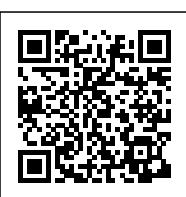


SEND A POINTED MESSAGE TO QUEEN'S PARK


Posted on October 3, 2011 by Keghart

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 **Keghart.com Team Editorial**, 3 October 2011

Following the publication of ["Denial, Deceit, and Anti-Armenian Campaign Brought to You by Team McGuinty"](#) on Keghart, several people, privately, through e-mails and phone calls expressed their deep displeasure. Some were puzzled that Keghart.com, a human rights advocate would support the provincial Conservatives whose leader is on record stating that he would scrap the Human Rights Commission. Others pointed out that during a Conservative mandate the two-tier system in healthcare delivery will be expanded, compromising a Canadian institution that has helped millions of Canadians, rich and poor, the haves and the have nots. Still others pointed out that the McGuinty government made a "donation" of "one-million to the Armenian community" and wondered whether this is the way to reciprocate our friendship. A host of secondary issues related to economic matters were also cited. 

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It is not possible to comment on each and every matter and objection raised during those private calls and e-messages. What's enumerated above are the principle ones and a clarification of Keghart.com's stand regarding the publication of the above-mentioned document and the upcoming election is in order.

We do not need to do a "thorough" research as some have suggested to document McGuinty government's obstinate and hostile attitude towards the acknowledgement of the Genocide of Armenians. The legislative record is there and we agree without reservation with "Armenians for a Just Ontario" when they state, "Mr. McGuinty singlehandedly vetoed legislation commemorating the Armenian Genocide. When the Conservatives and the NDP, on three occasions, tried to bring a legislation to declare April 24 a memorial day in Ontario (in unison with what Queen's Park has done re the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, and the Ukrainian Famine--Holodomor), Mr. McGuinty rejected the commemoration of April 24 motion and threatened to block it from being granted royal assent if it is passed at the House. It's relevant to mention that in 1986 Liberal Premier of Ontario,

Hon. David Peterson, proclaimed "I am pleased to recognize April 24, 1986 as ARMENIAN MEMORIAL DAY and to commend its observance."

Isn't recognition of the Genocide of the Armenians a human rights issue? For Armenians worldwide that's the number-one violation of human rights. In less than four years we shall be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the greatest calamity that befell on our people. Don't we deserve a provincial government that, side by side the governments of other jurisdictions and the national government, unequivocally declares April 24 is not forgotten, will not be forgotten and will continue to haunt Turkey which "enjoys" the spoils left by the Ottoman and Kemalist criminals?

For argument's sake, let's ask ourselves what guarantee is there that a McGuinty government, with a record as pointed out above, will take the right stand? All the facts speak against such a probability.

And at a juncture so close to the 100th Anniversary of the Genocide, the Armenian community cannot, and should not "allow" delivering a third mandate to a premier who has not spoken in favor of the community's primary concern over the past near decade.

Keghart.com views this election as a **referendum** on McGuinty's government, and not necessarily a vote **for** or **against** a particular party. Yet, one has to vote for somebody or some party. Most polls show that the race is a dead heat between the Liberals and the Conservatives, while the left-leaning NDP is gaining momentum. It is most likely that a minority government will ensue which will need NDP's support. This provides an opportunity for Armenian "lobbyists" close to the Liberals, who naturally were not happy with Keghart's publication of the Armenians for a Just Ontario declaration, to show their resolve in assuring that the minority government, whether in the form of a coalition or propped up by NDP, heeds the primary concern of Armenians. Whether a government has "donated" or not a certain amount is not even a tertiary issue. In fact, it's not even a "donation"; it is the rightful claim of the Ontario Armenian community for the tax dollars that flow into the public system but which do not return to the community because Armenian schools are considered private schools.

In Toronto ridings, unlike in other areas, it appears that the Conservatives have little chance of winning seats. A vote for the Conservatives is a lost cause. The race in Canada's largest city is between the Liberals and the NDP. If you are dissatisfied with the McGuinty Government's record with respect to the Genocide of the Armenians, the logical approach is to vote for NDP in Toronto.

We anticipate a minority government, supported by the NDP. We also look forward, from the next government, for the long overdue recognition of the Genocide of Armenians.

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