

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO**

**ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

**Monday 31 May 2010 Lundi 31 mai 2010**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

[OPEN FOR BUSINESS ACT, 2010 /](#)

[LOI DE 2010 FAVORISANT UN ONTARIO PROPICE AUX AFFAIRES](#)

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**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I'm glad to have a bit of time to speak on Bill 68.

You're talking about opening doors and closing doors. There are some people out on the lawn tonight who think that maybe you're closing the doors, and it has something to do with the labour part of this bill. They're called "Sleepless at Queen's Park." "Why are we here?" the sleepless say. Well, their benefits are once again under attack. In the name of the unfunded liability, the Auditor General has recommended reducing injured workers' benefits. That doesn't sound like opening the door and bringing people in; not to me. The WSIB says, "Yes, reduce these benefits." Now, isn't that a great thing? The WSIB, I believe, is under the control of this government. Maybe they've lost control of it; I'm not sure. This means more poverty for injured workers. They're already suffering too much. This means less coverage for their medication. This means reduction of their medical treatments. This means returning to work faster, when they are not well. This does not sound like opening doors to me. This means more reinjuries. This means more injured workers living in poverty and on the streets.

What happened to the historical compromise? This is the foundation of our compensation system. Sir William Meredith said, "Compensation for as long as the disability lasts." Injured workers gave up their right to sue for fair compensation and for a just compensation system.

I think everybody in this House should go outside and talk to these injured workers, so I'll move adjournment of the debate.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Mr. Murdoch has moved adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

*The division bells rang from 1947 to 2017.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Mr. Murdoch has moved adjournment of the debate.

All those in favour, please stand and be counted by the Clerk.

All those opposed, please stand and be counted by the Clerk.

**The Deputy Clerk (Mr. Todd Decker):** The ayes are 7; the nays are 32.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** I declare the motion lost.

Further debate?

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Were we even close on that one, Mr. Speaker?

We did adjourn the debate, not to finish the debate—we're going to work on that now—but so that all parties could go out and talk to the people on the lawn, the people from working families, about how we're opening the doors, but then we close them when they get inside and lock them in there. I didn't see any of you guys out there other than my friend from Sarnia was out with me. There were some NDP, and I think some of these other people were out there, but I didn't see a person from the government there. I don't know what happened.

**Mr. Ted Chudleigh:** Liberals don't consult.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** This was a chance to consult. I believe the speaker earlier tonight was going on about consulting. Well, here is a chance. They're right out on the lawn—some people from working families.

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I didn't see you out there, though. I understand that.

There was a study done on the economic and social impacts of workplace injury and illness. Some key findings: 61% of injured workers surveyed were unemployed after injury, while 89% were employed full-time prior to injury.

You won't know these things unless you go out and talk to them and consult. Well, I guess I'm going to have to tell you.

The poverty rate amongst injured workers was two to four times higher than the general population of Ontario. Nearly one in five injured workers—18%—was on social assistance. About 20% of respondents lost their home after injury—and we're supposed to be opening the door with this bill. One in five injured workers was living in extreme poverty after

injury-less than \$10,000 in income per year. Some 41% of injured workers reported an income of less than \$15,000.

One in five injured workers no longer had a car after injury-but we're going to open the doors. Maybe we're going to give them cars-are we? I think we bailed out the car industry. Maybe if we own some of those cars we can do that.

The findings indicate a thirteenfold increase in food bank use post-injury. Sixty-four respondents reported that they had used food banks after injury, compared to five who reported having used food banks before their injury. That is startling.

The incidence of subsidized housing use more than doubled after injury. Twenty-five respondents reported using subsidized housing after injury, compared with 12 before.

Almost half, 46%, of injured workers reported depression as a result of their workplace injury. Two thirds of injured workers reported losing friends as a result of workplace injury, while 18% reported they had lost their family.

These people are out on the front lawn. They're going to stay there tonight so that you people, the government, can go out and consult with them.

I believe people need a second chance, so what I'm prepared to do is call for adjournment of the House so that the government of the day can go out and talk to these people on the lawn. I call for adjournment of the House.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Mr. Murdoch has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour, say "aye."

