

March 19, 2013



Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park,  
Toronto, On M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne,

The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) requests your support for the private Member's motion sponsored by MPP Taras Natyshak, which is to be debated March 28, 2013.

The motion addresses the Ontario government's provincial gaming strategy and its impact on municipalities across the province, as well as on the horse racing industry. As you are aware, workers and communities across Ontario will be significantly impacted by the end of the revenue-sharing Slots at Racetracks Program. Transition funding under lease agreements is not sufficient to secure good jobs and avoid further cuts in the industry, as displayed with Woodbine's recent layoff of 109 workers.

Over 55,000 jobs are supported by the horse racing industry in Ontario, which relies on the Slots at Racetracks program for survival. Many of these jobs are good union jobs that have contributed to the development of thriving communities and improved rural economies. The OLG's modernization plan does not address the need to ensure quality employment as part of Ontario's gaming strategy, and must be suspended until a responsible alternative is developed.

Furthermore, the OLG's accelerated efforts to introduce casinos in Ontario without extensive consultation with stakeholders demonstrates a startling lack of concern for the needs and interests of individual communities. The people of Ontario have a right to referendums on decisions that impact their communities and it is the responsibility of the government to ensure their voices are heard.

PSAC supports the NDP motion calling for referendums on casinos and the stability of the horse racing industry. We urgently request your support for this important motion, and hope you will encourage all efforts to preserve good, quality jobs in Ontario as part of a provincial gaming strategy.

Sincerely,

Sharon DeSousa,  
Regional Executive Vice-President - Ontario  
Public Service Alliance of Canada