

Theresa McClenaghan

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To: <energy-vision@list.web.net>
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Subject: [Energy-vision] HE 'WON'T SHRINK' ON N-PLANTS

HE 'WON'T SHRINK' ON N-PLANTS; MCGUINTY PAINTS GLOWING PICTURE AS SESSION ENDS

The Toronto Sun

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Section: News

Byline: BY ANTONELLA ARTUSO, QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU CHIEF

Premier Dalton McGuinty is bracing for a year of living dangerously.

McGuinty said yesterday he's prepared to enter the volatile debate over new nuclear power plants, despite advice from some quarters that he avoid the political risk.

"It's not going to be easy," he said yesterday. "Things are going to get heated."

BILLIONS NEEDED

He'll have to convince Ontarians to invest billions in new nuclear plants even as his government moves to shut down existing coal-fired generating plants.

"I will never shrink from doing what I think is in the interest of Ontarians -- and we went through a very difficult part of our relationship when I raised a tax for investment in stronger health care," McGuinty said.

"Some have suggested I should just stay away from this whole nuclear debate, leave it alone, let the next government look after that or the one after that, but I won't do that."

McGuinty's comments came during a media conference at the end of the legislative session.

He said he believes his government has made great progress so far, reaching four year-plus labour deals with doctors, teachers and civil servants, adding 67,000 more health-care procedures and having Ontario become the number one auto producer in North America.

ACCUSED OF ARROGANCE

PC Leader John Tory said the last year has seen the Liberal government grow more arrogant and idle.

"While our caucus in the legislature has significantly reduced the heckling and insults that have turned so many people off on politics, Dalton McGuinty's own cabinet ministers responded by belittling even these good faith efforts and insulting my efforts to instill some decorum as something from a 'Rosedale Tea Party,' " Tory said.

He said McGuinty continues his "irresponsible" plan to shut down coal usage with no alternative supply in place.

NDP Leader Howard Hampton described the legislative session as a "McGuinty disappointment after letdown after broken promise."

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