



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP
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NEWS RELEASE

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Toronto School Pools Trump Renfrew County School Bus Safety

Queen's Park, Toronto - Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP, John Yakabuski, challenged Ontario Education Minister Kathleen Wynn to explain her priorities in pledging 12 to 15 million in taxpayers dollars to keep Toronto school swimming pools open, while mandating Renfrew County to cut costs.

“How is it that are you able to come up with millions of dollars for Toronto school swimming pools, but when it comes to getting our children in Renfrew County to and from school safely, you tell our boards to cut costs,” Yakabuski asked in the Ontario Legislature during this morning's Question Period.

Yakabuski went on to say, “Minister, you are mandating school boards in Renfrew County to cut transportation costs or face penalties. They are faced with making changes that could see some children waiting for the bus well before 7:00 am on the side of dark rural roads. Some working parents who have children being picked up at different times will be faced with a choice of leaving young children home alone or leaving their job.”

According to Yakabuski, Renfrew school boards are doing everything within their power to work with the inadequate funding they have been allotted. It absolutely galls us, however, that while Renfrew County is being forced to make painful choices, we once again see the McGuinty Government pandering to a vote-rich urban centre. “Toronto schools gets swimming pools while Renfrew County gets empty promises and ultimatums,” said Yakabuski.