



June 15th 2009

HST and eHealth Scandal show McGuinty Government is out of touch and infected by a culture of entitlement?

The spring session of the Ontario Legislature was dominated by two issues ? the introduction of the HST and the eHealth scandal. Both issues in different ways suggest that the government of Dalton McGuinty ? now nearing the midpoint of its second term ? may have passed its ?best-before date?. They are tired, complacent and increasingly out of touch with ordinary Ontarians.

Dalton McGuinty's decision to combine the provincial sales tax with the GST in a new **?Harmonized? Sales Tax** will increase the price of a long list of items not previously subject to the PST. Electricity, cable, gas, home renovations, transit fares, haircuts, newspapers, and even your morning cup of coffee will all cost more. It will be more difficult for young people to buy a home, for families to enroll their kids in recreational programs, and for seniors just to make ends meet. And the Liberals' plan to soften the blow with cash payments ? essentially an attempt to bribe us with our own money ? is cynicism at its worst.

The eHealth Scandal also shows a government and a premier living in a taxpayer-subsidized bubble. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on electronic health records and the government still has virtually nothing to show for it. Millions have been handed out in untendered contracts to Liberal insiders who were allowed to expense their snacks and nightcaps while receiving per diems so generous that most Ontarians can only gasp in amazement. The minister in charge, David Caplan, by his lack of oversight, condoned this cronyism and excess. And Dalton McGuinty, by not firing his minister, has proven that the ?culture of entitlement? starts in the Premier's Office and has infected his whole government.

An op-ed column from me entitled "Hold Caplan Accountable" was published in today's *Toronto Sun*. You can read this column by [clicking here](#).
