - John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, called for provincial transportation Minister Jim Bradley's assistance in combating fraudulent drivers' licences being sent to innocent people in his riding. Yakabuski told the Ontario Legislature during Question Period today that since February over 100 driver's licences have been mailed to addresses in his riding with names and faces other than those who live there.

While Minister Bradley responded that he believes the incidents are related to people who are attempting to get around the Drive Clean emissions program (which extends across southern Ontario from Windsor to Ottawa), Yakabuski fears it could be something much more, such as identity theft or step one in securing other official documents such as health cards or passports.

"I think it is more than an environment issue," said Yakabuski. "It's more than just about Drive Clean. One widow, who has received 25 licences since February, lives alone on a rural road. Not only has she received licences, but she is receiving notices from the 407 to pay her fines. She has also received a notice to renew licence plates, which are not hers. She also found, in her mailbox, a number of cards, obtained as a result of those fraudulent driver's licences, allowing some of these people to vote in the last federal election. This goes way beyond environment. This goes way beyond emissions testing."

Yakabuski said that some people are afraid, worrying that criminals are watching their homes or raiding their mailboxes and in this particular case the lady's health is being affected because she is having difficulty sleeping at night.

Minister Bradley thanked Yakabuski for bringing the matter to his personal attention saying that as a result the investigative forces of both the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the Environment are looking at each of the cases, bringing prosecutions when they are justified and that they are in consultation with the Ontario Provincial Police. Yakabuski believes that the matter should be the subject of a police anti-fraud investigation, rather than a driver's licence or vehicle emissions scam, because a driver's licence opens the door to acquiring many other official documents.