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**TIM HUDAK, MPP**

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April 17, 2014

Equal Voice  
116 Albert, Suite 810  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G3

Re: the Equal Voice Toronto Ontario Challenge

Dear Donna Dasko and Leslie Byrne,

Thank you for writing me about Equal Voice's challenge ahead of a potential provincial election. I am pleased to support the goal of seeing more women elected as MPPs in the Ontario Legislature.

I have been blessed with two beautiful daughters. And each day I leave the house for work I think about what I can do to make sure they have every opportunity I had and more, because right now I'm worried about the province we will be handing to them and their generation. Nearly a million men and women wake up every morning in Ontario with no job to go to. Families are struggling to make mortgage payments, worried about their children's future and about their retirement.

Now, more than ever, Ontario needs change.

This year's International Women's Day theme, "inspiring change" also applies to Ontario as a whole and what we are going through as a province. Challenging the status quo is exactly what Ontario needs right now. It's why I ran for MPP in 1995 and it's what my mom taught me years ago when she ran for public office. She taught me to never lose sight of the people I am elected to serve.

My mom worked as a special needs high school teacher and she decided, against all odds, to run for council in Fort Erie. She was up against a well-known community stalwart and he was expected to win. It was a tough election. But she knocked on every single door in her ward and won by just seven votes. She worked hard, took on leadership roles and was returned in the next two consecutive elections by massive majorities as a credit to her dedication to her constituents.

I'm proud of my mom and the work she did for her community. I learned a lot about leadership, dedication and public life. And I am fortunate today to be working alongside many women in the Legislature with that same drive and character.



Christine Elliott, is a mother, lawyer, and Deputy Leader of our party. As Health Critic she has one of the top portfolios and has given a voice to countless families who would have otherwise fallen through the cracks in the system. She also raised funds and built a recreation, athletic and performing arts facility fully accessible to people with various challenges and disabilities in her riding. She not only inspires change, she makes it a reality.

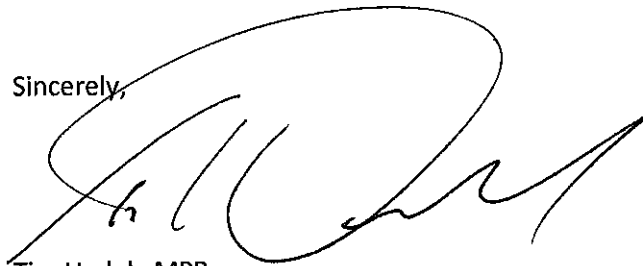
I'd also like to introduce you to our newest Ontario PC Caucus member, Gila Martow. Gila is an optometrist and runs an eye clinic in Markham, she is a mother of four and has dedicated the last 23 years to fundraising and volunteering for children's charities and non-profit organizations in her community. And most recently, she won her riding by an even bigger margin than the incumbent. Gila is going to be an incredible representative for Thornhill and a great addition to our team.

Lisa MacLeod is a great inspiration for young women in politics. In 2006 she was the youngest female conservative ever to be elected in Ontario, either federally or provincially. She had a one-year-old daughter at the time and a commute between Toronto and Ottawa to manage. But she excelled in every role she was given. And each election since her constituents have returned her to the Legislature with record margins. In the 2007 election she received the highest total of any PC candidate and in 2011 election she received the most votes of any person in any party in Ontario. This is a testament to Lisa's passion for and dedication to her community.

After the next election I'm excited to welcome our amazing female Ontario PC candidates to the Legislature. Particularly Paula Peroni, who has been an inspiration to us all. Two years ago she was diagnosed with cancer and underwent a 15-month battle, all the while never missing a beat in her campaign and role as school board trustee. She was working a mile a minute. She went to every duty and then leapt over the bar in doing that.

Ontario is at a turning point. The next election will be a chance to chart a new course, one of more jobs, better opportunity and a brighter future. I am confident that we have the plan and the team to get the job done. I am exceedingly proud of the women that are a part of my team. And with two young daughters, I'm personally thrilled at the number and character of the female candidates running for the Ontario PC Party. It is my honour to once again take the Equal Voice pledge to encourage more women to run in the upcoming provincial election. As a husband, father and Leader of the Ontario PC Party and Official Opposition thank you for your work in promoting equal representation in political office of women from all political parties.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hudak'.

Tim Hudak, MPP

Niagara West – Glanbrook  
Leader, Ontario PC Party