



October 2, 2011

Mr. Rodney Sheppard
President
The Society of Energy Professionals
300-425 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 3R4

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

Thank you very much for your letter and 2011 provincial election questionnaire on behalf of The Society of Energy Professionals. I am pleased to provide you with the attached response, which outlines the Ontario Liberal Party's position on these issues of key importance.

Ontario Liberals are the only party with a positive plan to move Ontario forward. Together, we got through the recession the Ontario way: we protected education and health care, stood by workers in the hardest hit industries, and worked together to find new opportunities for our province and our families. Our strong leadership, experienced team and thoughtful long-term plan are getting results for Ontario families.


Eight years ago, during the dark days of Conservative cuts and conflict, Ontario was moving backwards. Today, our schools are rated among the world's best, our health care ranks first in Canada, and old jobs are coming back while new jobs are being created in emerging industries like advanced manufacturing and clean energy.

Our plan is working and Ontario is solidly on track. The Hudak PCs would take us off track and put our fragile recovery at risk with their reckless schemes. We need to keep moving forward, together.

...2/

Mr. Sheppard, thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues — and please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

Dalton McGuinty
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Premier

Enclosure

RESPONSE TO SOCIETY OF ENERGY PROFESSIONALS

1. Over the past eight years, our Liberal government has made significant progress after inheriting an electricity system with diminished supply and essentially no planning for the future. Today, our system is cleaner, more modern, and more reliable and we are planning for the future.

We have accomplished a great deal over the past eight years, but there is more to do as we require more clean power for the future. As Ontario's energy infrastructure ages, we will need to rebuild or create another 15,000 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity over the next 20 years. We will also need to continue to upgrade and expand our transmission and distribution grids.

Our Long-Term Energy Plan lays out how Ontario's overall electricity needs will be met over the next 20 years in a pragmatic way. It ensures a strong commitment to renewable energy and conservation, while ensuring our base load supply needs continue to be met and we phase out coal-fired electricity generation by 2014.

Nuclear power is a reliable, safe supplier of roughly half of Ontario's generation needs. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and does not produce any primary air pollution or release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Our plan includes the modernization of nuclear capacity at Darlington and Bruce and the replacement of older units that will be shut down at Pickering. As we move forward replacing our aging nuclear units, we will ensure public safety is our number one priority, incorporating the most advanced safety measures in the world.

2. We will continue to monitor the progress of the operation of nuclear units at Pickering. It is expected that we will receive an update from federal regulators on the progress of extending the life of these units in 2012. While coal-fired plants will cease to burn coal in 2014, Ontario Liberals recognize the potential benefits of continuing to use Ontario's existing electricity-generating assets and sites.

We were proud to be able to announce the conversion of our two Northern coal plants, Atikokan and Thunder Bay, to biomass and natural gas respectively. Currently, through our Long-Term Energy Plan, we are considering the possible conversion of some of the units at Nanticoke and Lambton to natural gas. To that end, planning and approval work on natural gas pipeline infrastructure necessary to supply Nanticoke has already begun.

We will continue to explore opportunities for co-firing of biomass with natural gas for any units converted to natural gas.

3. We will maintain the Long-Term Energy Plan projections for the 2030 supply mix.

4. The power system we inherited in 2003 was dirty and unreliable — a product of previous governments choosing not to make investments when they were needed. Since then, we have restored reliability by bringing 8,900 MW of new and refurbished generating capacity online and investing nearly \$8 billion to modernize our transmission and distribution infrastructure — more than double what was invested by the previous PC government. In fact, just in the first six months of 2011, we invested more in building and upgrading grid infrastructure than in any single year of the previous government's tenure.

Through our Long-Term Energy Plan, we will continue to make the necessary investments to bring Ontario's electricity system into the 21st century, to ensure reliability of service, enable more generation from renewable sources, and accommodate our power needs for the coming decades.

5. While Ontario now has the most significant, forward-thinking renewable energy program and targets in North America, we believe that the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) should remain focused on the considerable responsibilities we are having them undertake, such as:

- Shutting down/converting coal-fired electricity generators
- The safe and reliable operation of our nuclear and hydroelectric facilities
- The safe and cost-effective refurbishment of our nuclear units at Darlington
- Major hydroelectric projects in Ontario's North and at Niagara Falls
- Implementing internal operational savings and efficiencies to continue to reduce costs for consumers.

Right now, Ontario is positioned as the North American leader in renewable energy — the *Green Energy Act* and our Long-Term Energy Plan will entrench Ontario as a global clean energy powerhouse. The Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program provides guaranteed contracts for energy generated using renewable resources. The response to our FIT program has been tremendous, with more than 2,000 large and mid-scale FIT projects announced and over \$20 billion of private sector investment directed to the province.

Despite this success, both the PCs and the NDP refuse to endorse the burgeoning clean energy economy and the FIT program. The PC platform signalled their formal intent to end the FIT program and cancel Samsung's \$7 billion investment in Ontario. This is a

direct threat to thousands of Ontario jobs, thousands of MW of planned clean, renewable energy, and billions of private sector dollars invested in our economy when it needs them the most.

