



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

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McGuinty forced to back down on plan to eliminate the Lord's Prayer

(Queen's Park) Yesterday, Premier McGuinty's proposal to remove the recital of the Lord's Prayer in the Legislative Assembly backfired when a motion to recite the prayer at the beginning of each Legislative day, followed by a rotation of additional multi-denominational prayers, was passed supported unanimously by the PC Caucus.

In his comments, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski thanked his constituents for their overwhelming encouragement, support, and petitions, in taking the message to Queen's Park that the elimination of the Lord's Prayer was unacceptable. He noted that from day one, he had heard loud and clear from across the riding that this time honoured tradition reflected the values of Ontarians and McGuinty's plans to do away with it was not supported.

"This is a huge victory for every Ontarian who believes that while it is important to recognize the diversity of our province, it is equally important to remember the traditions that shape the Ontario we live in today," said Yakabuski. "It was clear from the start of this debate that many were open to the recitation of other prayers in the Legislature but not at the expense of the Lord's Prayer."

In February, Dalton McGuinty surprised MPP's by announcing in a letter that he was considering "moving beyond" the traditional recitation of the Lord's Prayer. PC Party Leader John Tory immediately responded to McGuinty and made it clear that the PC Party would engage in an all-party committee to discuss the issue but would not be open to removing the Lord's Prayer. Since then, members of the PC Caucus have brought forth petition after petition with thousands of signatures from Ontarians concerned with losing a traditional element of the Ontario Legislature.

"It is unfortunate that Dalton McGuinty had to drag our province through this divisive exercise," added Yakabuski. "It seems that it was for no other reason than to distract attention from the important issues like Ontario's flagging economy."

Yakabuski went on to say that before this issue had been brought forward by McGuinty, he had not heard from a single constituent about it.

"I am pleased that the outcome of this debate reflects the views of my constituents and thousands of other Ontarians who felt so passionately about this issue," Yakabuski said. "I am very proud that with their support our party has helped to retain this important part of Ontario's history."