

TED ARNOTT, MPP WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Keeping In Touch

Spring 2010

Dear Friends:

This is my Annual Report to you, the residents of the riding of Wellington-Halton Hills. It is my privilege to serve you and represent your interests as your Member of Provincial Parliament.

When you look through these pages, you will see that we've had another busy and eventful year.

While the riding boundaries in our area have changed from time to time, this year is an especially important one for me. It marks the 20th anniversary of my first election to Queen's Park and the beginning of my time as an elected representative.

As the years have flown by, the job has changed in many respects. However, some things haven't changed.

In the final analysis, people continue to expect honesty, hard work, and results from their elected representatives. I believe you deserve nothing less.

I want to acknowledge and thank my experienced and dedicated staff members, who assist me in my work. They are Mary Heffernan, Judy Brownrigg, Marnie Mainland, Nancy Stickle and Stephen Yantzi. Each makes a significant contribution in public service. Whatever we accomplish, we do so as a team, and I'm very fortunate to have their help.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance on matters concerning the provincial government.

Also, I hope you will take a few minutes to think about provincial issues, and fill out the questionnaire on page 8. I will need your advice, which will help to guide me in the coming months.

While the year ahead will include challenges and trials, I have no doubt that we can overcome them by working together.

Through our shared efforts, we can ensure that Ontario's best days are yet to come.

Sincerely,

New provincial tax to take effect on Canada Day

After minimal debate, and with no formal provincewide consultation, the McGuinty government has rammed through its new Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

"The new HST would be a massive and unaffordable tax increase for many Ontario families and seniors," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. "We continue to speak up for those who will be hurt by this new tax."

Mr. Arnott blasted Premier McGuinty for repeatedly promising no new taxes, only to break those promises after being elected.

"This Premier has made a habit of breaking his word on tax increases, thinking he can just get away with it," charged Mr. Arnott. "Opposition members have a duty to hold the government accountable; Tim Hudak and the rest of us in our Caucus are doing exactly that."

The HST will combine the provincial sales tax and the federal GST into a single tax. This would add eight percent to the cost of many everyday essentials not currently subject to PST, including gasoline, home heating, hydro, haircuts and internet service. Even funeral services will become more expensive.

(continued on page 2)



led Amost

Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills

> **DEMANDING ANSWERS** – During the daily Question Period in the Ontario Legislature, Ted stands to ask a question of the Premier.

Contact Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott

Wellington-Halton Hills Provincial Riding Office 181 St. Andrew St. East, 2nd Floor Fergus, Ontario N1M 1P9 Tel. (519) 787-5247 • Fax (519) 787-5249 Toll Free Call: 1-800-265-2366 Email: ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org



Queen's Park Office Room 420, Legislative Building Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A8 Tel. (416) 325-3880 • Fax (416) 325-6649 Email: ted.arnott@pc.ola.org

Visit us on the web: www.tedarnottmpp.com



New provincial tax to take effect on Canada Day continued from page 1

For an average middle-income family of four, it is estimated the HST would mean up to \$2,500 per year in additional sales taxes.

"When you look at the numbers, it's no wonder they don't want to consult families and our seniors. who will be most negatively impacted," said Mr. Arnott. It's true, he acknowledges, that some economists favour the new tax, but very

few Ontarians believe Premier McGuinty's promises on taxes.

"In these challenging economic times, raising taxes is absolutely the wrong thing to do," he said.

Many of Mr. Arnott's constituents agree. Hundreds of people from across Wellington-Halton Hills have called, e-mailed, and signed petitions to express opposition to the McGuinty government's new tax.

TWO TORIES – MPPs Tim Hudak and Ted Arnott participate in committee hearings in the Legislative Assembly building. Tim Hudak became leader of the Opposition in June. Ted credits Tim for his energy and hard work on behalf of Ontario's middle-class families.

Local school bus operators deserve our support: MPP Arnott

ur local school bus operators are threatened with total loss of their business. It's largely because of a provincial government policy requiring that local school bus routes be tendered with insufficient regard to past years of service.

Ted Arnott, who has worked on the issue for some time, called attention to the problem in November in the Ontario Legislature.

