



Legislative Assembly

JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke NEWS RELEASE

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MPPs Randy Hillier and John Yakabuski call for Inquiry into Gulick Forest Products Case

(Queen's Park) – Randy Hillier, PC Party critic for Labour, has today called for a formal criminal investigation into allegations of wrongdoing in the recent crown case against Gulick Forest Products. Along with local MPP John Yakabuski, Mr. Hillier is pressing the government for answers to the alleged witness and evidence tampering performed by Ministry of Labour investigators and prosecutors.

Two incidents of untimely and incomplete disclosure on the part of the Crown Prosecutors occurred just days before intended trial was to proceed. As a result, the case of Her Majesty the Queen (Ministry of Labour) v. Gulick Forest Products Limited was adjourned. The crown prosecutors in the case consented to the adjournment, tacitly acknowledging their wrongdoing.

“It’s a problem when those who are supposed to enforce the law are the ones who break it,” stated Hillier. “A full and complete investigation on the part of the Attorney General is necessary to get to the bottom of this. A government is not above its own laws.”

In a letter to the Attorney General yesterday, Mr. Hillier called for the examination of actions by both investigators and Crown Prosecutors from the Ministry of Labour. It is alleged that they withheld documents vital to the defence, as well as coercing a witness to give testimony.

“If this is true, then the government is responsible for a gross breach of the public’s trust,” said Mr. Yakabuski. “We need to know what happened, and if any laws have been broken. The Gulicks, like anyone facing Crown prosecution, deserve a fair trial.”