

Hello,

I'd like to bring you up-to-date on some of the Energy issues I've been working on and that continue to be on our plate.

Economic transformation

After the worst recession in 80 years, the good news is more people see opportunity in helping our economy reduce carbon emissions. It works in Europe, and a growing number of U.S. states similar to Ontario—Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio—are making strides, too.

Late last year, I spoke at the Green Jobs for All conference in Toronto. If you couldn't make it, you can see some of what went on here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnT69ES-pB8. What struck me was how many people not usually involved with energy issues were there. It's a good sign. Because when people see good ideas creating good jobs, it snowballs, just like it did in the 1990s when Toronto began retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency.

I'm going to continue pushing the provincial government to make energy efficiency a real priority. And I hope you'll help make it a real issue in municipal campaigns, yes, soon to begin.

Selling off power

Barely a year after taxpayers around the world bailed out some of the biggest corporations we've got, the provincial Liberals are set to turn major public assets over to the private sector. Because as we all know, everything works better when more profit is involved. Just ask Lehman Brothers.

Among the assets on the block are Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One, finishing off the job Mike Harris started in the 1990s. Don't get me wrong. OPG is currently part of the problem. But making it part of the solution requires some public accountability, which privatization won't deliver.

To solve the mammoth deficit, the McGuinty government could always try cutting costs. Say...

...more nuclear cost overruns

The years change, but Ontario's addiction to nuclear power doesn't. The last reactor went \$15 billion over budget, 20 years ago. And now the federal nuclear agency, AECL, admits "there could be large cost overruns" in its new, unproven reactor it wants Ontario to buy. Really? Who would have guessed?

Ontarians are still paying for the last pricey experiment in nuclear power. But still Liberals are determined to spend more. At the same time, they refuse to embrace job-creating projects to make Ontario more energy efficient—reducing our carbon emissions and saving us from throwing billions more at a nuclear plan we simply can't afford.

That underlines the task ahead. As Ontario's environment commissioner noted, the Liberal government has "lost its vision of what a carbon reduction plan should be pursuing." Like making our buildings, industry and transport much more energy efficient, as we've been pushing for all along.

All the best,

Peter Tabuns, MPP