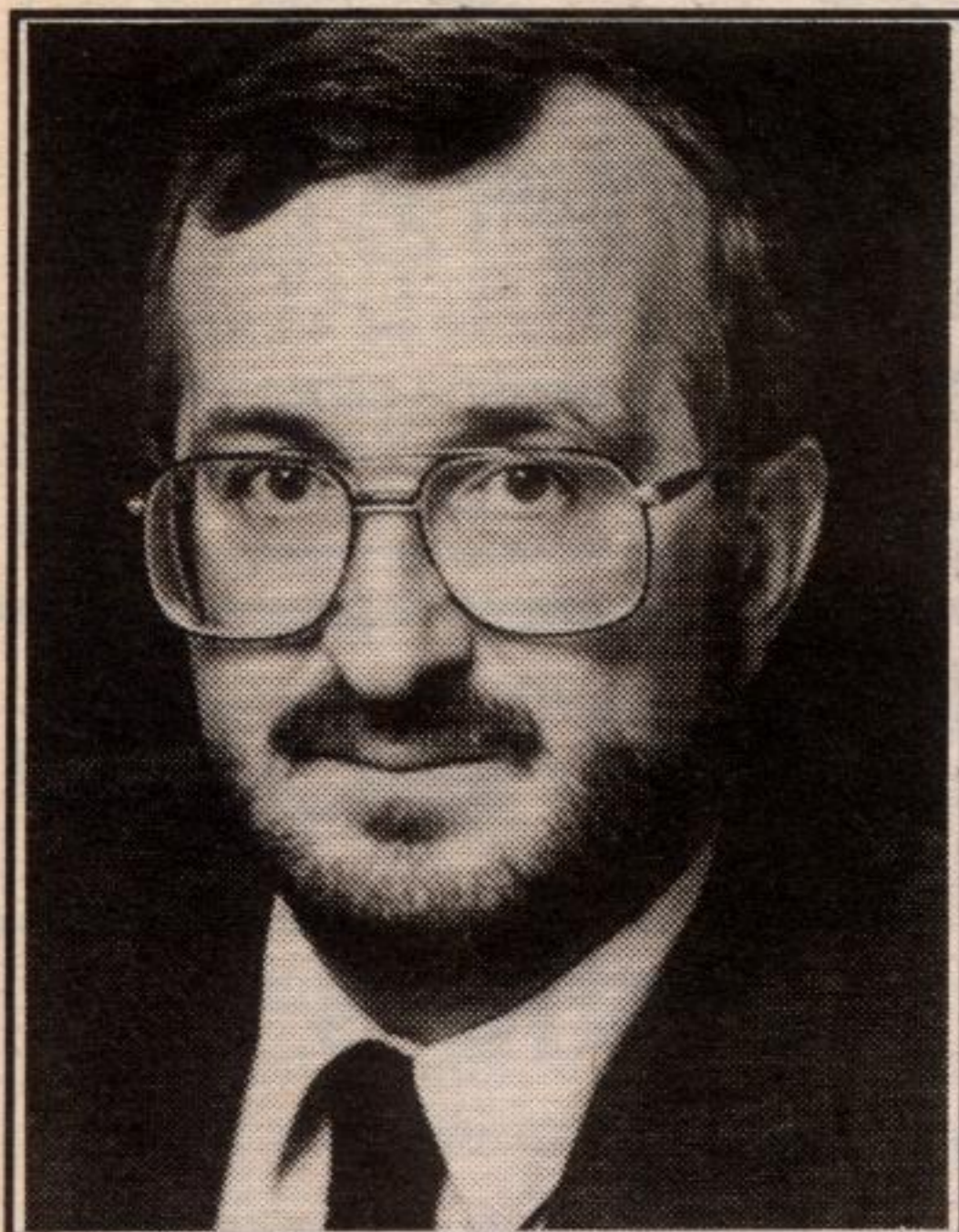


Queen's Park Report



Noel Duignan, MPP
Halton-North

Today I'd like to talk about an industrial policy for Ontario. Late last month, our Industry, Trade and Technology Minister, Ed Philip, released a paper and background documents outlining the government's approach in working with business, unions institutions and communities on the future economic development of our province.