All those opposed, say "nay."

In my opinion, the nays have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

*The division bells rang from 2022 to 2052.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Mr. Murdoch has moved adjournment of the House. All those in favour, please stand and be counted by the Clerk.

All those opposed, please stand and be counted by the Clerk.

**The Deputy Clerk (Mr. Todd Decker):** The ayes are 6; the nays are 31.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** I declare the motion lost.

Further debate?

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I don't know what more I can do to help the government out when they mentioned that they wanted to consult. They've made many speeches in here over the last six, seven years that they'd like to consult. I gave them a chance to consult, and I

didn't notice any of you out there again. The people who are sleepless and are going to spend the night out there will be here tomorrow, so I'm sure that any of you-

*Interjections.*

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** There seem to be many people who want to get in on this. We may be here all night debating this, because it sounds like a lot of people on the other side would like to say-

*Interjections.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** I'll help the member by asking for order.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I guess this is one of these midnight shifts that we're doing. Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether you've ever worked in industry, but I've had to do this before. We used to have a shift from 4 o'clock until midnight. I guess we're getting into shift work, so you can't say that we don't understand how some people have to work at night. But I just wonder how much we're getting done here. We are debating Bill 68.

I want to again, though, mention that we did go outside-my good friend from Sarnia was right there with me all the way-and there are some really serious concerns, and there are concerns about this bill all through the people of Ontario. They are certainly concerned. Some people would say this-now, I really wouldn't. It's not a bad word, I don't think, but it is "pathetic." It's not a word that I use a lot, but it is pathetic that it took almost seven years in office for the McGuinty government to finally introduce a red tape reduction act, and then they won't call it.

**Mr. Ted McMeekin:** Remember Walkerton.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** What was that again, sir?

**Mr. Ted McMeekin:** Remember Walkerton. You cut the red tape.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** There's a gentleman over there who wants to talk about Walkerton. I'd love to talk about Walkerton. I'm glad he opened that up. Now you might have to keep me here.

Walkerton was-

**Hon. Monique M. Smith:** You've got 11 minutes to finish off.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** It's bad enough having a whip in my own government; now I have one from the opposition telling me how long I've got to speak. I've been well whipped here tonight. I do appreciate her concern, because she actually has been good to me-I guess she's not a whip; she's a House leader-when I sat as an independent.

But we have to get back to this Walkerton thing. The member wants to talk about that. He wants to talk about the two drunks who didn't do their jobs. I wonder if he knew them or not. I don't know; maybe he did. They were two people who didn't do their jobs. It wouldn't have mattered if we'd had hundreds of people working for the government; they never would have caught this when the reports were falsified by two people who didn't know what they were doing. They obviously had a problem, and they drank a little too

much. Unfortunately, this thing happened, and no one liked to see it happen, but two people caused this. The people of Walkerton know that. But you get these other people- and I'm proud of the fact that I represented Walkerton. Actually, I won in Walkerton after the tragedy. It's unfortunate that we even had a tragedy.

*Interjections.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Would the speaker take his seat?

I don't know what's so difficult to understand-

*Interjection.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Take your seat just for a minute.

I don't know what's so difficult to understand about the word "order," but I'd like to have some.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Oh yeah? Okay.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Oh, yes, Minister, I would like to have some.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate that you bring some order to the House, because they're getting carried away a bit here. I guess it's unfortunate that they didn't live in Walkerton. I live up there. I know exactly what happened. I was there. It was a tragedy, there's no doubt, but it's not the way some people like to portray it. Maybe some of these people who like to do a lot of talking and yelling about it should go and talk to some of the people who actually live in Walkerton. They would like them to come and talk to them and maybe consult. It's called "consulting." It's easy to go and blame the government.

**Mr. Ted Chudleigh:** They wouldn't even go out on the lawn.

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** If they won't go on the lawn, they won't go to Walkerton.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I guess not. We have people out on the lawn right now who are upset with the government. Maybe they should go there and speak to them first.

