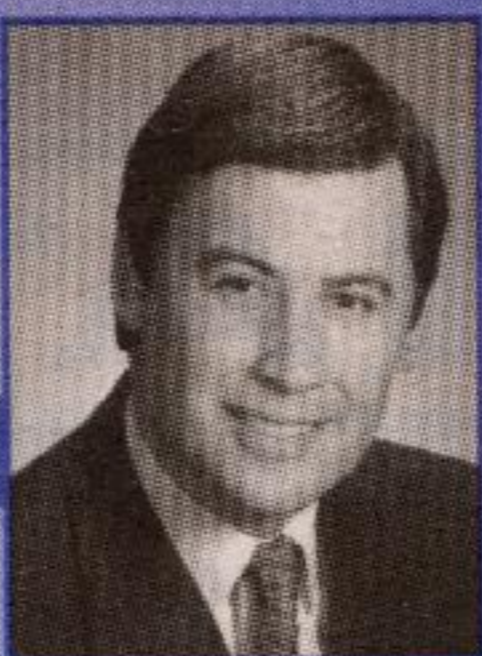


Halton Hills Papers Parliament Hill Report

MICHAEL CHONG, M.P. FOR WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS



Tories Would Reduce GO Transit Costs

A Conservative government would make monthly transit passes eligible for a 16% federal tax credit. Riders of bus, light rail and subway would be eligible for this 16% federal tax credit, which would take effect immediately upon the election of a Conservative government.

For example, a commuter traveling from Georgetown's GO station to Toronto's Union Station currently pays \$244 a month, or \$2928 a year. Under the Conservative's plan, this commuter would receive a federal tax credit of 16%, amounting to an annual refund of \$468. For a commuter traveling on GO Transit from Acton to Toronto's Union Station the refund would be even greater. The current monthly fare from Acton to Toronto is \$291 a month, or \$3492 a year; 16% of this amount would be refunded, amounting to an annual refund of \$559.

I'm very excited about this commuter transit policy; it's part of our urban and environmental agenda. This program will reduce the number of cars on the road

thereby reducing road congestion, help the environment by reducing greenhouse gases and smog, and provide real tax relief for working families.

GO transit provided rail service to Acton from 1990 to 1993; this service was cancelled due to low ridership volumes and provincial budgetary pressures. Regarding re-initializing rail service to Acton, Halton Hills Mayor Bonnette and I have talked about this issue on several occasions. The program we are proposing will increase transit ridership, and hopefully will encourage GO Transit to re-introduce rail service to Acton.

I believe that taxpayers' money is better spent on incentives for Canadians that help them make environmentally friendly choices. This proposal is a real positive step for our environment and for a greener Canada. The total cost of the program is estimated at \$400 million per year with funds coming from the current \$5 billion set aside for climate change in the 2005 budget.

My View

BY WATERLOO-WELLINGTON MPP TED ARNOTT

Ontario slipping as Canada's industrial powerhouse



I am concerned about substantial job losses in Ontario's manufacturing sector and am calling on the Ontario Government to take corrective action as soon as possible.

Last May I tabled a resolution in the Ontario Legislature aimed at boosting the Province's economic competitiveness and supporting job creation.

This month's jobs report by Statistics Canada should sound an alarm bell for the Provincial Government. Last month alone Canada lost 26,000 manufacturing jobs. This is more than a mere one-month hit - it's a discouraging trend. Ontario has lost 52,000 of these key manufacturing jobs over the past year.

For years, our Province was the industrial powerhouse of the Canadian economy. Under this Government's watch, we're seeing Ontario slip drastically in that regard. The Globe and Mail says that Ontario put in the weakest performance in the country.

My Private Member's Resolution reads as follows: "That in the opinion of

this House, the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs should immediately begin an investigation into Ontario's industrial and economic competitiveness, to develop an action plan to maintain and expand our domestic and international markets in the coming years".

How many lost jobs will it take before the McGuinty Government realizes that manufacturing is essential to our quality of life? Industrial job creation cannot be taken for granted just because we live in Ontario. The Government must address the issues raised by my resolution when the House resumes this fall.

The Ontario PC Caucus is developing policies through the Task Force for Economic Development. I am serving as Caucus Co-Chair of the Task Force with MPP Jim Flaherty. I am asking people to support this resolution on competitiveness by contacting me at www.tedarnottmpp.com or contacting the Waterloo-Wellington Riding office at 1-800-265-2366.

Waterloo-Wellington seniors' research institute to get \$500,000 in provincial funding

The new RBJ Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging will be receiving provincial funding of \$500,000 and has been selected to co-lead a province-wide program that develops new and better ways to provide care for Ontario's seniors. Waterloo-Wellington MPP Ted Arnott attended the announcement at Winston Park seniors' community in Kitchener on August 2.

"I am pleased that Winston Park in Waterloo-Wellington will take a leading role in research that will lead to better care for our seniors throughout Ontario," said Mr. Arnott. "I want to congratulate Ron Schlegel for having the vision, generosity, and determination to see this project through."

The Provincial Government has made the Research Institute for Aging a lead agency in building the Seniors' Health Research Transfer Network in Ontario. The other co-lead agency is located in Ottawa.

The Institute will do comprehensive research working with the University of Waterloo, Conestoga College and others to continuously improve the way seniors receive care. Best practices of care, developed at places like Winston Park, can then be transferred to benefit seniors at homes throughout the Province.

In his remarks at the announcement, Mr. Arnott congratulated and thanked MPP Elizabeth Witmer for her contribution to the Research Institute for Aging.

"Elizabeth has worked very hard on this initiative. Her knowledge of how the Ministry of Health works and her positive relationship with senior officials was the key to getting the Province on board. The work of this Institute is very important because it will help give Ontario's seniors a better quality of life," Mr. Arnott remarked later.

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