

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2009

DURHAM MPPS STAY IN LEGISLATURE PAST MIDNIGHT TO PROTEST HST

John O'Toole and Jerry Ouellette Back Colleagues for Calling on Public Hearings

Queens Park – John O'Toole MPP, Durham and Jerry Ouellette MPP, Oshawa stayed in the Legislature until well past midnight to support the continuing protest and to help back the call for public hearings on Dalton McGuinty's HST.

In a move to push the McGuinty government to allow the public an opportunity to give input into the impact of the new HST, two Conservative MPPs have refused to leave the provincial legislature after loudly protesting the HST.

"I was proud to stay with MPP's Murdoch and Hillier to ensure our members were not removed," stated O'Toole. "There are few options left; my caucus colleagues and I are standing up for taxpayers who are being denied public hearings into Dalton McGuinty's HST tax grab".

The protest began yesterday afternoon in the Legislature when Owen Sound-Bruce MPP Bill Murdoch and Randy Hillier MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington rejected the Speaker's plea to retract a statement in which they called Premier McGuinty a liar over his refusal to grant public hearings on the HST. When the Speaker attempted to have the MPPs removed several PC Caucus members stepped in to prevent any expulsion. The protest continued as Opposition members drowned out debate with chants of "Call public hearings" that echoed through the halls of Queens Park.

"It's unfortunate that government's refusal to listen has driven us to this point," Ouellette affirmed after a late night in the Legislature. "But, after months of petitions, demonstrations, letter writing campaigns and more against McGuinty's massive tax grab, this may be the only way to get government's attention."

-30-

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP – Oshawa

Tel (905) 723-2411

jerry.ouelleteco@pc.ola.org

John O'Toole, MPP – Durham

Tel (905) 697-1501

john.otooleco@pc.ola.org