



Legislative Assembly

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

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Yakabuski: “It’s time for fundamental fairness”**

(**Toronto**) On Thursday, May 6 Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski reintroduced a private members’ bill that would ensure all municipalities share in a portion of the gas tax they pay by making ALL municipalities eligible to receive a rebate from the provincial government. The bill would have allocated a gas tax rebate to municipalities without public transportation systems based on population size and total length of highways under their jurisdiction.

Despite support from the third party to have the bill reviewed in committee, the Liberal government voted unanimously to defeat the bill. In the debates, Yakabuski argued that the matter was an issue of fundamental fairness.

“If you live in a rural community, you can’t go anywhere without getting into a vehicle and driving somewhere, yet you pay that tax every time you fill up that tank.” Yakabuski said.

Yakabuski noted that the government’s total spending for this fiscal year will be \$126 billion. Despite this record-breaking budget the McGuinty government maintains that municipalities that do not have public transportation systems do not deserve any rebate at all.

“We’re suggesting that you learn how to manage your budget: \$126 billion, and you haven’t got a nickel for those communities that don’t have a public transportation system.” Yakabuski said.

By contrast, the federal government acknowledges rural communities’ contributions to the gas tax and provides rebates to ALL municipalities for maintaining local roads, bridges and highways.