



Howard Hampton
Leader/Chef

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McGUINTY BREAKS PUBLIC SERVICE PROMISE

QUEEN'S PARK – NDP Leader Howard Hampton wants to know why Dalton McGuinty is breaking his promise to rebuild our valuable public services.

“Dalton McGuinty has disappointed ordinary Ontario families who voted for better public services,” Hampton said.

“Instead of rebuilding our valuable public services, McGuinty is laying off staff, cutting budgets and making it tougher for Ontario families to get the services they need.”

Today in the Legislature, Hampton asked the McGuinty government about a series of cuts that will mean fewer and worse public services. They include:

Public service cuts. Province-wide, McGuinty is cutting 3,700 members of the public service. That's 1 in 10 of the dedicated workers Ontario families count on to provide high-quality public services every day.

Jobs cut at the Family Responsibility Office (FRO). Some 120 jobs are on the chopping block at the FRO, the office that makes sure women and children get the support payments they need to pay for basic necessities of life. Since 1995, the case load is up 50 per cent. The number of workers is already down 20 per cent.

Jobs cuts at London's St. Joseph's Health. Today, Londoners learned the McGuinty government's under-funding of our hospitals is forcing St. Joseph's Health to take \$8 million out of mental health and lay off 72 staff to pay off their deficit. That will mean fewer services and more indignity for people suffering from mental illnesses.

Job cuts at the Hamilton-area's Royal Botanical Gardens. Today, Hampton revealed the McGuinty government has tied a \$3.8-million lifeline for the award-winning facility to a mass staff layoff. The Gardens has to fire 23 of its 44 staff members to get the money. No firings – no cash.

“Dalton McGuinty promised to rebuild our public services, not tear them down,” Hampton said. “The premier should listen to ordinary Ontario families and keep his promises – for a change.”