

MCGUINTY SHIRKS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CALEDONIA

McGuinty Liberals try to get Feds to pay for months of mismanagement on Caledonia

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative Party Leader John Tory today said that Dalton McGuinty's comments on Caledonia today further exemplify the weak leadership and mismanagement that have characterized his handling of the occupation since day one.

"Dalton McGuinty's comments this morning regarding Caledonia are ridiculous," said Tory. "His weak leadership on this issue is embarrassing. In typical McGuinty Liberal form this is just another attempt to dither, deflect and deny."

Tory, who has urged the McGuinty Liberals for months to start respecting the rule of law in Caledonia, made the comments following news that Dalton McGuinty expects the Federal Government to compensate Ontario for the ongoing occupation. Even today Dalton McGuinty still would not say what the situation in Caledonia will cost or how long it will last. The PC Caucus has repeatedly asked for the cost and the only answer has been Minister Ramsay saying that it "will cost whatever it will cost".

A list of Dalton McGuinty's decisions regarding Caledonia follows:

- Dalton McGuinty calls off negotiations. He says the province will only return to the table when the barricades come down and First Nations leaders assist police in finding seven suspects in connection with incidents on the land. They returned to the negotiating table three days later, his conditions are not met.
- Dalton McGuinty pays \$20.9 million for Douglas Creek Estates land costs, including purchase of the land. McGuinty allows protesters to remain on that land without agreed conditions for its use.
- Dalton McGuinty insists he wants protestors off the land by winter. There is no sign that is going to happen.

"While I've always acknowledged the federal government has significant responsibility for resolution of the land claim, the statement by Dalton McGuinty that he wants the federal government to pay for his mismanagement of the situation in Caledonia is ridiculous," said Tory. "He has decided to spend millions of Ontario taxpayers' dollars and now he is trying to say that his decisions are someone else's responsibility."

Tory added: "His actions today make it clear that Dalton McGuinty will say anything. One minute he is telling everyone how well he is working with the Federal Government and the next he is demanding that they foot the bill for his weak leadership."