



## Dalton McGuinty Shuffles Ontario Cabinet

**January 18, 2010**

Following the resignations of George Smitherman (running for Mayor of Toronto) and Jim Watson (running for Mayor of Ottawa) and a rather difficult year for the government, it was clear that Dalton McGuinty would have to bring new blood into the Ontario Cabinet. Suitable talent was limited with former potential leadership candidates and strong Cabinet Ministers Jim Watson, George Smitherman and Michael Bryant no longer available. Although his return would have been welcomed, Greg Sorbara decided to stay out of cabinet and David Caplan apparently must pay more penance for the government's eHealth failures and foibles. This presented an opportunity for the appointment of several backbenchers. Today Dr. Eric Hoskins (elected in a recent by-election in St. Pauls), Carol Mitchell (Huron-Bruce), Linda Jeffery (Brampton Springdale) and Sophia Aggelonitis (Hamilton-Mountain) were promoted to Cabinet. Aileen Carroll, Ted McMeekin and Donna Cansfield were dropped because they are not expected to run for re-election in 2011.

This Cabinet shuffle was not minor tweaking. Dwight Duncan remains in Finance and as Chair of Management Board, Deb Matthews retains Health and Long Term Care and several other Ministers retain their pre-shuffle portfolios, including: Community Safety and Correction Services, Attorney General, Health Promotion, Children and Youth Services, Labour, Northern Development, Economic Development and Trade, Revenue, Training/Colleges/Universities/Research/Innovation, Government Services, Environment and the Government House Leader. Portfolios changing hands include: Education, Energy and Infrastructure, Transportation, Seniors, Natural Resources, Citizenship and Immigration, Consumer Services, Intergovernmental Affairs, Tourism/Culture, and Agriculture. The demotion of Kathleen Wynne from Education to Transportation is surprising given Dalton McGuinty's recent initiative to bring in all-day kindergarten. For whatever reason, Wynne has never been a favourite with the McGuintyites and her leadership aspirations may also have been a factor. It is also a surprise that the super-Ministry created for George Smitherman was not broken up into separate Energy and Infrastructure portfolios. Given the lack of experienced and proven talent available, it's also a surprise that David Caplan was not returned to Cabinet. Many competent and otherwise deserving MPPs were not promoted to Cabinet including: Oakridges-Markham MPP Helena Jaczek, Chatham-Kent-Essex MPP Pat Hoy, Mississauga-South MPP Charles Sousa, Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn, Scarborough-Rouge River MPP Bas Balkissoon and Willowdale MPP David Zimmer. Leaving MPPs of this caliber behind while instantly elevating Dr. Hoskins will doubtless cause some grumbling in caucus and also puts enormous pressure on Dr. Hoskins to shine. The biggest winner of this Cabinet shuffle is without question Brad Duguid, moving from Aboriginal Affairs to Energy and Infrastructure.

New Cabinet members will have until February 16 (when the Legislature reconvenes) to get up-to-speed on their portfolios for what is expected to be a tough session for the McGuinty Liberals. Difficult decisions will have to be made on how to reduce the \$25 billion budget deficit. This will be addressed in the upcoming provincial budget. The McGuinty government is also committed to all-day kindergarten with a \$1.5 billion annual cost. This Cabinet will have to try to change the channel from issues such as the HST, eHealth, the economy, the energy file and a series of scandals that have led to falling poll numbers. Recent polls show that Tim Hudak and the opposition Progressive Conservative Party now lead the McGuinty Liberals in voter intentions by a significant margin.



It is possible that the results of two upcoming by-elections in Toronto Centre and Ottawa West-Nepean could lead to further Cabinet changes. Former Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray is running for the Ontario Liberals in Toronto Centre to replace George Smitherman. Former Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli is running to replace Jim Watson in Ottawa West-Nepean. Both candidates, if successful in their by-elections, are considered to be Cabinet ready. In any event, both are strong bets to join Cabinet prior to the October 2011 provincial election.

NDP and PC Critic positions are not expected to change as a result of this Cabinet shuffle.

#### **New Cabinet in Detail:**

Premier – Dalton McGuinty  
Minister without Portfolio, Chair of Cabinet Committee, Minister Responsible for Seniors – Gerry Phillips  
Minister of Community Safety and Correction Services – Rick Bartolucci  
Attorney General and Aboriginal Affairs – Chris Bentley  
Minister of Health Promotion – Margaret Best  
Minister of Transportation – Kathleen Wynne  
Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues – Laurel Broten  
Minister of Natural Resources – Linda Jeffery  
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration – Eric Hoskins\*  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – Carol Mitchell\*  
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure – Brad Duguid  
Minister of Education – Leona Dombrowsky  
Minister of Finance and Chair of the Management Board of Cabinet – Dwight Duncan  
Minister of Labour – Peter Fonseca  
Minister of Environment – John Gerrestsen  
Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry – Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care – Deb Matthews  
Minister of Consumer Services – Sophia Aggelonitis\*  
Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs – Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities/Minister of Research and Innovation – John Milloy  
Minister of Economic Development and Trade – Sandra Pupatello  
Minister of Tourism and Culture – Michael Chan  
Government House Leader and Intergovernmental Affairs Minister – Monique Smith  
Minister of Government Services – Harinder Takhar  
Minister of Revenue – John Wilkinson

**New to Cabinet:**

Sophia Aggelonitis  
Carol Mitchell  
Eric Hoskins  
Linda Jeffery

**Potential to be added later:**

Glen Murray  
Bob Chiarelli

**Out of Cabinet:**

Aileen Carol  
Donna Cansfield  
Ted McMeekin

**Switched Portfolios:**

Energy and Infrastructure  
Agriculture  
Education  
Transportation  
Aboriginal Affairs  
Seniors  
Consumer Services  
Citizenship and Immigration  
Culture and Tourism  
Intergovernmental Affairs