"We entrust our children to the safe care of our courteous and well-trained local school bus drivers," he said. "Many of these family businesses have transported students and served our communities for generations... They are firmly rooted in our communities," he added.

On several occasions, Mr. Arnott has met with school bus operators and written the Minister of Education on their behalf. He is urging her to conduct an immediate review of her Request for Proposal tendering process, which he believes is flawed.

"We have asked for an alternative approach, which would give greater recognition to existing service in the criteria," Mr. Arnott explained.

"If a small number of huge, foreign-owned school bus companies grows to cover the whole province, they will eventually dictate price and dictate it upwards. This is always the way with monopolies."



REVITALIZING CENTRAL GEORGETOWN – Ted congratulates the Georgetown Business Improvement Area (BIA) for receiving approval of an \$87,000 grant from the Government of Ontario. The funding is being used to help create a marketing plan to raise the profile of downtown Georgetown and its businesses, as well as to enhance the area's tourism potential. Mr. Arnott was pleased to support the BIA's rural economic development grant application, saying that we need to encourage shoppers to support our local business and keep our downtown vibrant. He also commended BIA Manager Kay Matthews and the board for their outstanding efforts to promote the downtown. From left: BIA member Michael Wolfe, Ted Arnott, Mark Pearce, BIA Vice-chair Judy Avery, Sandy Mackenzie, BIA manager Kay Matthews, secretary Kate Murray. BIA Chair Randy Kerman and BIA treasurer Rick Ruggle. (Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)



Minister could save Acton school playground, says MPP Arnott

loss of a popular school playground in Acton, the Minister of Education continues to deflect blame.

In response to questions over the "I see no sign that this government is prepared to accept responsibility for its own policy," he said.

ORGANIZING FOR EDUCATION – From left: Acton resident Melissa Secord and Ted Arnott. Ms. Secord, as chair of the McKenzie-Smith Bennett School Council, has been instrumental in the effort to stop the sale of the school playground.

"Her answers have been insufficient and irrelevant," charged Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott. "People in Acton will be astounded by her indifference."

Citing policy from the Ministry of Education, the Halton District Public School Board has voted to sell the playground at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School. It would then use the proceeds to build new schools in other communities.

In addition to Mr. Arnott, the playground's supporters include the Town of Halton Hills, the Region of Halton, the school council, and 5,000 people who have signed petitions demanding that the playground be saved.

Update: On January 18, the Hon. Leona Dombrowsky was appointed as the new Minister of Education. Mr. Arnott hopes that she will take a fresh look at the problem and try to find a way to help.

Volunteer firefighters finally gain workers' compensation coverage

After more than two years of inaction, the McGuinty Government has finally extended presumptive legislation to protect the volunteer fire service in Ontario.

"It's about time," said Ted Arnott.

Unlike their full-time counterparts, volunteer firefighters have not been eligible for workers' compensation coverage when they contract certain illnesses like cancer or have a heart attack.

"Volunteer firefighters give their time, and risk their health, for the sake of their communities," said Mr. Arnott. "I'm very pleased that the government appears ready, finally, to join us in recognizing that."

In April, Mr. Arnott introduced Bill 169 to prod the government to move forward with presumptive legislation for volunteer firefighters. He spoke about the issue many times, saying he wanted to "light a fire under the Minister." **Guelph Mercury**

"Arnott has for years fought for improvements in the lives of firefighters in rural Wellington and beyond."

- Arnott sees busy year ahead

Since he was first elected in 1990, Mr. Arnott has worked on many priorities important to firefighters:

- Pushing for presumptive legislation to extend workers' compensation to volunteer firefighters;
- Standing up for the right of "double-hatter" firefighters to volunteer in their home communities;
- Introducing legislation to provide the highest possible level of workers' compensation coverage; and
- Passing legislation to allow firefighters to use flashing green lights in their personal vehicles.



