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NEWS

ARNOTT RE-ELECTED SPEAKER OF ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

ROBERT BENZIE/TORONTO STAR
ROB FERGUSON/TORONTO STAR

MPPs have defied Premier Doug Ford's wishes and returned veteran Ted Arnott as speaker of the Ontario Legislature.

Ford had backed challenger Nina Tangri, who was vying to be the first woman to hold the job at Queen's Park.

But in a secret-ballot vote on August 8, the opposition New Democrat, Liberal and Green MPPs — with a bevy of rebellious Progressive Conservatives — re-elected Arnott, a 32-year Tory MPP who has been speaker since 2018.

Ford and his cabinet had supported Tangri (Mississauga-Streetsville), a former PC minister who had hoped to smash the last glass ceiling at Queen's Park.

But Tory backbenchers had other ideas, and voted with the opposition for the Wellington-Halton Hills MPP. As is tradition, the ballots will be destroyed so the tally will never be made public.

The speaker setback for Ford is similar to what happened to Liberal premier Dalton McGuinty in 2011.



TED ARNOTT

Tavis Nembhard photo

At that time, McGuinty's office wanted former minister Donna Cansfield to become the first female speaker. But the New Democrats and Tories lined up behind Liberal Dave Levac, who won the post.

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