

Liberals ready to bestow vast new taxing powers on municipalities

Not content with breaking their campaign pledge to hold the line on taxes, the Liberals are now poised to give municipalities vast new taxing powers.

Afraid to break his pledge a second time, Premier Dalton McGuinty will let municipalities do it for him.

First, the Liberals will make the necessary legal changes to allow them to provide municipalities with far broader powers of regulation and taxation. They have already introduced a new City of Toronto Act which follows up on those legal changes to actually outline the new powers being transferred to Toronto.

It provides a template for all other municipalities in Ontario.

To be fair, the transfer of some of these powers is overdue and a good idea. For instance, a city like Toronto should be able to extend bar hours during the Film Festival without seeking provincial permission. However, if this legislation goes through as proposed we may get a patchwork of bar hours from one municipality to another.

The legislation will not allow income or sales tax, no payroll tax and no gas taxes to be levied by newly independent municipalities, however the new provisions are broad and not restrictive. The new powers recognize municipal-

QUEEN'S PARK REPORT



Ted Chudleigh

ities as a mature level of government and essentially provide them with a seat at the table in policy, program and budget deliberations undertaken by the federal or provincial governments.

However, Ontario municipalities have the ability to raise money through property taxes, licences, permits and user fees. With multiple levels of govern-

ment having their hands on all manner of tax programs the poor taxpayer will have more difficulty assigning responsibility for high taxes. Each level of government will shrug and point fingers at the other level—just as occurs today on gas taxes.

Ostensibly municipalities do not want to raise residential property taxes and cannot raise business property taxes and still entice business, so they will use these new tax powers to reduce the strain on property taxes.

If there are issues with property taxes then let's address the root of that problem. I have long said the current value assessment system needs to be fixed.

A better assessment system would remove the unfairness which is particularly noticeable when taxes increase.

If the issue is significant municipal costs accrued by a specific jurisdiction then let's fix the root of that problem. For example, I know social costs are a huge challenge for some municipalities.

First, providing municipalities with some regulation powers, then inviting them to the policy table to work out these challenges one by one, and then reviewing their revenue generating powers, is a more prudent approach to these problems.

—Ted Chudleigh is the MPP for Halton

STARS AND SPARKLES presents
Ooie Gooie Kooky Crazy
NEW! Birthday Bash! ages 6+ Boys & Girls

Specializing in hosting the ultimate **PRINCESS DRESS-UP** birthday parties. ages 4+

THE GROOVY GIRL PARTY ages 6+

Laina & Co. (905) 451-4124

Beautiful SPRING DRESSES
Perfect for Easter
\$14.99
Sizes 12 months-16

New Spring & Summer Fashions Arriving Weekly...

Forever Youngsters Children's Clothing
5 Mill Street East, Acton (519) 853-0011

GEORGETOWN CINEMAS
235 GUELPH STREET
905-873-1999

1 EIGHT BELOW PG Daily 6:45 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 2:00 p.m.

2 PINK PANTHER PG Daily 6:45 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 2:00 p.m.

3 CURIOUS GEORGE G Daily 6:45 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 2:00 p.m.

3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 14A Daily 8:30 p.m. (Feb. 17th-March 6)

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
Lotto Centre ~ Georgetown Market Place
www.cinemas3.ca
Theatre Parking Available at Rear

PARK MOTOR SALES
On Hwy 7 between Georgetown & Acton
905-877-2261
www.autotrader.ca/ParkMotorSales

<p>2005 FORD TAURUS SEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.0L V6 Automatic •Power Sunroof •Power Windows, Locks & Seat •AM/FM Stereo/CD •Factory Warranty •47,548 kms <p>\$14,880. Stk #C320</p>	<p>2002 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.0 V6 Automatic •Fully Power Equipped •Cruise & Tilt •Air Conditioning •AM/FM Stereo/CD •86,148 kms <p>\$10,880. Stk #C278</p>	<p>2004 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.8 V6 Automatic •Power Windows, Locks & Seat •Air Conditioning •Cruise & Tilt •AM/FM Stereo/CD •76,902 kms <p>\$12,995. Stk #C245</p>
<p>2001 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.8L V6 / 5 Speed •Power Windows, Locks & Seat •Air Conditioning •Cruise & Tilt •AM/FM CD Mach Audio •67,492 kms <p>\$14,980. Stk #C223</p>	<p>2002 SATURN SLI 4 DOOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.9L 4 Cyl. Automatic •AM/FM Stereo/CD •Power Windows & Locks •Cruise & Tilt •63,724 kms <p>\$6,995. Stk #C316</p>	<p>2002 SATURN L200 4 DOOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.2L 4 cyl., Automatic •Air Conditioning •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Cruise & Tilt •AM/FM Stereo/CD •104,424 kms <p>\$7,995. Stk #C315</p>
<p>2002 HYUNDAI ACCENT 2 DOOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1.5L Automatic •AM/FM Stereo/Cassette •Tilt Steering Wheel •Only 30,490 kms <p>\$6,720. Stk #C303</p>	<p>2001 CHRYSLER SEBRING LXi 4 DOOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.7L V6 Automatic •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Power Leather Seats •AM/FM Cassette/CD •Cruise & Tilt •59,986 kms <p>\$10,990. Stk #C271</p>	<p>2001 HYUNDAI SONATA GL 4 DOOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.5L V6 Automatic •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •AM/FM Stereo/CD •Air Conditioning •Cruise & Tilt •83,285 kms <p>\$9,580. Stk #301</p>
<p>2003 FORD F150 LARIAT SUPERCAB 4x4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5.4L V8 Automatic •Trailer Tow Package •Power Windows, Locks & Seat •Air Conditioning •AM/FM Stereo/CD •65,845 kms <p>\$22,990. Stk #T258</p>	<p>2003 FORD WINDSTAR SPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.8L V6 Automatic •Power Sliding Door •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Quad Leather Captain's Chairs •Video System •61,779 kms <p>\$14,840. Stk #T267</p>	<p>2002 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4x4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.0L V6 Automatic •Power Sunroof •Power Leather Seats •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Cruise & Tilt •83,750 kms <p>\$17,870. Stk #T259</p>
<p>2002 DODGE DAKOTA EXTRA CAB 4x4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.9L V6 Automatic •Air Conditioning •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Cruise & Tilt •AM/FM Stereo/CD •74,510 kms <p>\$14,880. Stk #T264</p>	<p>2001 DODGE DAKOTA EXTRA CAB 4x4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •3.9L V6 Automatic •Fibreglass Tonneau Cover •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Air Conditioning •Cruise & Tilt •71,420 kms <p>\$15,990. Stk #T265</p>	<p>2001 DODGE DURANGO SLT 4x4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •4.7L V8 Automatic •7 Passenger w/Power Seat •Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors •Cruise & Tilt •Air Conditioning •106,241 kms <p>\$13,680. Stk #T183</p>



2006 U.S. CARGO SNOWMOBILE TRAILERS
SAVE!! SAVE!! "REDUCE TO CLEAR"


US CARGO TRAILERS
Over 25 In Stock
Trailers for All Your Needs
Security - Convenience Advertising





On Feb. 21 Michelle Payton was 16!
Happy Birthday!

DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR LIFE



Shooting drugs is no different than shooting dice: you'll be on a roll for a while, but one time is all it takes to end the game. Drug addiction can happen quickly and be hard to beat. So, why play games with your health and well-being? It's not a gamble worth taking.