

# Dear Mr. McGuinty (Part 2)

## **Why can't you explain your numbers? Are you hiding something or do you simply not know?**

**You say** the Green Energy Act will create 50,000 jobs in 3 years, yet based on worldwide evidence, your figures are grossly exaggerated if not fictitious. London Economics International says your grandiose claim is "unsubstantiated" and that Ontario may actually lose jobs.

Researchers from four U.S. universities just released a definitive study called *Seven Myths About Green Jobs* that agrees. The report notes the lack of sound research, erroneous economic assumptions and technological omissions in the development of green policies and government spending. It calls for transparent peer-reviewed data, not implausible assumptions and inconsistent definitions.

### **Key findings include:**

- There is no agreed, coherent definition of a "green job" anywhere. Most jobs classified as "green" produce no environmental results and little economic benefit.
- Green jobs ultimately do not promote employment growth; rather, there is a net decline.
- Governments rely on highly problematic assumptions about prices and technological change that make their job "multiplier effect" misleading and, therefore, useless.
- Economic predictions, prices and technology advancements are unrealistic. The report states: "These serious flaws render the prevailing green job estimates virtually unreliable."

Economist Gabriel Calzada, of Spain's Juan Carlos University, has researched the impact of green jobs in a country committed to renewable technologies. He says "Every green job created ploughs under 2.2 jobs elsewhere in the economy, and that doesn't account for job losses that come from higher energy prices." Spain's jobless rate is 14%.

According to a report by the National Renewable Energy Lab on wind-plant jobs, the average in the US is one low-paid maintenance employee for every 12-15 turbines. Worldwide business confirms this reality. In Spain, one industry job requires \$2 million in government subsidies. In Ontario, Enbridge estimates "Wind farm maintenance requires only 7 permanent jobs per 199.5 MW."

Robert MacIntosh, Past-president of the Canadian Bankers Association, wrote in the *Financial Post*: "It's time for reality to replace ideology in energy policy."

**We are not anti-green.** We are opposed to hastily conceived solutions that pose known risks for our health and the environment. Please, don't sacrifice our wellbeing for your political gain.

**A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of life in Grey County.**