

Toby BARRETT

MPP, Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant



YOUR CONCERNS ARE MY PRIORITY!

It has been a trying year!

It has been a most trying year for Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant. In the west end of the riding, we continue to see tobacco families waiting for answers to the crisis that has seen government decimate their industry. And, at the other end of the riding, we are at the one-year mark of the land dispute in Caledonia.

Over the course this past year, I have stood to deliver statements, speeches and ask questions on both of these very important matters. These two issues will remain hot potatoes until an exit strategy is delivered to tobacco farmers and a resolution to the land dispute is achieved.

Communication is a huge part of an MPP's work, and I feel that going directly to you is the most effective approach. I am proud to report that we have spoken to at least 3,000 of you last summer — at your door. We have knocked on doors this winter and will hopefully be coming to your door in the near future.

In the meantime, let me know what you're thinking by filling out the survey on page 3, or feel free to contact my office at any time.

Toby Barrett

Who's in charge?

Caledonia land dispute continues

One full year after the land occupation at the Douglas Creek Estates subdivision in Caledonia, residents remain frustrated and confused by the lack of action.

The people of Caledonia continue to ask when governments will stand for them, and when the needed compensation will be coming.

Rewind to a year ago.



Toronto – MPP Barrett joins disgruntled residents from Caledonia outside the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

On February 28, a handful of people blockaded the entrance to Douglas Creek Estates—with what appeared to be neither the support of the elected band council nor the confederacy chiefs.

The next day, I crossed the floor of the Ontario Legislature to ask the Aboriginal Affairs Minister the question, "Who is in charge?" His briefing note stated that it was the federal government.

The following day—March 2—I walked on to the occupied site and was told

they would only talk to the federal government.

On March 3, I wrote a letter to the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, conveying that message. On March 21, I hand-delivered a package of documents from the clan mothers at the occupied site, to Canada's Governor General in Ottawa.

But then, on April 12, in response to my question in the Legislature, Premier McGuinty's Minister of Aboriginal Affairs said, "The province has been taking a lead role on this."

After a summer of little movement from either level of government, on October 25, Premier McGuinty demanded the federal government reimburse \$25 million to the province. Since then, the Premier has blamed the federal government for Ontario's failed response

—apparently going back to the original position that Ottawa should be in charge.

My position remains the same. First, the rule of law is non-negotiable. Second, I will continue fighting for clarity, communication, and leadership from the government.

Strong leadership can be the foundation upon which we rebuild our fractured communities.

CLOCK IS NEARING MIDNIGHT IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

An unintended partnership of government policy and organized crime has put Canadian tobacco farmers and the legal tobacco trade at a competitive disadvantage. Nowhere is this more apparent than in our riding of Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant.

When I worked in tobacco, there were

3,200 farmers. Today, barely 600, and they want out. As well, legal manufacturing and retail of tobacco has suffered at the hands of smoke shops and illicit production.

Ontario's Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board and Tobacco Farmers in Crisis have presented an exit proposal for tobacco

farmers to federal Minister of Agriculture Chuck Strahl and provincial Minister Leona Dombrowsky.

Minister Dombrowsky has written to Minister Strahl to express her willingness to discuss an industry solution. She has also stated that: "Ontario will be an active participant

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Toronto – MPP Toby Barrett has participated in many farm rallies, including Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph, London, and up and down the 401. Cash crop, beef, hort, tobacco, dairy heifer export, even beekeeping has suffered economic losses in recent years.

Barrett asks, what do you think of Nukes at Nanticoke?

Government taking 25% of power off grid while musing about nuclear

Port Dover – Rumours of the Ontario government’s nuclear power plan have placed a large question mark over Nanticoke OPG.

Dalton McGuinty has said he would be okay with new nuclear if a review approves. This followed recent reports that the Energy Minister had mentioned the possibility of nukes at Nanticoke to the Mayor of Haldimand.

