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HAMPTON TO EVES: GUARANTEE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR MEAT INSPECTORS

Toronto – NDP Leader Howard Hampton and NDP candidate Grant Robertson today called on Ernie Eves to provide an immediate, iron-clad guarantee of whistleblower protection to meat inspectors to make sure the real story of Ontario's inspection scandal is told.

"If Eves is really interested in the truth and in protecting food safety in Ontario, he will call a public inquiry and give the meat inspectors the safety of coming forward to tell what they know." Hampton said. "If he doesn't, we can only assume he has something to hide."

There are hundreds of contract meat inspectors in the province who have tried to make the system work, but terrible working conditions, lack of training, and lack of support from the government has resulted in a turnover rate as high as 32 per cent.

"Ernie Eves and Helen Johns have put farm families in a terrible position," added Grant Robertson the NDP Candidate and local farmer vying against Helen Johns, "I've been asking her since the Spring to come clean about the problems with meat inspection. She hasn't answered and farmers are still suffering."

"The Conservative government tried to weasel their way out of the Walkerton Inquiry because they knew what it would find," Hampton added. "It's the same old message: 'trust us, everything's fine'."

While Eves has said he wants inspectors to 'go public', he has failed to ensure their protection from recrimination.

PLEASE NOTE: Grant Robertson will be available for comment at Ernie Eves stop in Goderich today.

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