



# JOHN YAKABUSKI, MPP

## NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
23rd March 2017

### **Liberals and NDP Gang Up to Hurt Rural and Northern Ontario**

**QUEEN'S PARK** – Today in the Legislative Assembly members voted on Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski's Private Member's Bill which would have brought equality to Ontario's rural municipalities by ensuring that they all share in a portion of the gas tax they pay. Unfortunately the Liberals and NDP voted down the *Gasoline Tax Fairness for All Act* during Second Reading.

Currently, the *Gasoline Tax Act* only permits those municipalities that have a rapid transit or public transportation system to get a tax rebate. As a result, in 2016, only 99 out of 444 municipalities received money from the gas tax, despite the fact that every resident in Ontario pays into it. Furthermore, earlier this year Premier Wynne announced that they will be increasing the amount given by two cents a litre to these select municipalities, resulting in an additional \$300 million not being fairly divided.

"I was disappointed when the Liberals and NDP joined forces once again to defeat this reasonable and fair PMB" said Yakabuski. "Although both Liberal and NDP MPPs talk about supporting rural and northern Ontario, this is a clear example of those two parties ignoring what is in their best interest." Today's events demonstrate that only the PC Party is committed to treating every municipality fairly by dividing the gas tax up the same way the federal government does.

Yakabuski noted that this is an issue of fundamental fairness that he has advocated for since he was first elected. "Although I am discouraged that my Bill was defeated again due to the Liberals and NDP, I remain fully committed to advocating for my residents and all Ontarians in rural and northern areas of the province" Yakabuski concluded.