“I’m very concerned that this government could place a nuclear facility in our backyard without area residents being able to provide input,” Barrett said. “The Energy Minister has yet to even pay a visit to Nanticoke—or Lambton for that matter—to see what he’s dealing with and hear from those his electricity decision will impact.”

In an effort to provide a local “show of hands” on the nuclear Nanticoke possibility, Barrett has conducted surveys at his office and the Caledonia and Norfolk fairs.

Ontario’s coal closure debate continues

Late 2006, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) recommended coal generation be maintained until 2014. If the OPA directive is followed, it would mark the third time the government was forced to revise its coal policy, one that Mr. Barrett has disagreed with from the get-go.

In 2003, the McGuinty government said it would close all four of the province's coal-fired plants by 2007. Later, the government pushed the time frame back to 2009. The recent OPA report would push that date back another six years.

MPP Barrett has long been clear in his stance for continued investment into clean air technology at coal plants—including Nanticoke—for a list of reasons that include:

- **Cost** - the relatively inexpensive cost of coal compared to other fuel sources. Natural gas is two to three times the cost, and it will require \$30-\$40 billion to maintain our current nuclear capacity.
- **Resources** - recent National Energy Board estimates suggest that nearly two-thirds of Canada’s discovered resources of natural gas have been consumed. That leaves only 7.5 years of proven reserves and another 5 years of possible reserves, while an OPA representative has stated that “we have the world’s largest reserves of coal in North America, and much of that is in Canada.”
- **Air Quality** - emissions from Ontario coal-fired power plants contribute less than 7% to provincial air pollution concerns. With available, affordable emissions-reduction technology—technology that the former PC government began to implement with a \$250-million investment into Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) units at Nanticoke and Lambton—emissions *could* be reduced to 1%, comparable to those of natural gas fired generation.

With respect to climate change, carbon sequestration in the Mt. Simon sandstone beneath Lake Erie could eliminate greenhouse emissions from Nanticoke. Instead of allowing the carbon dioxide to escape into the environment, it is proposed we could sequester—or catch—it, and store it underground. This process could help to keep power plants open, meet Kyoto benchmarks, and ensure a stable supply of electricity.

It’s time to take the blinders off and ensure future decisions on our energy file are made based on science and economics rather than partisan misinformation.

Please tell us what you think about the possibility of Nukes at Nanticoke – sign your name to the following survey and cut along dotted line to mail to: HNB MPP Toby Barrett, 39 Norfolk St. N, Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 3N6

NUKES AT NANTICOKE? HAVE YOUR SAY!!

WHEREAS the McGuinty Government plans to close down Ontario’s coal-fired electricity;

AND WHEREAS the Premier is, “prepared to go ahead with economical, safe, new nuclear.”;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Energy discussed the possibility of nuclear power at Nanticoke with Haldimand’s Mayor;

AND WHEREAS people from our area have not been given a chance to have their say on a potential nuclear facility at Nanticoke.

ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF NUKES AT NANTICOKE? YES OR NO?

YES	NO	Name (Print)	Address	Email	Signature

LONG-TERM CARE ACT

Seniors deserve better

After meeting with various stakeholders, I've realized the proposed *Long-Term Care Homes Act* creates separate tiers of seniors' care.

In 2003, citizens were promised \$6,000 each of long-term care funding. Under Bill 140, it appears unlikely that they will see that money.

According to the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS), Bill 140 will have serious implications for the viability of the not-for-profit long term care sector. Rather than using government funding for resident care and services, long-term care homes will be forced to divert funds to pay for bureaucracy and paperwork.

The Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) is also expressing outrage. According to the OLTCA, the proposed law ensures 35,000 residents will continue living in three or four bed wards, as it contains no plan or funding commitment for the renewal of older homes. Worse yet, the new law confirms that the government is prepared to sentence 35,000 seniors to beds that meet 1972 design standards.

A strong contrast is now evident between the current government and the previous government, when it comes to investing in long-term care.