But we can talk about Walkerton all you want, and what really happened there. As I said, again, when two people falsify a report, it wouldn't matter how many government people you had working for you, because they're going to look at that report. Those people were in charge and they said there was no problem, so things did happen, which is unfortunate. But if you really want to know what happened, the thing would be to go there. Go there and see. You always say, "The next election will prove that you were wrong." You know something? In the next election, they did vote for me. I don't know why, because the gentleman across the way is saying that it was all my fault or something. The people up there knew that there was a problem. What happened? They really did know what happened.

You have the government of the day wanting to blame something in the past. You have the media that'll always be on this. If I was a member of the government, I would be very

careful of what I might say right now because the media just loves to jump on you. So they would want to be pretty careful of what they do say because if they ever get on the wrong side of the media, they'll be in a bit of trouble, and with this bill it looks like they are, because what are we doing opening the door again? The horse is out, and we're trying to bring it back in. This open-door thing-I have no understanding of what they're trying to do.

**2100**

Right now they want to ruin rural Ontario and northern Ontario; that's what they want to do. They get down here to Toronto, they look and they've got one windmill, yet you can put hundreds out in rural Ontario, and who cares? This government says, "But we will decide. We will not let the local people decide where you're going to put wind farms. No, no. We're go to keep the door closed on that one." That doesn't sound much like an open-door policy to me over here when you tell people in the rest of Ontario, especially rural and northern Ontario, "You will do what we tell you to do down here, not what you might want to do."

It does seem rather odd-

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I sure hope that gentleman gets a chance to speak today, because he certainly has a lot to say.

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** He's feeling restrained.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Well, I guess so. Maybe his House leader has told him to be quiet. You never know.

Anyway, we get into this open-door thing again. We've got a government that says, "Hey, we know best, and we'll tell you where you'll put the wind farms. You don't get a chance to even choose where you want them. It may be good." That does not sound like an open-door policy to me. That's closed. "We will decide. We are better. We know where it's going to go." They're doing it to rural Ontario all over, and northern Ontario. They're telling them what to do.

**Interjection:** The Oakville power plant.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Yes, the Oakville power plant.

**Mr. Bob Delaney:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have looked very carefully in the bill under discussion, and pursuant to standing order 23(b)(i), I can't find a single reference in it to windmills. Perhaps the member would like to address the topic of the bill under discussion.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** I understand the point of order the member is trying to make, but the bill title talks about open doors and business, from what I have heard. Therefore, I'll keep a very close ear to see that we keep on the debate issue.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate that, because that's what we're talking about. You're exactly right. You mention something, and what

does the government of the day do? They shut the door. "Don't let them talk about it. We don't want them to talk about that. No, that might be something that's true, mightn't it?" Nice try over there. Nice try to close the door again.

"It's an open-door policy." That's what you say it is, and I don't know why you don't stick to that, but you don't. You say you're going to open the door, and then you close it and everything.

I'll go back to the wind farms. You've closed anything anybody has to say about it other than your cabinet and your Premier, which will decide-

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** Probably not all of cabinet.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** Well, no. I'm not sure all of cabinet gets to say anything. If it's like anything else, the Premier decides what's going to happen, and he, in his wisdom, has decided that rural Ontario will have wind farms whether they like them or not, whether they work or not. They don't even know whether they hurt people or not. They don't know that.

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** They don't want to know.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** That's for sure. They don't want to know. Then, they want to pay huge amounts for this.

I know that the members from northern Ontario are upset with this, but they get clamped, shot down again. I wonder where the rural members are when it comes to this open-door policy. Have you put those people in a closet, closed the door and said, "Don't come out until we get this passed"? Because I can't believe there isn't somebody over there from rural Ontario who will stand up and say, "There's something wrong with this bill. There's something wrong with what we're doing over here altogether. We're not opening the door for policies. We're not doing that."

I'm surprised and almost appalled that some members of the government would stand up and even say that we're talking about something we shouldn't be. They should be with open arms because they talk about open doors. They should be happy to hear a debate in here about something. Maybe it might just trigger something-that maybe they are doing something wrong. Everybody has a chance to do that, you know. Until we stand up in this House and start thinking for ourselves, nothing will change.

