



FOCUS ON QUEEN'S PARK



Bill 204, *An Act to protect animal health and to amend and repeal other Acts.*

Bill 210, *An Act to protect foreign nationals employed as live-in caregivers and in other prescribed employment and to amend the Employment Standards Act, 2000.*

Bill 212, *An Act to promote good government by amending or repealing certain Acts and by enacting two new Acts.*

Bill 218, *An Act to implement 2009 Budget measures and to enact, amend or repeal various Acts. (HST).*

Pre-Budget Consultations

Pre-Budget public hearings are tentatively scheduled for Niagara Falls, London, Dryden, North Bay and Kingston during the week of January 25, 2010; and in Toronto on February 1, 2, and 3, 2010.

Anyone interested in making an oral presentation must contact the Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on January 13, 2010.

Written submissions will be accepted by the Clerk at the address below until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2010:

William Short, Clerk
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Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A2

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Liberals Shut Job Action Centres

Kenora-Rainy River NDP MPP, Howard Hampton, says the Liberals' decision to shut down job action centres across Northern Ontario is the latest example of a government that is completely out of touch with what is happening in the region.

"With record unemployment levels, thousands of good jobs destroyed, and employment insurance claims soaring across Northern Ontario, how can the McGuinty Liberals explain why they have cut off the funding of local job action centres in places like White River, Nipigon and Terrace Bay?" asked Hampton.

Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, John Milloy, said the centres are being cut because they are no longer needed.

"The McGuinty Liberals want people across Northern Ontario to believe these job action centres are no longer needed?" asked an incredulous Hampton.

"In some of these communities, the unemployment rate is greater than 50 per

cent. Things like suicide happen because workers have been laid-off and have no opportunity ... people have nowhere to go. The McGuinty Liberals are cutting funding for these services at the very time when people need them the most."

NDP says Industrial Hydro Rate Will Save Northern Jobs

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is demanding the McGuinty Liberals take immediate action, including adopting an industrial hydro rate policy, to counter the continuing loss of jobs in Northern Ontario.

"News that 700 good-paying jobs will be lost when Xstrata closes its Timmins copper and zinc smelting operations is but the latest blow to the region," she said. Xstrata is shifting its smelting operations to Quebec, which has a much lower hydro rate. "This could have been prevented if this government had heeded the calls by Northern mayors, labour and industry for an affordable hydro rate for energy intensive companies," said Horwath.

Horwath Slams Liberals' Navistar Inaction

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath is slamming the McGuinty government for doing precious little to prevent Navistar from moving truck production from Chatham to Mexico, despite a massive infusion of public dollars.

"More than \$60-million of hard-earned taxpayers' money has been shovelled into the Navistar truck plant in Chatham," said Horwath during Question Period.

"As a thank you to Ontarians for their generosity, Navistar has shifted production to Mexico, and laid-off all of its 1,200 Chatham workers. When will this government stand up to Navistar and demand it live up to its obligations to Ontario workers and Ontario taxpayers?" she asked.

Horwath added that it appears the McGuinty government has given up

on holding the company to account for its actions.

"It seems that the Minister of Economic Development and Trade (Sandra Pupatello) has already thrown in the towel," she said.

"Last week, the Minister said, and I'm going to quote, 'there is no role' for the McGuinty government to play in resolving this Navistar issue. With 1,200 jobs and \$60-million of money on the line, how can this government let Navistar off the hook so easily?"

Pupatello responded by reinforcing the McGuinty government's unconditional surrender to the multi-national: "I will reiterate: There is no role for the Ontario government ..."

"It's a sad day for Chatham and for all of Ontario. Based on this response, it's clear the McGuinty Liberals think it's quite alright for large companies to take advantage of Ontario workers and taxpayers whenever it is convenient for them to do so. Navistar says 'Hasta la

vista, Ontario' and Dalton McGuinty says, 'OK'," said Horwath.



Legislature Begins Winter Recess

The Ontario Legislature rose for the winter break on December 10. It is scheduled to resume sitting on Tuesday, February 16.

The following Bills were passed at Queen's Park in the last sitting, and are awaiting Royal Assent:

Bill 168, *An Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to violence and harassment in the workplace and other matters.*

Bill 179, *An Act to amend various acts related to regulated health professions and certain other Acts.*

Bill 187, *An Act to amend the Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000; and the safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act, 1996.*

Bill 196, *An Act respecting the adjustment of the boundary between the City of Barrie and the Town of Innisfil.*

Bill 203, *An Act to allow for better cross-border policing co-operation with other Canadian provinces and territories and to make consequential amendments to the Police Services Act.*

continued...

December, 2009