The former government was known for strategic investment—\$2.1 billion was announced in 1998 to build 20,000 brand new beds, and to rebuild 16,000 of the province's oldest beds.

In a recent statement to the Ontario Legislature, I criticized the waste and mismanagement in the health care system. For example, rather than spending \$90 million to close Community Care Access Centres, the government could have raised the food allowance for seniors to \$7 daily.

Seniors built this country—they deserve better. In the coming months, the campaign to give our seniors dignity will be heating up.

Trillium Foundation Grants

On February 2, three area groups received \$71,000 in Ontario Trillium Foundation grants. The Simcoe Christmas Panorama, the Simcoe Rotary Friendship Festival and Turkey Point Summerfest will collectively use the monies to help with administration. On hand for the presentation, from left, were Peter Mauther (Summerfest Committee), John Race (Trillium Foundation), Mike Martin (Simcoe Rotary Club), Clarence Wheaton, (Panorama President), MPP Toby Barrett, Bill Jappy (Simcoe Rotary Club), Dan Hill (Simcoe Rotary Club). – Photo courtesy of Memories in the Making Photography.



Doctor shortage exposes old thinking on health

In the past year, several hospitals have gone through 'emergency-room emergencies', due to an inability to find doctors.

In October, a Kitchener hospital came within hours of closing its emergency room because it was unable to find doctors to staff it. This doctor shortage prompted a Cambridge hospital to contract a private company to run its emergency room—a solution the government endorsed.

I have always believed that doctors and health professionals—not bureaucrats and politicians—are the central components of our healthcare system. After three years under Premier McGuinty's government, Ontario is facing an acute shortage of physicians while residents pay the Liberal imposed health premium.

The doctor shortage is a serious threat locally, and in rural communities throughout the province. Larger urban hospitals often have greater resources, which allows them to offer salary 'top-ups' for their emergency room doctors. Unable to compete with these 'top-ups', rural hospitals have a harder time staffing their emergency rooms.

With taxes up, and access to doctors down, people realize that increasing taxes and bureaucracy is not the answer.

For information on signing the Official Opposition petition on solving the doctor shortage, send me an e-mail at toby@tobybarrett.com.

What's on your mind?

Please take a few minutes to let me know how you feel about issues facing all of us today. Then, cut out the questionnaire, put it in an envelope and mail to: HNB MPP Toby Barrett, 39 Norfolk St. N, Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 3N6. If you need more space to express your views, please enclose a letter or access our online survey at www.tobybarrett.com. Thank You!



- 1. MPP Toby Barrett works hard on behalf of his constituents in HNB
 Agree Disagree Undecided
- 2. The Liberal government under Dalton McGuinty is on the right track for Ontario
 Agree Disagree Undecided
- 3. What do you feel is the most important issue facing HNB and Ontario?
 Health Care Job Creation Agriculture
 Education Transportation Energy/Environment
 Seniors' Issues Tax Cuts Caledonia

Further Comments

Name: _____

Address: _____

911# (if applicable): _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE FUTURE UPDATES BY E-MAIL

Speaking out for HNB

As your MPP I've had the opportunity to ask questions, deliver statements, make motions and present petitions on your behalf. Below is a small example of some of the issues I have addressed in the Legislature over this past year.

For transcripts of what is said in the Ontario Legislature, please visit:
www.ontla.on.ca and click on Hansard—Toby Barrett

Barrett speaks up ...

Tuesday 26 September 2006

NATIVE LAND DISPUTE

Mr. Toby Barrett
(Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant):

Further to the McGuinty progress report, which many of us watched today, I rise to present, if you will, a lack-of-progress report with respect to the Caledonia-Six Nations land dispute. As this House will know, the Douglas Creek Estates just south of Caledonia has been occupied since February 28.

