



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
May 7, 2008**

Yakabuski calls upon Provincial Government to share gas tax revenues with Rural Ontario

(Queen's Park, Toronto) Today, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski again introduced legislation, in the form of a Resolution, calling on the McGuinty government to provide a share of the gasoline tax with all rural municipalities, and not just larger urban municipalities, as is currently done.

Yakabuski stressed the importance of this measure noting that it is an issue of fundamental fairness for rural Ontario. He commented that rural Ontarians pay more into the gas tax because of the greater distances they must travel, but despite this, never see those funds reinvested in their communities.

"This government is practicing discrimination on the basis of geography. The funding the provincial government currently provides to rural municipalities is neither predictable nor stable," Yakabuski said. "The communities in my riding are in great and immediate need of funds that will allow them to plan for the future, and my resolution today, if passed, would have helped accomplish that."

Yakabuski argued that unlike the federal government, who this year doubled its investment as a way of ensuring stable and predictable gas tax funding, the provincial government's failure to do the same clearly leaves the communities in his riding, and across the province, at a disadvantage.

Today is the fourth time Yakabuski has brought forward legislation on this matter, but unfortunately, the vote was defeated by the Liberal-dominated chamber.

"I am disappointed that again, the McGuinty liberals have not supported this important step towards equality but will continue to do what I must to ensure that rural needs are met, despite this government's urban focused agenda," Yakabuski said.

Yakabuski's resolution, if passed, would have compelled the Minister of Transportation to enter into an agreement to provide to any municipality that so requested a fair share of gas tax rebate that could be used to build, maintain or repair any public roadways or bridges under the municipality's jurisdiction.