WORKING FOR FIREFIGHTERS – Ted is made an honourary member of the Firefighters' Association of Ontario (FFAO). Pictured with him is his friend, retired Puslinch Township Fire Chief Doug Smith. Having the benefit of Chief Smith's advice, Ted worked closely with him to support volunteer firefighters. The Puslinch Township Fire Department and the FFAO expressed appreciation to Ted for his work on behalf of all Ontario firefighters. The organizations presented Mr. Arnott with two plaques at the Puslinch Appreciation Night in Aberfoyle in November.

MPP Arnott continues push for improved GO train service

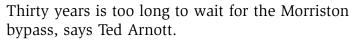
Ted Arnott is continuing his push to keep GO train service upgrades on track.

"We need to keep this moving forward without any undue delays," said Mr. Arnott following an August meeting in Toronto with two senior GO Transit officials.

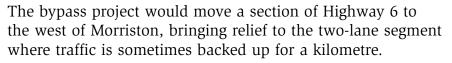
J.G. Ashbee, Manager of Infrastructure Expansion Planning, and Emilia Marceta, Communications Coordinator, presented GO Transit's plan to expand the Georgetown line through Wellington-Halton Hills, with stops in Kitchener, Guelph and eventually in the Acton area.

"I asked for this meeting, and was very impressed by GO Transit's thorough and professional approach to this project," observed Mr. Arnott. "GO Transit is thinking ahead, but to make this project a reality, we need the McGuinty government to do the same."

Fix Highway 6, MPP Arnott tells Minister of Transportation



"For thousands of daily commuters, it's a critical part of Ontario's highway system," he told the Legislature in an October statement. "Yet, for the people of Morriston, it's also their main street."



Mr. Arnott pointed out that in the next fiscal year, the government is already planning to spend upwards of \$2 billion on highway construction—some \$300 million more than it is spending this year.



Over a year ago, Mr. Arnott introduced a resolution in the Legislature on this issue. He is calling on the government to complete the various studies and extend GO Transit rail service to include stops in the Acton area, Guelph, and the Kitchener-Waterloo area by September 1, 2011 at the latest.

> IMPROVING ROADS IN THE TOWN OF ERIN – From left: Town of Erin Councillor Josie Wintersinger, MP Michael Chong, MPP Ted Arnott, and Councillor John Brennan gather to acknowledge infrastructure funding to improve area roads. (Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)



"These numbers leave no room for excuses," said Mr. Arnott in the Legislature.

It's surprising, Mr. Arnott later added, that the area adjacent to the critical junction of Highways 6 and 401 could for so long be neglected.

"Commuters and residents in our area deserve better," he said. "I intend to continue reminding the Minister of Transportation that this project can no longer be put on hold."

Around the Riding -



ELORA LIBRARY – After major renovations, the Elora Library held its grand re-opening June 19. Members of Wellington County council, Centre Wellington council, the county accessibility committee and the library board and staff appeared with Ted for the ribbon cutting ceremony. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



A TIME TO REMEMBER – Ted attends the Remembrance Day service in Belwood. Gathered for the event were members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 275, Fergus, and residents of Belwood and West Garafraxa. This past year, Ted also attended Remembrance Day observances in Acton, Erin, Georgetown, Salem, Fergus, and Elora. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



WALKING FOR WELLNESS – From left: Janet Armstrong, Ted Arnott, Lisa Arnott, Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr, and Georgetown Hospital Foundation Past Chair Paul Armstrong participate in the 2nd annual Walk for Georgetown Hospital. Over 300 walkers of all ages raised more than \$40,000 in support of Halton Hills health care services. (Photo courtesy of Georgetown Hospital Foundation Chair Laurent Thibault)





TERRY FOX RUN – Ted joins organizer Jon Hurst and other participants at the Terry Fox Run in Acton—a community that has proudly participated in every Terry Fox Run since the first event to raise money for cancer research in 1981. This past year, Ted also attended the Terry Fox Run in Erin. (Photo courtesy of the New Tanner)



BREAKING GROUND FOR MARDEN PARK – From left: Guelph-Eramosa Parks and Recreation Manager Robin Milne, MPP Ted Arnott, MP Michael Chong, MPP Liz Sandals, and Mayor Chris White participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new recreational facility under construction at Marden Park in Guelph-Eramosa Township. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM – Executive members of the Halton Hills Sports Museum gather with local dignitaries to commemorate support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Trillium funding will help to build the museum's collection and to develop a curriculum-based education program. (Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)

