## Ontario emerging from economic recession

By now I'm sure you've heard the news about the jobsOntario Capital funding for area transportation improvements and for the construction of the Glen Williams water main. These projects are important elements in our overall plan to correct our "infrastructure deficit". For too long, investment in our transportation and communication systems, and water lines and sewers has just not been good

Ontario is only beginning to emerge from the worst economic recession since the 1930's. It has been worse than anyone expected and it's lasted longer than anyone expected. The effects were magnified in our provincial government - high "real interest rates" and a high Canadian dollar during much of the recession, and the Free Trade Agreement.

We need to do two things to get our economy moving again: - get unemployed people back to work as quickly as possible - reshape our economic foundation to meet the changing demands of the world economy.

If we address the second problem we'll help solve the first. Our Economic Renewal Agenda means developing policies and programs that work to rebuild the provincial economy. It means laying the groundwork for long term growth in productivity. Economic renewal means stimulating investment and maintaining public services. And it means new and better ways of doing business.

Our government is focusing on three key aspects of our economy.



**Noel Duignan MPP Halton North** 

1. We're working to build a highly qualified, well trained work-

2. We're promoting the industrial development of Ontario with programs that support innovation and investment in new technologies.

3. We're investing in the infrastructure of our province.

During the last two years, our government has increased capital investment by 20 percent because we know that investing in infrastructure is important to economic renewal. We've identified projects that will realize our need to create jobs now and to restructure our economy for the future. And jobsOntario Capital will be the catalyst. We'll invest more than 460 million dollars during the next fiscal year to make major improvements in five areas - transit, telecommunications, clean water, the Ontario Government Relocation plan, and highways.

People in the transportation industry don't like traffic jams. In the business of shipping goods, time really is money. They particularly don't like traffic congestion in the Greater Toronto Area. They say it adds two billion dollars to the cost of moving goods every year. By investing in our infrastructure, we can reduce that waste and, in the process, help a large number of firms boost their competitive abili-

We're also using a different approach to highway development. announced recently Transportation Capital Corporation will be dedicated to building new highway and transit projects that involve innovation in their financing or delivery. The new agency will encourage the private sector to participate in these undertakings and will have access to user-based funding such as tolls on new highways. Highway 407 will be a pilot project for new financing - in particular, the use of tools, but all tolls collected and other alternative financial arrangements will be used as revenues for the construction instead of being lumped into the general revenue of the provincial





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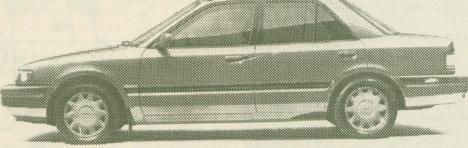
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