The NDP plan is no less disappointing. Recently, the NDP outlined their intention to end feed-in tariffs for projects that exceed 20 MW. Currently, there are over 5,200 MW of contracted FIT projects that exceed the 20 MW threshold proposed by the NDP. Collectively, these projects represent approximately \$15 billion in private sector investment. This reckless proposal would have a devastating effect on Ontario's clean energy sector, driving billions of dollars out of our economy, and killing thousands of jobs.

6. We believe that each agency has distinct and important responsibilities, which they are individually able to expertly deliver in a way that presents excellent value to ratepayers. Ontario Liberals do not believe that reliving the chaos of overhauling the structure of an electricity sector is in the best interests of Ontario electricity consumers.

7. No. The previous PC government's failed attempt to carve up and privatize Ontario's electricity system saddled ratepayers with billions of dollars in stranded debt. Ontario Liberals would not engage in those activities.

8. Ontario Liberals believe strongly in a balanced and fair labour relations system. We have worked hard over the past eight years to return that balance to Ontario's labour relations system.

We respect the relationship between unions and their members. We also recognize the vital role unions play in representing workers and ensuring their rights are protected.

With respect to the financial operation of unions, our government respects a union's right to collect dues from its members. It is for union members and their executives to determine how union dues are used.

We are not supportive of changing the current system.

The PCs are proposing to interfere with union fees directing how union members should consider monetary contributions to political causes. Their proposal is contrary to the Supreme Court of Canada's recognition of a union's importance in participating in the political process and would interfere with the internal affairs of an organization elected by its members.

9. Ontario has a good arbitration system to resolve collective agreement issues where it is prohibited to have a work stoppage and parties cannot reach an agreement at the table. Interest arbitration guarantees that Ontario families will have 24/7 service and protection from essential services provided by our police officers and firefighters. Our government feels strongly that, if negotiations come to an impasse, the arbitration process must remain strong, independent and impartial.

Mr. Hudak is not telling the full story to Ontarians when he talks about wanting to open up the legislation. While the PCs are calling for a change to the criteria considered by an arbitrator, our government believes intervening on behalf of one party is not fair and disrupts our balanced arbitration system.

The PCs' proposals to amend legislation are unnecessary. Arbitrators are already required to consider the local and provincial economic situations. Timelines are already included in the legislation and parties can request arbitrators to provide specific reasons for a decision.

Unlike Mr. Hudak, our focus is not on changing the arbitration system but, instead, on working with the parties and helping to bring them together to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

We have all seen the results in the last two decades of NDP and Conservative governments swinging the pendulum from far left to far right on labour relations: confrontation and distrust. Our Liberal government, on the other hand, has worked hard to bring a balanced and fair approach to labour relations and the numbers back up our approach. Almost 99 per cent of collective bargaining negotiations in Ontario are resolved without a day lost to a strike or lockout.

Response to questions 10, 11, 12: Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of a strong pension and retirement income system. That is why we have worked hard over the past eight years to achieve a record on pension reform and helping pensioners that is arguably unmatched by that of any other Ontario government in recent memory. We appointed the Ontario Expert Commission on Pensions. We passed two major pieces of pension reform legislation with unanimous consent of the legislature, constituting the most significant reforms on Ontario's pension system in over two decades. These reforms included stronger funding rules to help pension plans better withstand market downturns and make benefits more secure.

Our record also includes helping to stabilize pension plans at companies such as General Motors, Chrysler, Stelco and AbitibiBowater. We put the Pension Benefits Guarantee Fund on a more stable footing, which is helping to protect pensioners whose former employers have become insolvent. And we helped advance a major national policy debate on the future of Canada's retirement income system.

The PCs and the NDP do not have credible records of protecting pensioners. When they were last in government, neither party succeeded in reforming a system badly in need of change. The Harris-Hudak PCs' attempt at pension reform, Bill 198, was an unbalanced set of changes that would have removed important rights from pensioners and workers — and ultimately failed when Ontario Liberals, together with other groups, forced the PCs to withdraw. The NDP's disappointing record on pensions includes creating special rules to allow large companies to drastically underfund their pension plans, a move that — as many of your members know all too well — put the retirements of thousands of workers and retirees at risk.

13. We are the only level of government that continues to meet and exceed its child care commitments. Since 2003, we have increased funding for child care by 63 per cent and helped to create nearly 80,000 additional child care spaces. We have also expanded full fee subsidy eligibility to families earning under \$20,000.

The Harper government's cancellation of the national child care agreement cut approximately \$450 million annually from Ontario's child care system. Ontario Liberals stepped in with a permanent annual investment of \$63.5 million to save over 8,500 child care spaces.

We will also continue to find new ways to support families, which is why by 2014, every elementary school will offer full-day kindergarten (FDK), providing a full day of high-quality early learning for all four- and five-year-olds and saving families up to \$6,500 per year in child care costs for each child.

We are phasing in the implementation of FDK over five years to give our child care partners time to adjust. We are providing funding to help support centres in their transition to serving younger children. This support will grow to \$51 million annually by 2014. We are also providing \$12 million over five years to help non-profit child care centres make retrofits and renovations to serve younger children.

