SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS AT ELECTION TIME

Posted on September 13, 2011 by Keghart



QUEEN'S PARK, ONTARIO LEGISLATURE, TORONTO

Category: Opinions

18 September 2011
Denial, Deceit, and Anti-Armenian Campaign Brought to You by Team McGuinty

Dear Friends,
It is election time in Ontario. On Oct. 6, the residents of Ontario will face a choice. They will elect a government which will run their affairs for the next four years. The choice is between a Liberal government, headed by Dalton McGuinty, a Conservative government headed by Tim Hudak, or an NDP government headed by Andrea Horwath.

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As an integral part of the province's civil society, Armenian-Ontarians have to make an important decision as to who to vote for.
To make an informed decision, Armenian-Ontarians need to be aware of certain facts about the three leaders and their party's stand on issues of particular concern to our community as Armenian-Ontarians. The Progressive Conservative and the NDP had principled stand on issues of concern to the Armenian community. They always stood by their moral convictions and did not waver when they were faced with the Turkish Government's big lie machine.

What about Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals.

In regard to mainstream issues of the province, Mr. McGuinty's policies and the way he has run the province for the past eight years is on public record. His record is synonymous with tax increases and the waste of your hard-earned money. Among the scandals the McGuinty government has been responsible for the one-billion dollar e-Health waste to rewarding a deputy-minister of health over $750,000 to buy his silence for messing up ministry affairs to the HST debacle, payroll tax, eco tax, and Hydro tax. The result of his policies is a $14-billion to $16- billion deficit.

Few days ago Mr. McGuinty came up with a new gimmick to buy your votes. He offered businesses a $10,000 tax break to hire new immigrants. This is the most insulting, patronizing and opportunistic

election policy ploy not only to the immigrant and multicultural communities but also to the intellect of the average Ontarian voter.

In regard to the Armenian community in Ontario, Mr. McGuinty's record is not much better. We would dare say Mr. McGuinty is blatantly and consistently hostile to the Armenian community of Ontario. No other Ontario premier has demonstrated the anti-Armenian attitude Mr. McGuinty has in the past eight years.

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."

Furthermore, two of Mr.McGuinty's caucus members openly organized hate dissemination activities against the Armenian community at Queen's Park. One of these members was known at Queen's Park as "the Ambassador from Istanbul." In a single year this particular MPP organized three receptions for the Turkish Consul General of Toronto in Queen's Park so that the Turkish diplomat could spread anti-Armenian falsehoods and lies to the MPPs. Furthermore, the same member and his colleague, organized all-expense paid trips for MPPs to visit Azerbaijan and Turkey, arranged individual meeting for the Armenian Genocide-denial machine members with MPPs, and used their Queen's Park mail to distribute hate books, pamphlets and other materials to the MPPs. Keghart.com, on several occasions, wrote editorials about the mischief-making, anti-Armenian MPPs.

In addition to the above, a most dangerous activity against our democracy was launched by this same "Ambassador from Istanbul." He attempted to subvert free speech and opinion when he tried to intimidate an opposition NDP MPP to withdraw his co-sponsorship signature from a motion to declare April 24 Memorial Day in Ontario. Fortunately, the MPP in question stood by his principles and did not succumb to the pressure from "the Ambassador from Istanbul" and his masters. Unfortunately, "the Ambassador from Istanbul" did not stop there. He also tried to coerce a Conservative MPP, who was the sponsor of the motion, to meet with Turkish Council General hoping that the Conservative MPP would be persuaded by the Turkish diplomat's lies and abandon the motion. Once again his attempt failed.

Another member of Mr. McGuinty's caucus attended a Turkish conference and lectures which were organized to lobby against the Armenian community, malign its leaders and to spread hatred and revisionist history. All this was happening while Mr. McGuinty was the premier of this province. Many members of our community brought these anti-Armenian activities to the attention of the premier's

close associates, ministers and Mr. McGuinty's caucus members. By not curtailing the unprincipled and undemocratic activities of his caucus members, team McGuinty and the rest of the caucus became accomplices in the anti-Armenian propaganda.

The above examples are a fraction of what we know about Mr. McGuinty's and some of his caucus members policies and attitude toward our community. There is much more of the behind-the-scenes and under-the-table activities coordinated with the participation of a foreign power against peaceful and law-abiding Ontario citizens. All this is happening with a government which swore to protect the interest of its residents. By not stopping these destructive activities, team McGuinty sowed discord between Ontarians.

Dear Members of the Armenian Community,

Very soon you have to make a critical decision affecting the next four years of Ontario and our community. When you head to the ballot box think twice before you drop that important folded paper... and ask yourself, "does team McGuinty deserve a third chance" as some members of our community might try to convince us or is it time to turf the anti-Armenian Liberal governance from Queen's Park?

Mr. McGuinty was given eight years to do the right thing. Unfortunately, he and his caucus abused the trust and patience of our community. He took advantage of our goodwill.

If you want to go through another four years of denial, lies, anti-Armenian propaganda, deceit, and humiliation, go ahead and vote Liberal, as certain blind and pro-McGuinty Armenian hired guns would like you to do.

It is up to you to make a difference.

If we don't help ourselves, who will?

Armenians for a Just Ontario