

Ottawa Report

# Taxpayers robbed of political accountability

**MP's Notebook:** As regulars will know, I have lately turned some attention towards the issue of taxes, which are too high - at all levels. And I have been encouraging taxpayers to come together and make some noise about the situation.

Until that happens, I believe we will never get real tax reform. By reform, I mean an integration of all levels of taxes - and an end to this stupid practice of one level of government taxing, and then giving money to other levels to spend. The current system robs taxpayers of real accountability from politicians.

The government that spends should be the one that taxes. If Ontario, for example, controls health care and education, then it should tax to fund them. If the feds control national defence and old age security, then it should tax only to support them. If Halton or Peel fund policing, then they should tax for it.

That way, the people could have more control - through their votes - on levels of service, and

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levels of tax.

But I'd even go beyond that. Less government and a more integrated tax system, with fewer taxes, would suit me. In a report to Michael Wilson this week I'm urging him to call a federal-provincial-local conference on taxation, to discuss these important issues.

Meanwhile, there are some people who can't wait: Tax protesters, mark these two dates on your calendar - big turnouts of concerned taxpayers are expected:

\* Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. at Martingrove Collegiate in Etobicoke (corner of Eglinton and Martingrove)  
\* Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Complex in Caledon East. See you there.

Canada Post has been on my mind in recent days as we see more changes to postal service in several areas.

Quite abruptly last Monday, residents of Limehouse saw their service reduced as the retail postal outlet near there stopped providing full service. It was nobody's fault - things just didn't work out. But I will confess to being peeved that Canada Post provided almost no notice to people of the change.

I wrote a steamy letter to the Corporation's president, saying I expected more out of the outfit.

Then we heard that the post office in Palgrave is going to close, to be replaced later this year by another retail postal outlet. I have no great problem with this, so long as the level of service pro-

vided to Palgrave does not go down as a result.

Right now I'm arranging a Town Hall meeting so the community will have a direct opportunity of questioning Canada Post officials. Stay tuned for details of date and location.

Finally: I was not the first to know about the Palgrave postal situation - because Canada Post sent my notification to the wrong address!

Back in the House of Commons this week we are debating some proposed changes to the rules which govern Parliament. You may have read or heard about some of the changes, and reaction to them.

The reason is to make the House more efficient, because right now there are countless wasted hours as people make long, partisan and usually empty speeches. So the length of those speeches is going to be slashed to just ten minutes. Also shortened is the time MPs will actually be

sitting there in Ottawa.

So the changes will reduce the number of days Parliament sits, but lengthen the hours in those days. As a consequence, the total debating time will be the same.

Also as a consequence, we will all be able to spend more time in our ridings. The plan is to have the House of Commons sit for three weeks a month, allowing people like me a week a month to come back and do what I do in the riding - meet with people; hold public meetings; answer phone calls; help out through red tape; deal with immigration, taxation, etc.; work with municipal and provincial officials; and most important, listen.

The opposition said this change was (and I quote) "fascist" - an attempt by the government to muzzle the House of Commons and put an end to democracy as we know it.

Maybe democracy as we know it should end. Maybe it's time all MPs spent longer with the people who elected them.

## Queen's Park Report

### New health care directions

**New Directions in Health Care**

This week I would like to discuss the new directions in health care proposed to the Legislature by Health Minister Evelyn Gigantes.

On March 14th, as you may remember, the Minister announced the provision of \$39.7 million in new funding for 142 renovation and improvement projects in hospitals and other health care facilities in 59 Ontario communities. Priority was given to projects that would be labor-intensive and to those that would produce greater public benefits in areas such as workplace health and safety, environmental improvements, and energy conservation. Our hospitals in Georgetown and Milton will both receive monies under the program and their projects are expected to create a total of 1027 weeks of work.

health promotion activities in alcohol, tobacco and nutrition programs.

On April 2nd, the Minister introduced - for first reading - the Regulated Health Professions Act and other related health legislation. Eight different acts currently regulate 18 health professions. The new bills will bring 24 health professions into a uniform regulatory system - including seven professions now unregulated. Ms. Gigantes indicated, in her statement that con-

sumers have the right to receive health services that are competently performed to suit their needs and desires. On the other hand, health professionals have the right to work in a system that is equitable and in which their autonomy is respected and their contributions recognized. The legislation preserves self-governance as Ontario's regulatory system but contains features designed to ensure a more open and accountable system.