We all know that Ontario is in need of decent, secure, well-paying jobs. This province has been dealt a hard blow by the recent recession. Offshore competition, plant closures, the high dollar and the Free Trade Agreement have cost this province thousands and thousands of jobs in the last two years.

Your provincial government is committed to repairing this damage. We want to create jobs - both in the short-term and in the years to come. Our spring budget - through

the Jobs Ontario Training Fund, the Jobs Ontario Capital Fund, and the Jobs Ontario Homes Fund - is helping to create tens of thousands of new jobs to battle the ravages of this recession. The Jobs Ontario Capital Fund, for example, has allocated funding for projects like asbestos removal in Halton schools and the construction of a second shelter for abused women. But we need to do more than create short-term employment. We need a plan, a policy, a framework for action that can help to fundamentally change our economy. We need such a plan so that we can take action to strengthen our basic competitive position in the world. This is what the recently-released Industrial Policy Framework for Ontario is meant to be.

The central idea in the policy is the concept of higher value added. What this means in the ordinary language of business is that the economy must begin to produce more valuable goods and services. We must start to produce high quality, differentiated goods and services which command a premium price from customers.

This doesn't mean just high technology. While the high tech sector could benefit from this approach, we believe there are possibilities for upgrading in all sectors and regions. In other words, we're going to have to change our traditional way of producing and marketing products and services. We can no longer rely on our natural resources to give us our competi-

tive advantage in the world - we must create our competitive advantage through a cooperative effort of all economic partners. This means changing the way we do things including how we invest for the future. We're going to invest in training to create an educated, motivated and highly skilled workforce. We will also invest in public and technological infrastructure to ensure we have first-class transportation, communication, education and technology facilities.

We're also going to change the way we manage economic change. We have to recognize the importance of the environmental impact by all of our industries. We also need to keep abreast of the changing nature of international trade. Further, we need to improve the flexibility of our workplaces and to develop the participation and cooperation necessary to sustain continuous innovation. And we need to share the costs of these policies, so that no particular group or community bears an unfair adjustment burden.

If Ontario wants to maintain and increase its high quality, high wage jobs, it will have to create a new sense of competitiveness which unites the hard-nosed perspectives of business with the caring, committed values of social equity and environmental sustainability.

MORRIS-HIGGINS WEDDING



Albert and Susan Attard are pleased to announce the marriage of their son Brent Higgins to Barb Morris, daughter of David and Anne Morris. The wedding took place on July 25th, 1992 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Georgetown.

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Pet patter Feline AIDS may surprise cat owners

By Ross Pezzack
D.V.M.

The recent AIDS conference received a large amount of publicity in the international press. What may be surprising to many cat owners is that their favorite feline is susceptible to a nearly identical fatal virus which produces clinical signs which mirror those of human AIDS. Called **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**, it resembles the AIDS virus structurally in that it causes a chronic infection which suppresses your cat's immune system. Typically cats are presented to their veterinarians with a chronic disease for which a non-infected cat would have either not required medication or would have responded to treatment. Diagnosis of the disease, like in human AIDS, is based on a blood test performed by your veterinarian which demonstrates antibodies to the virus (unfortunately these antibodies are unable to destroy this virus). A similar immunosuppressive virus, Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLeuk), is often present at the same time and can be detected with the same blood sample.

At the present time FIV has only been shown to be transmitted by

biting (with large numbers of virus in the saliva). Casual contact is not believed to be an important method of transmission. The role of FeLeuk in the development of the disease is not known, although not all cats have the two viruses at the time of diagnosis. Because of the method of transmission of the disease, one can see free roaming cats (especially intact males) are at the highest risk.

Unlike FeLeuk, there is no vaccine available for FIV. Because no treatment exists for cats with FIV, one should attempt to prevent the disease by minimizing your cat's roaming and fighting. Although difficult to do, this can be partially accomplished by neutering/spaying your cat, confining your cat to your house or backyard, and limiting his/her time outside to the daylight hours. Vaccination for FeLeuk would be recommended for all cats going outside (discuss this with your veterinarian).

It is very important to note that at this time there have been studies that indicate there is likely NO transmission of FIV to humans. Therefore, at this time, people appear NOT to be at risk of catching AIDS from their feline friends.

Ross Pezzack is a local veterinarian

Free roaming cats are at the highest risk



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