

The Green Component

While there are some positive initiatives on the environment such as increased research for electric cars, the creation of an "Emerging Technologies Fund" and promotion of Ontario food products, it is not yet clear what the impact of these projects will be for Ontario workers, including the public sector. We look forward to seeing the details for these items.

The following points should also be noted:

- More money is being budgeted for roads than for public transit. While, Toronto Mayor Miller is confident that infrastructure funding will apply to its Transit City program, this is not explicit in the budget.
- \$5 million funding for the "Green Jobs Skills Strategy". How will this money be spent? How long will it take to develop this strategy and rollout new initiatives to Ontario's post-secondary education institutions?
- How many "green jobs" within the Ontario public service will be lost due to the government's plans to reduce the size of the workforce? What impact will this have on protecting Ontario's environment?
- Continued over-reliance on nuclear energy. A minimum of \$26 billion has already been committed for new nuclear reactors. This money would better be invested on large scale alternative energy projects. Spain, Germany and other European countries have been expanding their electricity capacity without building new nuclear plants.
- Continued use of the term "clean" power to describe nuclear power. Uranium mining in Ontario leaves behind a toxic legacy. Mining and processing of uranium produce greenhouse gases as does the construction and maintenance of nuclear plants.
- There are no provisions for local procurement for infrastructure projects which would have the double positive effect of job creation and reducing Ontario's carbon footprint.