Now, we're no better than you are over here when it comes to that, but until this House starts to speak for themselves-

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** No, I'll tell you like it is, if you want to talk about it.

You have a Premier, we have leaders, and you might as well let the three of them sit here. Maybe nothing will happen, but they will run the show.

You are told how to vote. I'll be very surprised if one of you doesn't stand up and vote against this-you should. You'll be told what to do because the Premier wants this. That's the open-door policy here.

You talk about an open-door policy. We don't have an open-door policy in this House, and you know it. You can sit there and look down at the floor and things like that, but you know that you're told how to vote and you come in here and you vote that way. It's not only your party. They all do that, and it's wrong.

We don't have real democracy in this country. Until we get back to a representative democracy, which it was meant to be in the first place—we don't have that. That would be an open-door policy. Think about it. You could vote the way you wanted, not the way you're told to vote. And it would work over on this side, too. But when is that ever going to happen? Well, it starts with you guys, because you're the government, you're the majority. When you start to speak out against things that happen in your ridings, this will be a much better place. Until you do that—you can talk about all the open-door policies, closed doors, whatever the heck you want—there will be one person in this place who decides what we're going to do, and that's the Premier of the day, whoever it is. Unfortunately, that's not right.

There are 107 of us who got elected. There should be 107 free votes in this place all the time. That's the way it should be, but unfortunately it isn't that way because we don't have an open-door policy here. It goes back to this bill. And when somebody tries to say something different, you get somebody over there who gets all upset about it. But who told you to get upset? Did that come from the Premier's office too? "Don't let them talk about democracy. Don't talk about open-door policy, because we really don't have that. We just like to let on we do."

I appreciate the time I've had to speak on this bill—

**Mr. Ted McMeekin:** So do we.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** —and some of them over there, maybe.

I'm sure a lot of members over on that side and on this side would like that too, but unfortunately this place isn't opened up yet to an open-door policy. When that happens someday, I hope that some of you are here to be able to vote the way you want to vote, not the way you're told to vote. I hope someday that happens. Then, we'll have true democracy in this place. Until that happens, we will never have it.

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** There's a member who was in Ottawa, and I'm sure she had an open-door policy up there. I'm sure Chrétien let you say whatever you wanted. That's why you're here—

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Thank you. Questions and comments?

...

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** The member for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, you have up to two minutes to respond.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** I want to thank everyone who spoke. I know they feel passionate about different things here. The member from Beaches-East York: We've been at some things together and we certainly enjoyed that. The member from North Bay, as I say, tries

to keep me on track here, too, so I appreciate that sometimes and I consider her a friend. The member from Sarnia-Lambton: Of course, we've been friends for a long time and I appreciate what he had to say. The member from London: That's my daughter's riding, so I'll call it my daughter's riding because he represents my daughter, and she tries to keep him on the straight and narrow, but it's tough sometimes.

**Hon. Christopher Bentley:** She's a good person.

**Mr. Bill Murdoch:** That's nice to hear.

The whole thing is, we're here and sitting until midnight. Are we really accomplishing a lot? I guess some people think we are and some don't. I go back to what I really passionately feel, though, in this whole House: If we wanted it to work, it would work so much better if we were all individuals in here. I don't mind the party system too-it has to be there-but it would be nice if the party system was just what it's called but didn't run this House. It does run this House. We have a party democracy. We do not have representative democracy, which we should have. It's unfortunate we don't have that. Everybody just follows their party's lines. I know there are things sometimes that I may think you're doing right, and I should be able to stand up here and say that. I'm sure there are times over there when you think, "Why are we doing this?" but don't speak out because you'll end up outside or in the corner or something like that.

We need to change this House somehow and I don't know how to go about it. If any of you have ideas, work on that because it'll never be right unless we change it to have representative democracy.

**The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier):** Pursuant to the standing orders, there having been at least six and a half hours of debate on this bill, the debate is deemed adjourned unless the government House leader specifies otherwise.

**Hon. Monique M. Smith:** No further debate on this bill.

*Second reading debate deemed adjourned.*

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*The House adjourned at 00:25 (a.m.).*