Vorking for All of Us



BENNETT VILLAGE – Ted participates in the official opening of the Gallery at Bennett Village in Georgetown. From left: Linda Dawson, Ted Arnott, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Bennett Health Care Centre chairman Drew Leverette, Ernie Bodnar, chairman of the Gallery Land Use Committee, and John Lenz, resident spokesperson. (Photo courtesy of the Georgetown Independent & Free Press)



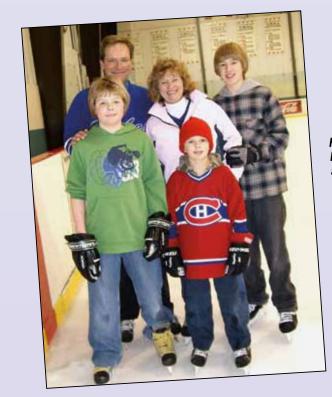
SHOWCASING THE ARTS – Ted tours the Elora Centre for the Arts. From left: Barry McCarthy, Ted Arnott, and Jerre Davidson. In July, Ted was appointed PC critic to the Minister of Culture. (Photo courtesy of the Elora Centre for the Arts)



HAPPY 25th, MEADOW VIEW PLACE – Ted cut the cake at the 25th anniversary celebration for Meadow View Place—a seniors' residence in Hillsburgh, in the Town of Erin. (Photo courtesy of the Erin Advocate)



SIGNS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY – Ted thanks the Rockwood Lions for their outstanding community service. Photo at left: the Lions' new community sign erected in the Rockwood Park. From left: Ken McNab, Roy Yorke, Sheila Yorke, Darryl Nichol, Cam Mullen, and Ted Arnott.





EDEN MILLS WRITERS' FESTIVAL – Ted attended the Eden Mills Writers' Festival an annual event that brings hundreds of people to Wellington-Halton Hills. Internationally renowned author Gwynne Dyer, pictured here, discusses his most recent book, Climate Wars. (Photo by Ted Arnott, MPP) FAMILY SKATE – Last February, Ted organized a free family skate in Georgetown for the community. This year, on January 31, he hosted one in Acton; he hopes to make this an annual event.

New Groves hospital a step closer

• roves Memorial Community UHospital has taken one more step toward a new facility. In December the hospital received notice that the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) would support its requested planning grant.

Ted Arnott is pleased that the LHIN has finally expressed formal support for the project.

"As we plan for the future, we're going to need our new hospital in Centre Wellington," said Mr. Arnott. "It's now up to the Minister of Health to approve the planning grant, so we can keep moving forward."

In a December 8th letter from CEO Sandra Hanmer, the LHIN endorsed the Groves capital request to plan for development of a new "acute care facility of the future."

Credit should go to the hospital board, staff and volunteers, said Mr. Arnott.

"We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of community leaders," he said. "Their efforts continue to improve our quality of health care, and I'm honoured to work with them."

In November, Mr. Arnott introduced a resolution in the Legislature to call on the McGuinty government to approve the planning grant. Through many letters, frequent statements in the Legislature, and numerous conversations with successive Ministers of Health, Mr. Arnott has reminded the government of the need and the strong community support to proceed with the new hospital.



CT SCANNER CHEQUE – The Groves Hospital Volunteer Association presents a cheque for \$225,000 toward the new CT scanner approved for the Fergus hospital. Citing exceptionally strong community support, Ted has consistently pushed the Government of Ontario to approve the much-needed diagnostic equipment. From left: Ted Arnott, Groves Foundation director Ted Eccelstone, fundraising director Carol Kirby, Groves Hospital Volunteer Association director Rob Gilbert, Groves Hospital Volunteer Association president Norma Seibert and Chair of the Groves Hospital Foundation Jackie Ranahan. (Photo courtesy of the Wellington Advertiser)



CT SCANNER SUITE NOW OPEN – Groves Memorial Community Hospital cut the ribbon in November on its new CT Suite. Ted participated in the event along with hospital volunteers and staff as well as government representatives. (Photo courtesy of the Fergus-Elora News Express)

Guelph Mercury

January 4, 2010

"[Ted Arnott] was... proud in 2009 to attend the launch of the new diagnostic imaging CT scanner at Groves Memorial Community Hospital in Fergus in the late fall, another project he worked on for some time. It came, he said, at a time when Queen's Park notified the hospital in Georgetown that it will also

get a scanner."

