



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
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NEWS RELEASE

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Violent Crime has Day in Court then Dismissed: Yakabuski

Queen's Park, Toronto - MPP John Yakabuski weighed in on his PC party's Opposition Day Motion in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon, expressing his concern about bail and the process surrounding bail within the provincial justice system, often referred to as "catch and release."

After much harangue from the Liberal government, the Opposition Day Motion was introduced by the PCs in response to the alarming number of murders and violent crimes allegedly committed by violent criminals who were out on bail for other alleged violent crimes. The motion said "whereas the issue of violent crimes alleged to have been committed by people out on bail when they should have been behind bars based on their past criminal behaviour is a serious public safety problem that the McGuinty government has failed to address since being first elected in 2003," and it called for a public inquiry into Ontario's bail system.

Yakabuski said, "people shake their heads when they listen to the news in the evening or read the papers in the morning and there's a story about a person out on bail with a record as a violent offender committing murder. It sends shudders down their spines, because it can't help but undermine the confidence we should all have in the legal and justice system."

Afterward, Yakabuski commented on the tremendous job the police do in apprehending violent criminals, and often at great personal risk, only to find those people back on the street soon after, rearmed, and threatening the safety and security of innocent people. "Unfortunately, we're going to hear more about these situations until the system that deals with violent offenders and their release on bail is dealt with and fixed," said Yakabuski. "I don't think that the Ontario Attorney General can deny that the system surrounding bail and the release of violent prisoners in this province is not functioning properly; in fact, not functioning at all."

The motion was voted down in the Legislature with the Liberal Caucus MPPs voting against it.

- 30 -

For further information or to arrange a personal interview with John Yakabuski call 416-325-2170 or 613-639-3005.