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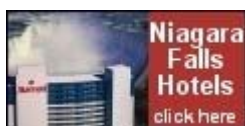
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Is it still not right for politicians to bend the truth?

Editorial - Saturday, October 01, 2005 @ 02:00

If one in four Ontario voters still consider Dalton McGuinty a liar – as an SES Research and Osprey Media poll, published today, shows – the premier has no one to blame but himself.

Step back two years, during the last provincial election that saw McGuinty's Liberals sweep the tired and spent Conservatives from power. With the self-nicknamed Tax Fighter himself, Mike Harris, out of the picture and replaced by the uninspiring Ernie Eves, the Tories were ripe for the picking.

They looked destined to lose going into the election, and throughout the campaign the momentum in that direction looked more and more obvious.

At that point, McGuinty probably didn't need to make a lot of promises to win over voters.

Still, he pretty much went on a promise rampage. He signed a citizens' coalition pledge to not raise taxes, and the TV commercial where he insists he wouldn't cut taxes but wouldn't raise them either, got heavy play.

Talk about boxing yourself in – he pretty much climbed in, folded down the corners and taped it shut on



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himself. Then after the election, when he did raise taxes, he maintained he had to because the provincial books were in worse shape than he had been led to believe. Later, he implemented a health tax.

From that viewpoint, it's a wonder only one in four consider him a liar.

Certainly, he's not the first politician to stretch the truth, if not lie outright. It wouldn't be tolerated in any other business, yet massaging the truth has become almost standard equipment in most successful politicians' bag of tricks.

Now, because of fixed election dates, Liberal voters have two more years to weigh their options.

Do they punish McGuinty for breaking his promises and throw out what has otherwise been a decent government; or hold their nose, decide that fact bending is a fact of political life and vote for McGuinty. Do you condone it or not?

Discussion Closed

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