

NEWS ONTARIO

Abortion debate not on the table: Hudak ¹²

By Antonella Artuso, Queen's Park Bureau Chief

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Ontario Tory leader Tim Hudak. (Toronto Sun file photo)

TORONTO - Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak won't go there.

Opening up the abortion debate is something he says he won't do, nor will his party.

"I set the agenda, I set the plan," Hudak said Thursday, after three Tory MPPs sponsored a Campaign Life media conference at Queen's Park.

"We're not going to reopen this debate."

Hudak said he wouldn't disavow positions he's taken in the past on the subject – which include signing a petition calling for the province to stop funding the procedure – but he wouldn't be acting on them.

He also said he didn't feel his three caucus members – John O'Toole, Randy Hillier and Rick Nicholls – were undermining him by putting the issue back in the spotlight.

None of the three who sponsored the conference appeared or spoke at it.

Hudak's dismissal of the question didn't sit well with Premier Dalton McGuinty.

"It's absolutely essential on this issue in particular, which is an important aspect of public policy, that leaders don't dodge, bob, weave and obfuscate," McGuinty said.

"When presented with the opportunity today Mr. Hudak did not seize it and clarify his position and the position that he would put forth on behalf of his party. He's got to be absolutely clear. I've been clear from day one I support a woman's right to choose."

McGuinty said Hudak was dancing around on abortion and challenged him to stake out a clearer stance.

"We're talking about the party leader and the party leader's position," he said.

"I put it to Mr. Hudak he absolutely must state without equivocation, where he stands today on this issue. He's had two positions in the past. He says everybody knows his position. Well the question I ask is, which one?"

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she was surprised the issue of defunding abortion was able to get so much attention thanks to the three Tory MPPs who sponsored the media conference.

"I was pretty disappointed to learn the Conservatives once again want to try to roll back the clock in Ontario and take away women's right to choose," Horwath said. "That for me is shocking and inappropriate and disappointing, frankly."

Horwath said she hopes Hudak will "reconsider" if his party is planning to defund abortion services.

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knot_likely

The only people who bring it up are Liberals and NDP - who both are trying to claim there is a hidden agenda in an attempt to create confusion and mislead the voting public. Hudak didn't "dodge" anything Dalton. He said he wouldn't reopen the debate. Hudak knows he would get slaughtered in an election if he opens the issue, so if he wants to win (which he does) the status quo needs to remain. It's not about what he thinks, it's about what will get him elected.



Kyle Dean

And when, just when could you ever trust a tory ?



bullblaster

She's gone isn't she? Sometimes you are just so dense! Why are rabid Kingston lefties so dense?



limestoner

It would appear the righties are the dense ones, Rod, as you totally missed the point - Oda's being gone is not the result of Harper's acceptance of the wrongness of her actions - he was prepared to keep her on, just as he keeps Ritz on after Canadian consumers were put in danger because of his lack of quick action and just as he keeps McKay on after he lied to voters about F35 costs during the campaign, and just as he keeps Clement on after he misappropriated "border security" tax money to pork barrel and build gazebos and an arena in his riding!!! The righty Harperites are liars and parasites in the mold of Oda!

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limestoner

The man can't be trusted! He'll say whatever it takes to seduce votes!

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