

Job drain needs to be plugged

One thing about a free market is that it is free to move.

For many months now we have been seeing segments of the market, such as manufacturing, fleeing Ontario. At first several companies, like Dana Corp. said they were consolidating operations, and then others like Ford said they were juggling product lines, now others, like American Can are simply closing shop.

All the while the McGuinty Liberals have ignored the root causes of the problem preferring to provide large cash incentives to auto makers to locate plants here but failing to do those things that are necessary to keep existing businesses in Ontario.

It's not rocket science. Investment money prefers stable, predictable jurisdictions with a low cost of doing business. Period.

In Liberal Ontario we face uncertainty in tax and utility rates. One day we have a deficit, the next our budget is balanced but there is no commitment to maintaining that balance. When asked, the Finance Minister simply shrugs his shoulders. How's that for inspiring confidence in the market?

To business, increased Liberal spending is merely a prelude to future tax hikes. And those Liberals can spend, especially when they spend for spending sake; to wit: \$6 million to remove the 'C' from OLG (Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation), \$91 million to fire nurses when they claim to want to hire 8,000 new ones, \$93.8 million to switch from health access centres to health integration networks, \$55 million because of dithering in Caledonia, and \$30 million to cancel construction of a gas-fired power plant in Thunder Bay.

That spending is merely the waste we know about. The Liberals haven't taken the opportunity to end outdated government programs, trim program spending, and take a responsible approach to the finances of the province. Instead they



Ted Chudleigh

raised personal taxes, they raised corporate taxes and they reduced services, especially in health care.

The free markets are speaking. Canadian economic growth predictions have been scaled back by the Bank of Canada. In a weakened Ontario, this means today's best guess by Royal Bank economists is that we will narrowly avoid a recession.

The Liberal strategy of fitting everyone with rose-coloured glasses, saying anything to keep people happy and praying no one notices as we lurch from crisis to crisis is beginning to implode.

John Tory called for a real plan for jobs and growth. He asked Premier McGuinty to honour the will of the entire legislature which last December called for a comprehensive plan to deal with job losses in the manufacturing sector. Again Mr. McGuinty avoided the issue even in the face of more jobs losses in Chatham, St. Thomas, Sarnia, St. Mary's, Stratford.

Ontario lost 34,000 full time jobs last month. For only the second time in the last 30 years Ontario's jobless rate is above the national average.

Visiting an auto plant recently the Premier was jeered by auto workers who face the reality of job losses and soft markets every day. It appears those on the front line of our economy have a better understanding of it than our Premier.

Ted Chudleigh is the MPP for Halton riding

2006 Municipal Election

If you're like me, you moved to Georgetown because you were attracted to a place with beautiful surroundings...a friendly community that is safe for families. I have lived and worked here for over 20 years, and I want to see these things protected. Development is necessary because the province has legislated that it must happen. However, it must fit our desired profile. I will support controlled growth with quality development.

I am an experienced business leader with 20 years of volunteer involvement in Georgetown. Being your Ward 4 representative will not be a part time job for me. I will devote myself full time to council, and bring business expertise to the table.

If you vote for me on Nov. 13th, I will work hard to earn your trust and respect. For more detail on my views, please see www.johnaduncan.ca

Sincerely
John

John Duncan, Candidate for Ward 4

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