



For Immediate Release
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Baird threatens to eject Opposition on Pickering Lands

Transport Minister John Baird's callous response in Question Period today to Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland's question concerning the Pickering Airport Lands reveals a dangerous contempt for the communities in north Pickering.

In the aftermath of a high-profile eviction this past weekend, Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland demanded that the government: "reinstate the Liberal moratorium on evictions, stop attacking our heritage and come clean on their plans for our lands."

Baird's response was full of hyperbole and low on respect, "The only objective of those of us on this side of the House is to eject this member from this House."

"The Minister's response shows that he could care less about the serious issues affecting real people, our land, our heritage, our communities," said Holland, "it was a *'let them eat cake'* comment."

"Imagine, this is the first time that he publicly comments on Pickering Lands, itself a point of shame," explained Holland, "and instead of providing meaningful answers, he chooses to get personal and attack me, the MP whose job it is to defend the best interests of my constituents."

Holland is not surprised that the minister avoided the real issue. From the time that John Baird became Transport Minister, all inquiries put forward by Holland's office to the minister's office regarding the Pickering Lands have been ignored. This is in marked contrast to other ministers, including Lawrence Cannon, the previous Transport Minister in the Conservative government, who provided some manner of response to all inquiries.

In spite of this record, Holland will continue to press the minister and will send a letter to his office detailing requests first made since December 2008. Included in the letter will be the most recent request concerning the recent eviction and boarding up of historic Bentley – Carruthers house.

To view the full transcript of Mark Holland's question, please visit www.markholland.ca

A video link of the question will be made available on Holland's website in the next two days.

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