

# 8,000 lost jobs.

Some studies suggest that a government takeover of Ontario's car insurance system could cost up to 8,000 industry jobs.

How many will be in your community?

You may already be aware that the government has announced plans to take over Ontario's car insurance system. But you may not be aware of the potential impact this could have on your community and others like it throughout the province.

faster and customer satisfaction is high. Insurance companies, now showing profits for the first time in years, are, in some cases, applying to the government for permission to reduce rates.

## Jobs lost. Lives disrupted.

Right now, the car insurance industry in Ontario, including companies, brokers and agents, employs about 26,000 people. And the very nature of the industry means that these jobs are located in communities throughout the province.

A number of studies have been commissioned to determine the impact on industry jobs that would result from a government takeover. The consensus is that after allowing for new government jobs that might be created, up to 8,000 industry jobs could be permanently lost...some of them quite possibly in your community.

Even if some insurance industry workers were subsequently hired by government, they'd have to move to wherever the government chooses to base its operations...causing immense disruption to families, particularly in two-income households.

## Who gets hurt most?

The 26,000 insurance industry workers in Ontario reflect the province's multicultural diversity. In addition, more than half of them are women. If the government puts the industry out of business, it will affect the livelihoods of thousands of ordinary working people.

## What's the government's reason?

A lot of people have asked why the government wants to take over the car insurance system. Other than carrying through with what may have been an ill-considered election promise, there doesn't seem to be any good reason.

The current car insurance system, called the Ontario Motorist Protection Plan, appears to be working well. Claims are being processed

## ECONOMIC IMPACT IN YOUR AREA

In the local communities reached by this advertisement, general insurance companies and brokers employ 390 people.

*"I do not favour government insurance. I am not aware of any program that a government has run well except to collect taxes."*

W.S. Nurse  
Whitby, Ontario

*"Why can't the government spend our tax dollars where they are needed?"*

Robert J. Marshall  
Oxford, Ontario

*"It is obvious to me that private enterprise can operate more efficiently than a government bureaucracy."*

Jim Witty  
Mayor, Town of Ajax

## Where's the economic sense?

Scrapping the current car insurance system simply doesn't make economic sense. By any estimate, setting up a government-owned system will cost taxpayers millions of dollars, so government insurance would certainly not be cheaper. And if experience is any guide, a government-owned system in Ontario, like those in Western Canada, would have to be bailed out by the taxpayer.

Some people believe that with all the other social and economic problems Ontario faces, taking over the car insurance system should simply not be a government priority.

## The government already has control.

Perhaps the best reason for the government not to take over the car insurance system is that there simply is no need. Through the Ontario Insurance Commission, the government already has complete control over prices and benefits. Insurance companies even have to apply to the Commission for permission to reduce premiums. So if the government already controls the insurance industry, why do they have to own it?

Can the car insurance system be improved? Certainly. But with the government's current level of control and the industry's willingness to co-operate with government, there's no reason why improvements can't be made under the present system.

## What can you do.

If you agree that a government takeover of the car insurance system could hurt your community, you might want to tell that to your local M.P.P. (see below for the name, address and phone number of your local M.P.P.)

Gord Mills, MPP, Durham East  
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Bowmanville, Ontario L1C 3K2  
Tel: (416) 623-6663

Larry O'Connor, MPP, Durham York  
133 High Street  
Sutton, Ontario L0E 1R0  
Tel: (416) 722-7212

The Hon. Allan Pilkey, MPP, Oshawa  
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Drummond White, MPP, Durham Centre  
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