

Office of the  
Government House  
Leader

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Bureau du leader  
parlementaire du  
gouvernement

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



July 14, 2014

Steve Clark, MPP  
Room 428, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A8

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to inform you that, this afternoon, I filed a motion with the Clerk of the Legislature to authorize midnight sittings. This motion, to be debated Tuesday morning, is essential to allow for the Legislature to strike committees and pass the Budget in a timely matter, in keeping with the Premier's commitment to Ontarians. As the Premier has indicated on many occasions, we are impatient to begin working on the mandate that the people of Ontario have entrusted to us. To achieve this, we will need Legislative sittings from 6 PM until midnight for a number of weeks to move forward with our plan.

I am extremely disappointed to have to take this step. It is necessary because you have rejected striking committees in keeping with long-standing convention, and are instead advocating for a committee structure that has no precedent in Ontario. Additionally, you have indicated that you will not be supporting our progressive budget.

The Budget takes immediate action to create jobs by investing in our people, building modern infrastructure and transportation networks and supporting a dynamic and innovative business climate. Our plan is a ten-year economic strategy that promises more opportunity and builds a secure future for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

We are also looking ahead and building the retirement security that the hardworking people of Ontario deserve through the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan. This will support economic growth and security today and tomorrow.

The Budget lays out a clear path to eliminating the deficit by 2017-18 in a fair and responsible manner. We will make investments today to grow the economy, while at the same time achieving our fiscal targets by carefully managing program spending growth to below 1.1%.



Today, we continue our work to build Ontario up. Ontarians have asked us to implement this plan and we will deliver. That is why it is imperative that we table this motion and allow the Legislature to have midnight sittings to debate and pass the Budget.

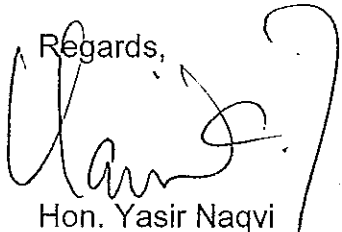
It is a long standing convention in this legislature that a majority government has at least a simple majority of voting members on all committees. Your proposal for committee composition, consisting of five Liberal members, two PC members and two NDP members, would lead to ties on committees which are chaired by Liberal members.

In light of the Government's majority status in the Legislature, this would represent a gross departure from precedent and would not reflect the majority mandate that was entrusted to us by the people of Ontario.

It is entirely inappropriate to include committee chairs as part of a government's majority standing in committees. As you are aware, committee chairs do not have the same freedom as voting members. On the rare occasions when chairs are required to vote, they are often directed by convention on how that vote is cast.

I hope that we can work together collaboratively to move Ontario in the right direction and begin implementing the plan that Ontarians entrusted to us.

I look forward to hearing debate from your party on this motion.

Regards,  
  
Hon. Yasir Naqvi  
Government House Leader

cc: Deb Deller, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Gilles Bisson, NDP House Leader