Once FDK is fully in place, we will make sure all schools offer after-school programs for children aged 6–12, giving parents comfort in knowing that their children are active and in good hands during the work day.

Ontario Liberals are committed to working with our partners to modernize Ontario's child care system and support centres as they transition to offering affordable care to families with younger children.

14. Closing the gender wage gap is important to the Ontario Liberal Party. I am proud to say we have taken steps over the past eight years to address compensation of women in Ontario's workforce.

The Ministry of Labour, Pay Equity Commission and Ontario Women's Directorate are just some of the government bodies dedicated to education and enforcement of the *Pay Equity Act*.

The Pay Equity Commission is working hard to ensure employers and employees are aware of the requirements under the *Pay Equity Act*. Ontarians should be proud that the act is recognized across Canada and internationally as one of the most progressive pay equity statutes in the world.

The Pay Equity Office has launched the Wage Gap Program. The program is collecting information about current compensation levels for the non-unionized employees of private sector organizations across Ontario. We look forward to the results of this program along with information from its proactive monitoring program to determine the next steps in promoting pay equity in Ontario.

The Pay Equity Office also has enforcement staff to ensure employers are complying with the act. The office has made significant progress over the years through an ambitious, proactive monitoring program that is applied to a number of sectors, particularly ones involving vulnerable workers.

Ontario Liberals also recognize the important roles played by the Pay Equity Commission and Tribunal to enforce the provisions of the *Pay Equity Act*.

In this year's budget, we have committed \$3.55 million to the Pay Equity Commission and \$775,000 to the Pay Equity Tribunal.

We will continue to work with Pay Equity Commission and Tribunal officials to determine the necessary funding to ensure proactive education and enforcement along with adjudication of the *Pay Equity Act*.

15. We have taken specific steps to address issues of violence against women and raise awareness about this issue, and we will continue to work to ensure that women who experience violence have the supports they need. Women must feel safe in their homes, their communities and their workplaces.

By working together we have made significant progress, including increased investment in direct supports for women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence. We

invest more than \$208 million each year to protect women from violence, and support victims of abuse, which includes our \$87-million Domestic Violence Action Plan. We are building on the success of the Domestic Violence Action Plan with our recently announced Sexual Violence Action Plan, Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives. This plan takes a coordinated and collaborative approach to preventing sexual violence and improving supports for survivors. We will work across ministries and with provincial violence-against-women organizations to implement public education campaigns, develop and deliver training, and enhance the service system response through an investment of \$15 million over four years. The Joint Working Group on Violence Against Aboriginal Women will continue to identify priorities. Their work will be guided by A Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

For women who have experienced violence, Ontario Liberals are supporting the training of more than 22,000 front-line professionals and service providers to detect domestic violence and support victims. We have helped almost 6,000 women annually access health care, and legal and social services in more than 60 languages, and we are investing over \$3.7 million to expand this program to reach women who have been victims of sexual assault. We have also helped to create a network of more than 200 survivors to engage other survivors. And, we are supporting undocumented women fleeing violence by funding crisis lines, which provide referrals in more than 150 languages, and by providing information on violence-against-women shelters and other support services.

We know there is more to do and no amount of violence against women is acceptable. If re-elected, we will continue to work closely with our partners to further implement our plans and to take additional steps to ensure the investments we are making are meeting the needs of women.

16. Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have been working hard to expand access to health services after eight years of neglect and cuts under the PCs. Our focus has been on improving access to family health services and to tackle wait times for surgery and in the Emergency Room (ER). When we came to office over 1.2 million Ontarians did not have access to family care and our province had the longest surgical wait times in the country.

Working together with doctors and nurses we have made significant progress to turn things around. Thanks to investments in 200 Family Health Teams, new Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 25 of Canada's first Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, over one million more Ontarians now have access to family care. There are 2,900 more doctors working today and more than 11,500 new nurses. We now have the shortest surgical

wait times in the country. We are the national leader in tracking, reporting and reducing ER wait times.

Ontario Liberals know there is more work to be done. Over the next four years we will continue to reduce wait times. We will work to ensure that all Ontarians have access to family health care. We will redesign the family health care system to make it more responsive to the needs of Ontarians. This plan includes working with front-line providers to roll out same-day access to family health care. Many other jurisdictions have realigned how family medicine appointments are scheduled to ensure that sick patients can get in to see their care team the same day they call. We will bring this innovation to Ontario. Our plan also includes expanding access to after-hours service because we know that Ontarians need care outside the Monday–Friday, 9–5 schedules according to which many family practices have traditionally operated. We are also bringing back house calls to ensure that those who cannot get to the doctor can get the care they need at home.

In 2007 we launched the Aging at Home Strategy to help elderly Ontarians stay at home as they age. We supported this strategy with \$1.1 billion over four years. Our plan includes investing in another three million hours of personal support for those who need it and providing a care coordinator to seniors who have been discharged from hospital.

Only Ontario Liberals have a credible plan to expand access to health services and a track record of success. The Hudak PCs have a \$14-billion hole in their platform that would mean deep cuts to the health services Ontarians rely on. The NDP has no clear plan to deal with the challenges of our aging population.