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SPECIALS January 10/93 ONLY!

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Queen's Park Report



Noel Duignan MPP **Halton North**

The last two weeks I've been talking about some of the programs and accomplishments of the second session of the 35th Parliament.

We've been providing workers with some of the best protection in North America and showing that jobs and justice are not contradictory goals — in the long run they reinforce each other.

After lengthy consultations, amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act were passed and these took effect on January 1/93.

The Worker Investment and Ownership Program received royal assent in July 1992 and is retroactive to October 1991.

It establishes tax incentives for investments by workers in Ontario businesses. The program helps keep jobs and investment in our province, especially in small and medium sized businesses.

The worker ownership part of the program has already been used by workers in Kapuskasing when they acquired control of the Spruce Falls

Following the release of a public discussion paper on employment equity in late 1991, the government introduced legislation that will increase fairness in the workplace for women, aboriginal people, per-

of visible minorities. Legislation to extend pay equity to cover an additional 420,000 women has been placed before the

sons with disabilities and members

Legislature. Its enactment will mean fairer wages for women who work in jobs that, until now, did not qualify for pay equity increases.

This will be accomplished by adding proxy and proportional value comparisons to the job-to-job comparator method of calculating pay equity contained in the original 1987 law.

Our government is active in pursuit of environmental and justice objectives as well.

- The draft Environmental Bill of Rights, released for public review, reflects a consensus of business and environmental groups.

It aims to give people new powers to protect the environment. The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy report sets out a strategy for sustainable development in Ontario that we're eager to follow. Our government has renewed the mandate of the Round Table.

- We've concluded an historic Statement of Political Relationship with aboriginal people.

We're pursuing self-government, land claims, and quality of life issues with Ontario First Nations on a government-to-government basis.

To empower and offer protection to vulnerable persons, a system of non-legal social advocacy will

be established under the Advocacy

- Legislation has been introduced that aims at eliminating sexual abuse in health care and removing limitation periods for civil lawsuits by many sexual assault victims.

- Rent control legislation was proclaimed. This ends high rent increases for tenants and ensures better maintenance and repair of rental buildings.

- By reforming the health care system, we're ensuring we can enjoy its benefits at an affordable cost in future years.

The Ontario Medical Association and the government have committed themselves to mutual efforts to control costs while maintaining quality services.

We've also improved the management of the Ontario Drug Benefit Program to help reduce the spending growth rate of this pro-

- And we introduced the Long-Term Care Statute Law Amendment Act as part of a comprehensive reform.

This initiative will integrate and improve the services supporting elderly persons and their caregivers, adults with physical disabilities, and those who need health services at home.

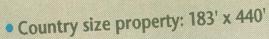
Free Financial planning seminar

A free financial planning seminar will be held at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown starting at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 20. Sponsored by SunLife of Canada the evening's agenda includes a look at the new RRSP rules, ways to reduces the affect of taxes, and much more. For more information and reservations call 873-7324 (Georgetown), 416-626-3004 (Toronto).

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