

No one should be shocked by MPP, Rick Bartolucci's comments to the Northern Mayors as reported in Friday's Nugget. North Bay Mayor Al McDonald seemed taken aback when he asked for the proposed criteria for potential purchasers and how the Province plans to move forward. He was answered with, "There is no plan at this point." Suggesting divesture was a snap decision and there had been little consideration of the impact on Northern Ontario." Thousands of jobs lost, lives destroyed, and an essential transportation link disbanded without prior consultations or any consideration as to the socioeconomic consequences.

Consider the jail closures in Owen Sound, Walkerton and Sarnia. The liberals made the decision without any idea if there were savings to be made. There was no prior consultation and again no consideration of the socioeconomic consequences to the communities involved.

Contemplate a green energy policy that pays solar panel electricity producers a guaranteed \$.84 a kWh while we consumers pay \$.06 to \$.08. The Timmin's smelter and its 646 jobs were lost to cheap power in Quebec. The proposed smelter for the Ring of Fire would not be economically viable paying Ontario's energy costs. Local industry is staggering under the weight of unreasonable energy costs.

Ponder the windmills imposed on communities in rural Southern Ontario with no regard for the democratic right of local municipalities to determine if they wanted the towers and again no consideration of the socioeconomic ramifications.

Think about a government that has closed 2 gas fired electrical power plants in spite of information showing that such power will be essential to fill the gaps in green energy production. The Liberals will spend more closing the Oakville plant than an election will cost... and the plants will have to be built regardless.

Reflect on whether you feel comfortable with these same Liberals having the power to arbitrarily amend 69 different statutes of environmentally significant legislation, Transform the MNR, and cut 50 million from the MNR's already depleted budget.

No amount of accommodation to the NDP can justify incompetent government. Please vote Bill 55 down.

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