

## Smaller cabinet to make big changes among McGuinty's old guard

Premier Dalton McGuinty later this afternoon will present his cabinet that will preside over the Liberals new minority government.

To be comprised of 22 ministers, down from the 28 of the previous government, the premier will make significant leadership changes among the various portfolios. He will however, keep his overall inner circle unchanged. No newly MPPs are to be appointed and re-elected backbenchers are surely to be disappointed at not getting the call to serve.

The premier's new cabinet will reflect the priorities laid out by the liberals during the election with emphasis being placed on the economy, energy, infrastructure and transportation, health care and education. The message the premier himself is communicating is that an experienced cabinet will best be able to focus on building a strong Ontario economy with good schools and healthcare and solid infrastructure as its hallmarks driving strong job creation.

The most notable changes for the construction industry to be announced with this cabinet will be:

- Dwight Duncan's appointment to Deputy Premier. Clearly the Premier will be relying on the experience of the long-term Finance Minister to play a key roll in shaping the rebuilding and recovery of the Ontario economy.
- Chris Bentley's move from Attorney General to the energy portfolio will offer COCA a new chance to pursue its desired changes to the *Construction Lien Act*. As for the new Minister he will be spending a lot time in the spotlight during the coming mandate as he has to complete the implementation of the government's green energy plan and the associated blowback from opponents and skeptics to wind farms and solar technology, the relocation of the Mississauga gas-fired power plant and others who will be looking for the government to make a decision on the future of nuclear energy generation in Ontario.
- John Gerretsen will be elevated to the role of Attorney General having previously been removed from the senior ranks of cabinet over the ill-fated eco fees incident while serving as Minister of Environment. This will represent a new opportunity for COCA to press *Construction Lien Act* reform.
- Brad Duguid will be appointed to lead a new combined Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation.
- Bob Chiarelli will add the role of the Minister of Transportation to his position as Infrastructure Minister. This move highlights the solid commitment of the McGuinty government to its previously announced long-term infrastructure plan – a good sign given the magnitude of the pledged spend associated with the plan and the economic and fiscal challenges confronting the province.

- Linda Jeffrey is to assume the mantle of Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Seniors. This is an unusual arrangement that may present challenges for COCA's policy agenda for occupational health and safety and WSIB reform. Just as the government is establishing a new prevention division and tackling the fiscal challenges of the WSIB, the minister responsible will also have to divide her attention with administering the seemingly unrelated portfolio of Senior's Issues.
- Glen Murray will assume the role of Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, having been Minister of Research and Innovation.

Here is the list of anticipated ministers and their respective portfolios.

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Portfolio:</b>
Dalton McGuinty	Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
Jim Bradley	Minister of the Environment
Rick Bartolucci	Minister of Northern Development and Mines and Chair of Cabinet
Dwight Duncan	Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
<b><i>John Gerretsen</i></b>	<b><i>Attorney General</i></b>
Chris Bentley	Minister of Energy
Madeleine Meilleur	Minister of Community Safety & Correctional Services and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs
Harinder Takhar	Minister of Government Services
Kathleen Wynne	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Michael Chan	Minister of Tourism and Culture
Michael Gravelle	Minister of Natural Resources
<b><i>Brad Duguid</i></b>	<b><i>Minister of Economic Development and Innovation</i></b>
Deb Matthews	Minister of Health and Long Term Care
John Milloy	Minister of Community and Social Services and Government House Leader
Margarett Best	Minister of Consumer Services
Laurel Broten	Minister of Education and Minister of Women's Issues

***Linda Jeffrey***

Eric Hoskins

***Glen Murray***

***Bob Chiarelli***

Charles Sousa

Ted McMeekin

***Minister of Labour and Minister Responsible for Seniors***

Minister of Children and Youth Services

***Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities***

***Minister of Transportation and Minister of Infrastructure***

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The new cabinet to be announced this afternoon represents a lot of work for COCA and Ontario's construction industry over the coming months. Save for one portfolio all of the industry's key government "touch point" ministries will have new ministers. This will require the fostering and development of new working relationships with these ministers and their respective staff and their education of our key issues and objectives. Yet, while this will represent a lot of work it is also an excellent opportunity to further build our association and industry profile and continue to demonstrate how Ontario's construction industry can be an important strategic partner in the government's recreation of the Ontario economy.