



## **DURHAM'S OPPOSITION MPP'S OFFER BUDGET SUGGESTIONS**

For Immediate Release  
March 24, 2009

In the past few months of volatility and confusion, a few things have become evident.

One, our auto sector could really use a hand; and two, overtaxed Ontarians are being squeezed and can really use a break.

In the past few weeks, Ontario Progressive Conservative Caucus members have made a number of suggestions that would give the auto sector that helping hand and give Ontarians the break they deserve.

Ahead of the Liberal budget this week, the PC Party has suggested a PST tax holiday on the purchase of new cars and trucks, and a "Retire-Your-Ride" program, which would offer Ontarians rebates for turning in their old car and buying a new one.

These are two simple ideas that could do a lot of good.

A PST tax holiday on the purchase of new cars and trucks would make purchasing cars cheaper, which is good news for both consumers and car dealers and makers.

The PST tax holiday we're proposing would last for three months, giving consumers time to take advantage of the eight per cent discount. It would inject a much-needed shot of consumer confidence in our aching auto industry.

The same move was made by the PC government in 1980, which generated a 17 per cent increase in car sales.

Last week, the PC Party also suggested a "Retire-Your-Ride" program, which would give Ontarians an incentive to buy again and help clean up the environment at the same time.

In partnership with a similar program offered by the federal government, Ontario drivers would get \$2,000 towards the purchase or lease of a new car after turning in their older vehicle that is ten years or older.

Not only would the program boost auto sales, but it would also create jobs and spur our economy forward, while at the same time getting many high-polluting, old clunkers off Ontario's roads.

Both of these suggestions require little work on Dalton McGuinty or his government's part but could deliver big results for our economy.

We're not saying this is a cure-all for our ailing economy, but it is certainly a start!

These are the sorts of ideas we hoped to see from Dalton McGuinty and his Liberal government months ago. That was when new, bold ideas and policies were needed and could have made a world of difference.

But it's not too late just yet. In concert with economic policies that would attract investment, jobs and business back to Ontario, ideas like this can kick-start our economy.

Our Party would be more than happy to see the Liberal government steal our ideas to get the motor on our economy running again.

Like so many of the other thoughtful, practical ideas we've put forward, we truly hope that Dalton McGuinty won't ignore this one – the potential benefits are too good to pass up.

-30-

For more information:

Christine Elliott, MPP  
Whitby-Oshawa  
(905) 430-1141

John O'Toole, MPP  
Durham  
(905) 697-1501

Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP  
Oshawa  
(905) 723-2411