



Legislative Assembly

## JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**  
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### **MCGUINTY LIBERALS IN 2003: COAL BAD V. MCGUINTY LIBERALS IN 2008: COAL GOOD**

*One year after McGuinty Liberals promised to have eliminated coal, they're financing it  
instead*

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative Energy Critic John Yakabuski (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke) today demanded to know why the McGuinty Liberals are financing the conversion of Dofasco's blast furnaces from oil and natural gas to coal on one hand, but waging a war of empty words against coal on the other.

"Dalton McGuinty has stated repeatedly that coal is bad and he would get rid of it in Ontario. In fact, he claimed the use of coal has led to 667 deaths a year in Ontario," said Yakabuski. "How then, can he justify the financing of the conversion of blast furnaces at Dofasco steel from natural gas and oil to—listen carefully—pulverized coal?"

"How do you square this with the people of Ontario? How do you square that hypocrisy?" charged Yakabuski in the Legislature.

Instead of answering the question, Energy Minister Gerry Phillips spouted the McGuinty Liberals worn-out rhetoric when it comes to coal plants. He spoke about his government's aggressive plan to eliminate the use of coal entirely but didn't respond to the issue of its credibility and the fact that that plan has failed time and again since their election into office.

Dalton McGuinty once aggressively committed to close the coal plants, "come hell or high water," Yakabuski said. "Now, not only do Ontario's coal plants remain open, but taxpayer dollars are being spent to expand the use of coal in the steel industry."

"Liberal principles are like the weather: variable. It's clear that the only thing that matters to this government is politics. If they see coal as bad politics, they dump it. If they see coal as good politics like at Dofasco, they burn it," said Yakabuski. "Minister, would you simply admit to this House and to the people of Ontario that when it comes to your principles regarding coal, they were pulverized into dust long ago?"