

FILE

**Ministry of Finance**  
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Office of the Minister

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**Sessional Paper No. P-71**

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. Walker.  
(Tabled April 16, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. McNaughton.  
(Tabled May 02, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Ms. MacLeod, Mr. Walker  
and Mr. Yakabuski. (Tabled May 7, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. McNaughton.  
(Tabled May 08, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. MacLaren.  
(Tabled May 09, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. McDonell.  
(Tabled May 10, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mme Gélinas and  
Mr. McDonell. (Tabled May 14, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. Clark.  
(Tabled May 15, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. Walker.  
(Tabled May 28, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. Walker.  
(Tabled May 30, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. McDonell.  
(Tabled June 04, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Ms. MacLeod and  
Mr. Walker. (Tabled June 11, 2012)

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71. Horse racing industry (Sessional Paper No. P-71) Mr. McDonell.  
(Tabled June 13, 2012)

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Response:

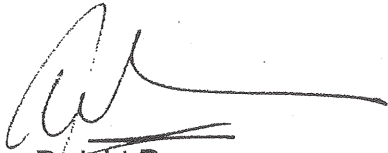
As you are aware, funding to the horse racing industry was reviewed along with all other government supports as part of our plan to eliminate the deficit. Since 1998, Slots at Racetracks have provided approximately \$3.4 billion to the horseracing industry. In 2011 alone, Ontario taxpayers subsidized horseracing in Ontario with \$345 million. That is more than we spend on research and innovation or water protection or road safety each year. And it is 10 times the total amount provided in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba. As highlighted in the report released by the Drummond Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, these subsidies are "unsustainable".

On March 12, 2012, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) released its report, *Modernizing Lottery and Gaming in Ontario: Advice to Government*. By modernizing lottery and gaming, the OLG will contribute an additional \$1.3 billion to the province to support education and health care. It will result in \$3 billion in new private sector capital investment in the province and create 2,300 net new jobs across Ontario. One of the OLG's key recommendations is to locate gaming sites where there is greater customer interest. As a result, the Slots at Racetracks program will end on March 31, 2013.

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Given the current economic and fiscal challenges Ontario faces, our government is redirecting how we spend Ontario taxpayers' money to protect our world-class schools and hospitals. Even with the end of the Slots at Racetrack program, horse racing in Ontario will still receive the most support in Canada with 6.9% reduction in pari-mutuel tax, which provides \$70 million for horse improvement, marketing and other industry support programs.)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dwight Duncan  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Finance