

**Queen's Park
December 13th, 2006**

**Statement on Bill 173, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act, the MPPs
Pension Act, 1996 and the Executive Council Act**

By

MPP Ted Arnott

Mr. McGuinty has announced his plans to increase MPPs' pay, in response to the recommendation of the Integrity Commissioner, the Hon. Coulter Osborne.

If the Government's proposed Bill 173 is passed by the Legislature, MPPs would still make approximately \$37,000 a year less than their Federal counterparts (MPs in Ottawa), even though their Ridings will be the very same.

Currently there is a huge disparity between the total compensation of Members of Parliament and Member of Provincial Parliament in Ontario. I agree that if the disparity between the pay of MPs and MPPs becomes too great, the Ontario Legislature will become a "second rate" parliamentary institution, and the people of Ontario will not have the quality of government leadership they deserve. Since the Province has important responsibilities like health, education and the environment, the Ontario Legislature needs the best and the brightest.

As such I voted for Bill 173 at First Reading on December 12th, 2006. It is traditional that Members vote in favour of Bills at First Reading.

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