



**For Immediate Release  
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## **TORY: MCGUINTY WEAK LEADERSHIP HAS ONTARIO LIMPING ALONG WHEN IT SHOULD BE RUNNING**

*Dalton McGuinty spends over \$22 billion more but we suffer because of weak results*

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative Party Leader John Tory today said Ontarians haven't seen the results they deserve as Dalton McGuinty's fourth and final Budget caps off four years of dramatically increased spending without significant results.

"Our province is limping when it could be running," said Tory. "Ontario was once the real leader of the whole country and now we sputter. I don't want Ontario to be the little engine that could – Ontario before Dalton McGuinty was the big engine that did and that's what we must aspire to be again."

The 2007 Budget shows that Dalton McGuinty increased annual spending by over \$22 billion since he came to office. That's an increase of over \$4,500 in spending per household and it means Dalton McGuinty has increased spending by a staggering \$750,000 for every hour he has been in office.

"When taxpayers ask themselves 'is my job more secure? Are hospital emergency rooms better? Can I get to work and home any faster?' Is the environment better? the answers are negative. Dalton McGuinty does the easy part – the spending – but he just doesn't deliver results," Tory said.

Tory pointed to three examples of areas where Dalton McGuinty's spending spree has not achieved results Ontarians deserve – in the economy, health care and rural/Northern Ontario:

- Ontario was dead last in economic growth in 2006 compared to other provinces. Despite over 120,000 manufacturing job losses over the past two years, Dalton McGuinty still hasn't introduced any sort of jobs plan.
- Dalton McGuinty has virtually ignored the needs of the long-term care sector and as a result seniors will suffer and wait times will lengthen.
- Rural Ontario and the North – farmers are worse off by another \$100 million cut to the Ministry of Agriculture budget, and the North gets a facilitator to hold meetings on an economy in crisis.

"It takes strong leadership to make the big important decisions that will deliver results to the people of Ontario," said Tory. "Dalton McGuinty has failed to deliver that leadership. With a huge revenue windfall, plus the money in the Federal Budget, Dalton McGuinty should have no problem starting to eliminate the health tax, while achieving much better results in public services. This government is awash in cash but it's the poor suffering taxpayers who are continuing to take a bath."

"It's now clear he fooled us four years ago," said Tory. "As we look at this Budget, I say to Dalton McGuinty on behalf of the hardworking taxpayers of Ontario, we won't get fooled again."