- Arnott sees busy year ahead

CT scanner approved for **Georgetown Hospital**

staff and dedicated volunteers Patients at Georgetown Hospital will have access to a vital diaghave all made a big difference." nostic tool. Halton Healthcare The new CT scanner promises Services reported in September to improve health care services that the Ministry of Health by reducing wait times, improvapproved its request for a ing diagnostic capabilities, and licence to operate a CT scanner. delivering service to patients closer to home. Ted Arnott says this is great

In the Legislature

Ted Arnott questions the Premier on the eHealth scandal (from Question Period, October 22, 2009). While promising to create an electronic health record for every Ontarian, the McGuinty government spent \$1 billion with very little to show for it.

Mr. Ted Arnott: "My question is for the Premier. Why has the Premier been telling taxpayers that the Auditor General cleared him and Minister

news for our local patients.

"I want to congratulate the hospital staff and everyone involved with this successful application," said Mr. Arnott, who also noted his appreciation to the Ministry of Health. "Working together, the hospital's board, foundation, doctors, Community health care services have long been a priority for Mr. Arnott. In October 2007, on the day after his re-election to the Ontario Legislature, he wrote to the Minister of Health to encourage him to approve the Groves and Georgetown CT scanners.

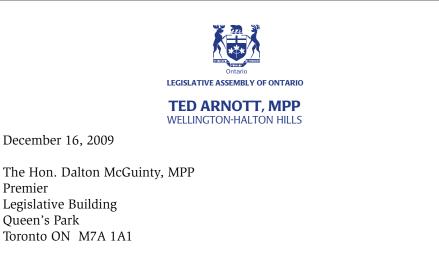
Smitherman of handing out millions in untendered contracts when the auditor has said no such thing?"

Hon. Dalton McGuinty: "Just to return to a subject which is important to all of us and remains important to all of us, the auditor made some pretty clear findings, I thought, and offered some very specific and very helpful recommendations. We accept the findings, and we will adopt wholeheartedly the recommendations.

"I think he said in particular that there was a lack of oversight. We accept that. I think he said that a lack of oversight and the breaking of rules "go together like a horse and carriage"; we accept responsibility for that ... "

Supporting farmers in challenging times

Working with the Wellington Federation of Agriculture, Ted Arnott wrote directly to the Premier to support strategic investments to help farmers in crisis.



Dear Premier:

Agriculture in Ontario is confronting very challenging times. Many farmers are facing conditions that amount to a crisis—one that requires immediate action from your Government. I heard this message once again on December 4th, when I met with several farmers—including David Parker, Ruby Lennox, Lisa Hern and OFA representative Gord Grant—at my Riding Office.

Specifically, farmers are confronted with insufficient safety net programs, a risk management program that must be fixed and extended, poor weather and growing conditions, escalating input costs and excessive government regulation, to name just a few of the many challenges. Hog and beef producers have been especially hard-hit, and the sectors may not survive without immediate assistance.

In response to this crisis, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Agriculture Sustainability Coalition (OASC) have called on the Government of Ontario to provide new strategic investments in this vital industry. The OFA has also called for all stakeholders to engage in developing a National Food Strategy. They have my unqualified support as MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills.

During such challenging times, it becomes even more important for the Government of Ontario to work with its federal counterpart. Solutions must be effective, coordinated, and non-partisan in order to get things done.

Are you now considering the type of meaningful response for which the OFA and OASC have advocated? Producers cannot wait any longer for your Government to act. I would appreciate receiving your response at my Queen's Park office at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely important matter.

