

Status of Bills in the House

Received Royal Assent:

Bill 108, *Apology Act*
Bill 118, *Countering Distracted Driving Act*
Bill 126, *Road Safety Act*
Bill 133, *Family Statute Law Amendment*
Bill 139, *ESA Temporary Help Agencies*
Bill 141, *Regulated Health Professions*
Bill 150, *Green Energy and Green Economy*
Bill 152, *Poverty Reduction Act*
Bill 155, *Health Care Costs Recovery Act*
Bill 161, *Supply Act*
Bill 163, *Toronto and Hamilton Transit Act*
In Committee:
Bill 30, *Minors in Amateur Sports*
Bill 159, *Transparency in Public Matters*
Bill 164, *Motor Vehicle Dealers*
Bill 165, *ESA Protection for Artists*
Bill 167, *Toxics Reduction Act*

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3rd Reading:

Bill 154, *ESA Organ Donor Leave*
Bill 157, *Keeping Our Kids Safe at School*
Bill 162, *Budget Measures Act*
Bill 173, *Mining Amendment Act* (at 2nd)

Carried at 1st Reading:

Bill 175, *Ontario Labour Mobility Act*
Bill 176, *Municipal Surge Protector Act*
Bill 177, *School Board Governance Act*
Bill 178, *Heart Disease Awareness Act*
Bill 179, *Health Professions Amendment*
Bill 180, *Capping Executive Compensation*
Bill 181, *Aftermarket Brake Pad Standards*
Bill 182, *Stop Human Trafficking Day Act*
Bill 183, *College of Trades and Apprenticeship*

The full text of all Bills can be found at www.ontla.on.ca under the section Bills and and Lawmaking, Current Session.

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Liberals Turn Backs on Retirees

NDP Leader, Andrea Horwath, says the McGuinty Liberals voted to walk away from Ontario's retirees by defeating an NDP amendment to the budget bill that would have protected workplace pensions.

The NDP amendment, debated in the Legislature on May 14, would have ensured that the province would provide bridge financing to the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund (PBGF), which provides insurance to all workplace pensions.

"It is outrageous that just as the economic crisis threatens the pensions of tens of thousands of Ontario workers, such as those at General Motors (GM), the McGuinty Liberals refuse to ensure bridge financing so the fund can meet its claims," said Horwath.

The NDP amendment to the budget bill, introduced by Horwath, would have reversed government legislation to sever links between

the Ontario government and the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund.

To date, the province has provided fully repayable, zero-interest loans to the fund whenever needed to ensure all claims are met.

However, under the changes introduced in the current budget bill, the province has no obligation to continue this practice.

"In light of the fragile state of so many workplace pension plans – in particular the GM pension plan – it is completely unacceptable for the McGuinty Liberals to sneak through legislation that reverses the approach taken to date," said Horwath. "This government is walking away from its responsibility to protect workplace pensions."

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Hampton Demands Liberals Sustain AbitibiBowater Jobs

Howard Hampton, MPP Kenora-Rainey River, is asking why the McGuinty Liberal government is ignoring the financial restructuring of AbitibiBowater where 4,000 good jobs are at risk.

In the Legislature, Hampton asked: "Why is the McGuinty Liberal government completely missing in action in the financial restructuring of AbitibiBowater where 4,000 good jobs in Northern Ontario are at risk?"

Economic Development Minister, Michael Bryant, has argued that the McGuinty government must put \$1.25-billion into Chrysler or the Chrysler plants in Windsor and Brampton would close, and the production and jobs would move to the United States.

Hampton agreed with Minister Bryant's point regarding Chrysler and said the same reasoning applies to the AbitibiBowater restructuring and the need to sustain good jobs in Northern Ontarian communities like Thunder Bay.

Hampton also noted that at the same time the McGuinty Liberals are missing in action in the Abitibi-Bowater financial restructuring, the Québec government has advanced \$100-million of Debtor-In-Possession financing to the Abitibi-Bowater restructuring to ensure good forest sector jobs are sustained in that province.

"The Québec government will now be in a very powerful position when the decisions are made on which mills to close, which mills to sell, and which mills to keep," Hampton said.

"It is clear that the Québec government will use its \$100-million of Debtor-In-Possession financing to demand that Québec mills remain open, and Québec jobs be sustained," said Hampton, "and it is also clear that the McGuinty Liberals will not be at the decision-making table advocating for mills, communities and workers in Northern Ontario."

McGuinty Idles as St. Thomas Hit
NDP Economic Development Critic Howard Hampton says the layoff of 725 more workers in already-

battered St. Thomas is yet more proof that the McGuinty government policies are hurting the manufacturing sector.

"The job losses at Magna International are devastating for St. Thomas. Workers like the ones about to be laid off want to know where is the McGuinty government's plan to sustain manufacturing jobs in Ontario?" Hampton asked Premier Dalton McGuinty in Question Period. Hampton was referencing the workers



at Magna's Formet Industries plant who just recently learned of their fate.

"These high-paying auto industry jobs are the bedrock of the economy in communities across Ontario. For every auto job lost, another seven

jobs disappear. The spin-off is enormous in a community like St. Thomas. These job losses add to the more than 300,000 manufacturing jobs that have been lost in Ontario under the McGuinty government's watch," noted Hampton.

He demanded that McGuinty make the revitalization of Ontario's manufacturing and resource sector the government's top priority.

He also reiterated the NDP's long-standing call for an industrial hydro rate, the creation of a Jobs Protection Commissioner, the introduction of tougher plant closure legislation, pension and wage protection and a "Buy Ontario" government purchasing policy.

"St. Thomas has seen the recent loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs. The policies New Democrats are advocating would be exactly the kind of policies that would help a community like St. Thomas," said Hampton.