I'll quote the minister responsible for aboriginal affairs on the deliberations with respect to Six Nations and Caledonia. May 9: "We feel we are making progress." May 18: "David Peterson is making very good progress." June 5: "Great progress was made"—again, I'm making reference to an occupation that goes back to February 28 of this year. June 14: "We're making great progress." But on June 15: "The Premier of Ontario basically called off these negotiations a few days ago because he did not see the progress we were expecting." Then, on June 21 there's a reversal: "We're making progress." In one week, we went from progress to failure and allegedly back to progress.

Thursday 19 October 2006

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

Mr. Toby Barrett
(Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant):

To the Minister of Transportation: Minister, your government promised many things to the tobacco community down in Delhi during the last election. Members of your caucus said they understand the plight of small rural areas like Delhi and promised that the eco-

nomnic hardships faced by such communities would be a priority for this government.

The people of Delhi want to know why they are now victims of show-and-sham politics. After months of tendering, your ministry decided not to go forward with an MTO office. Minister, what have you done with Delhi's MTO licence renewal bureau?

Mr. Barrett: Thank you, Minister, and it is confusing. People in the area find it confusing. It's frustrating. They also find they're waiting in line for hours in other towns that have an MTO office.

It's also appalling, the fact that your ministry ran ads asking people in the area to apply for the request for proposal. Several people in the Delhi area spent \$53 on the application fee, \$15 for the MERX fee, only to be told now that you're against reopening this MTO office. Minister, at minimum, and once we sort through this confusion, will you ensure that the people of the Delhi area who tendered for this office at least get their 68 bucks back?

Wednesday 29 November 2006

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Toby Barrett
(Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant):

This week, dairy farmers and egg farmers were at the Ontario Legislature informing MPPs on the need to maintain supply management. John Tory and the opposition PC caucus unequivocally support supply management, on the understanding that supply management works on three pillars: import control, production discipline and producer pricing.

Like any three-legged stool, if one pillar is weakened, the whole system is compromised. For example, without import controls, production discipline becomes impossible. Without production discipline, pricing becomes impossible. Supply management balances supply with demand and prevents overproduction, flooded markets and depressed prices for farmers.

The entire PC caucus has signed the FarmGate5 petition in support of the five supply management sectors. In addition to the dairy farmers and the egg farmers, this includes the chicken farmers—these are the broiler producers—the Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg and Chick Commission, and the turkey producers.

As for the McGuinty Liberals, 31 MPPs oppose supply management—they have not signed FarmGate5—including the Deputy Premier and the Attorney General. I urge this Ontario government, put your divisions aside. Sign the FarmGate5 petition in support of supply management. Why won't you sign it? Farmers are worried.



CLOCK IS NEARING MIDNIGHT IN TOBACCO COUNTRY *(continued from front page)*

in a federally-led process to address this issue." With this comes the expectation of the traditional 40 per cent provincial share. Anything short of this would be unacceptable.

Tobacco is not like any other farm crop. And, tobacco policy is not solely an agriculture issue—it's also driven by policy on health, finance and justice.

Today, police, other law enforcement agencies, health groups and some anti-smoking experts concede that the sale and consumption of illicit cigarettes now account for 25 to 30 per cent of sales in Ontario.

Manufacturers have chosen to import tobacco to compete with this illegal market which has only exacerbated the problem for our Canadian tobacco farmers.

Although tobacco tax revenue is at an all-time high, the sales of contraband, counterfeit, and illicit products, such as brands sold by native people, mean that both levels of government are losing \$1.5 billion in additional taxes.

Both federal and provincial governments must take the lead to undermine the organized crime gangs, remove the demand for their illegal products and place governments once again in a position to enforce laws and

policies through the legitimate tobacco trade. The resultant recoup of tobacco tax revenue—up to \$1.5 billion—will go a long way to buy out Canada's tobacco farmers.

While an underground economy thrives and the Ontario government is concerned with decreased revenue from its casinos, here in Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant there is a crisis. Tobacco farmers have been placed last on the list of priorities.

As Ontario is on board to discuss an industry solution with the federal government, anything short of the province's traditional 40 per cent share would be a betrayal.