Sincerely

Ted Amost

Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills

Legislative Building • Room 420 • Queen's Park • Toronto • Ontario M7A 1A8 • Tel. (416) 325-3880 • Fax (416) 325-6649 E-mail: ted.arnott@pc.ola org • Website: www.tedamottmpp.com

⊛

Ted Arnott speaks on the environment

September 14, 2009 in the Ontario Legislature

"Years ago in this House, I was one of the first in our caucus to acknowledge publicly that climate change was a fact, that the preponderance of scientific opinion was concluding that human activities and the release of greenhouse gases were contributing factors to climate change, and that these were facts beyond dispute.

"While I've harboured doubts about the willingness and the practicality, and indeed the ability, of Canada to achieve the targets set by the Kyoto Protocol, I've never opposed further international discussions to set targets for greenhouse gas emissions which are possible and achievable.

"Let's remember two things. The provincial government would have us believe today that Bill 185 is a big step forward in addressing climate change. If this is true, why did it take them so long?

"Why did they not release any climate change strategy until 2007, an election year, and only after they had been strongly criticized by the independent Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller?

"And why is it that after six years in office, the McGuinty government, while claiming they support the Kyoto targets, are nowhere near a six-percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, with 2012 less than three years away?

"Our critic for the Ministry of the Environment, the member for Haldimand-Norfolk, offered a thoughtful and wellresearched critique of Bill 185... He says that to combat climate change, we need to think global and act global.

"I believe he's right, and without a concerted, comprehensive global response to controlling our greenhouse gas emissions, our efforts are likely to be too little and too late."

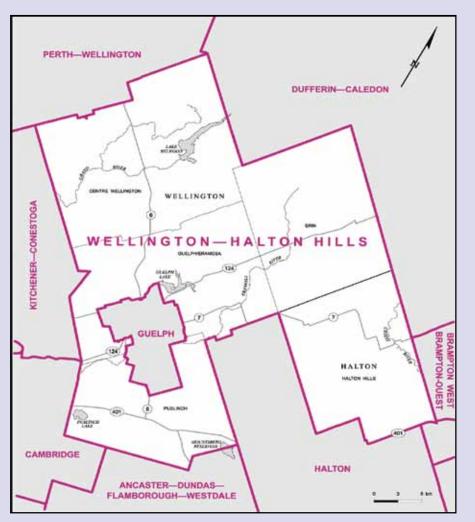


FIGHTING FOR FAIRNESS FOR FARMERS – Ted Arnott (right) hears from Halton Hills farmer Bert Andrews. Mr. Andrews worked hard to support a bill to allow fruit wines to be sold at farmers' markets across Ontario. The Liberal majority on the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills defeated the legislation on December 9th. (Photo courtesy of the Halton Compass)

This year's Provincial Deficit is \$24.7 Billion



WELLINGTON - HALTON HILLS



Ted Arnott is honoured to represent the following communities in the Ontario Legislature:

- Township of Centre Wellington (including Elora and Fergus)
- Township of Guelph/Eramosa (including Rockwood)
- Township of Puslinch (including Aberfoyle)
- Town of Erin (including Erin and Hillsburgh)
- Town of Halton Hills (including Acton and Georgetown)

Ted's Tasks

- **SERVING HIS CONSTITUENTS FIRST**. That's what Ted has always done in his almost 20 years in the Ontario Legislature, and that's what he will continue to do.
- **SERVING AS PC DEPUTY HOUSE LEADER.** House Leaders from Ontario's three political parties work to establish the agenda of the Legislature and attempt to negotiate compromise when there is an impasse.
- SERVING AS PC CRITIC TO THE MINISTERS OF TOURISM, CULTURE AND ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS. Ted holds these Ministers to account in Question Period.



Visit us on the web: www.tedarnottmpp.com



□ Yes □ No □ Unsure

What is Ontario's biggest challenge?

Agriculture \$25-billion deficit Education/training
Environment Government waste/mismanagement
Healthcare Jobs/economy Taxes
Transportation/infrastructure
Other: ______



Do you approve of the McGuinty Government's "Harmonized" Sales Tax, which would combine the GST and PST?

- □ Yes, it will reduce administration costs and make Ontario more competitive
- \Box No, it's a tax grab that will hurt the economy and raise our cost of living

Unsure

Name	
Address	
Postal Code	Phone
E-mail Address	