**Noel Duignan**  
Halton North  
MPP  
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On the following day, the Minister announced an additional \$7.6 million in funding for community health employment projects. Jobs will be created for up to one year in communities across the province in the areas of health promotion, public health, mental health and addictions, and community support services. The ministry gave priority to regions of the province experiencing the most serious economic difficulties. One project involves training native persons and women at nine public health units in promotion of prenatal nutrition and care, and in the prevention of tobacco and substance abuse, AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases. Other initiatives include a project that helps low-income people improve their nutritional choices through community gardening; development of programs to help deal with the stress of bereavement and unemployment; and the expansion of home support services. Funding was provided to District Health Councils to hire staff to help with the implementation of the Graham report, which recommends the establishment of more community-based mental health services. Seven communities including Halton also received funding to hire staff for

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Queen Mattress	\$318 <sup>00</sup>	\$149 <sup>00</sup>
Queen Set	\$399 <sup>00</sup>	\$199 <sup>00</sup>
Orthopedic Twin Mattress Set	\$599 <sup>00</sup>	\$199 <sup>00</sup>
Double Set (25 Year Warranty)	\$699 <sup>00</sup>	\$259 <sup>00</sup>
Sealy Double Set Orthopedic (Limit 2 Per Customer)	\$647 <sup>00</sup>	\$299 <sup>00</sup>
Sealy Queen Set	\$735 <sup>00</sup>	\$349 <sup>00</sup>
Orthopedic King Set (20 Year Warranty)	\$1299 <sup>00</sup>	\$499 <sup>00</sup>
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## CORRECTIONS

Automotive Specialty Catalogue 1991

**PAGE 50**

**CHROME-PLATED AIR CLEANERS** — Product No. 41-1070-8  
Copy Reads: \$14.92 ..... **Should Read: \$15.99**

**Item 3:**  
**SLOTLOK WIRE SEPARATORS** — Product No. 41-0071-2  
Copy Reads: \$5.74 ..... **Should Read: \$5.75**

**PAGE 55**

**Item 1:**  
**ALUMACOAT SERIES HEADERS** — Product No. 41-3521X  
Copy Reads: \$166.28 Set ..... **Should Read: \$179.99 Set**

**Item 2:**  
**93000 SERIES HEADERS** — Product No. 41-3500X  
Copy Reads: \$111.02 Set ..... **Should Read: \$119.99 Set**

**Item 3:**  
**DUAL EXHAUST KITS** — Product No. 41-3407X  
Copy Reads: Kit, From \$130.85 ..... **Should Read: Kit, From \$139.99**

**Item 4 — TURBO 400 PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS**

Product No. 41-3450-2  
Copy Reads: \$168.3 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 41-3451-0  
Copy Reads: \$16.83 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 41-3452-8  
Copy Reads: \$16.83 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 41-3453-6 — **TURBO 400 HEADER MUFFLER**  
Copy Reads: \$18.62 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

**Item 5 — SONIC TURBO PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS**

Product No. 41-3556-2  
Copy Reads: \$37.28 ..... **Should Read: \$39.99**

Product No. 3557-0  
Copy Reads: \$37.28 ..... **Should Read: \$39.99**

Product No. 41-3558-8  
Copy Reads: \$37.28 ..... **Should Read: \$39.99**

**Item 6 — THRUSH PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS**

Product No. 41-3420-4  
Copy Reads: \$18.44 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 41-3421-2  
Copy Reads: \$18.44 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 41-3422-0  
Copy Reads: \$8.44 ..... **Should Read: \$19.99**

Product No. 3423-8  
Copy Reads: \$18.44 ..... **Should Read: \$22.99**

**Item 7 — HUSH THRUSH PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS**

Product No. 41-3424-6  
Copy Reads: \$23.15 ..... **Should Read: \$29.99**

Product No. 3425-4  
Copy Reads: \$23.14 ..... **Should Read: \$29.99**

Product No. 3426-2  
Copy Reads: \$23.15 ..... **Should Read: \$24.99**

Product No. 3427-0  
Copy Reads: \$23.15 ..... **Should Read: \$24.99**

Product No. 41-3428-8 — **HUSH THRUSH HEADER MUFFLERS**  
Copy Reads: \$27.67 ..... **Should Read: \$29.99**

**Item 8 — RED BULLET PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS**

Product No. 41-3443-0  
Copy Reads: \$18.49 ..... **Should Read: \$22.99**

Product No. 41-3440-6  
Copy Reads: \$18.49 ..... **Should Read: \$22.99**

Product No. 41-3441-4  
Copy Reads: \$18.49 ..... **Should Read: \$22.99**

Product No. 41-3442-2  
Copy Reads: \$18.49 ..... **Should Read: \$22.99**

Product No. 41-3444-8 — **RED BULLET HEADER MUFFLERS**  
Copy Reads: \$21.34 ..... **Should Read: \$26.99**

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