

Legislative
Assembly
of Ontario



Assemblée
législative
de l'Ontario

June 2022

A Guide to Inaugural Speeches

Carrie Hull
Manager
Legislative Research

Legislative Overview Series

The Legislative Research Branch (LR) is dedicated to serving Ontario's Parliament, by providing Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), their staff and the legislative committees with confidential, non-partisan information, research and analysis on request. LR also prepares research papers on key public policy topics of interest to parliamentarians.

Every effort is made to ensure that research papers are accurate as of the date of publication, but the papers may not be updated subsequently. LR accepts no responsibility for any references or links to, or the content of, information maintained by third parties.

Research Officers are available to discuss research papers and other topics with MPPs and their staff.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	1
What is an Inaugural Speech?	1
OPPORTUNITIES FOR DELIVERING THE SPEECH	2
Throne Speech Debate	2
Other Opportunities	3
CONTENT OF INAUGURAL SPEECHES	3
RESOURCES	7
Sample Inaugural Speeches	8
NOTES	15

Summary

This paper provides a guide to inaugural speeches for new Members, an important occasion in the career of a parliamentarian. It identifies the most common occasions for delivering the inaugural speech, outlines the contents of a typical speech, and provides excerpts from recent speeches. The paper closes with links to a selection of inaugural speeches made in the Ontario Legislature since 1990.¹

Introduction

In parliaments around the world, special significance is given to a Member's initial speech in the legislative chamber after first being elected. In the Westminster tradition, this has been known as the Member's maiden speech. Since 2007, Ontario's *Hansard* service has adopted the term inaugural speech.²

The inaugural speech is usually distinguished from other interventions by Members in the House, such as posing a question during Oral Questions, commenting briefly on another Member's speech, responding to a Ministerial Statement, or making a statement during the period set aside for Members' Statements.

It is generally expected that new Members will deliver an inaugural speech and most seem to welcome the opportunity. This paper identifies the most likely occasions for the speech during the opening weeks of a new session. It also describes the contents of a typical inaugural speech and provides excerpts from recent speeches. The final section contains links to all of the inaugural speeches referenced in the paper and a selection from the last eight parliaments.

What is an Inaugural Speech?

The inaugural speech is an important occasion in the career of a parliamentarian.³ It is the first formal opportunity for new Members to address the House at length and represent their constituency in the legislative chamber. By parliamentary convention, all Members will listen respectfully to the speech, refraining from the partisan interjections typical of debate in the Legislature. In return, convention dictates that the inaugural speech will be non-controversial.⁴

A legislative chamber is a unique forum for which no professional experience or credentials can fully prepare the new Member. This is true even for those with prior experience in public

speaking. The advice Premier George Ross (1899 – 1905) offered to new Members over a century ago remains relevant: “the beginner must so adapt himself to the conditions of Parliamentary speaking that he will not offend against its canons of debate, or its unwritten rules of persuasive oratory.”⁵

Members often celebrate their inaugural speech by inviting family, friends, and people from their campaign team to the Assembly to watch.

Opportunities for Delivering the Speech

Throne Speech Debate

The ideal occasion for delivering an inaugural speech is during the Throne Speech debate (officially known as the debate on the motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne). Many Members choose this occasion for their speech for the following reasons:

- Under Standing Order 44(a), 12 hours are allotted for the Throne Speech debate, providing many opportunities for Members to participate.
- Under Standing Order 26(a), participants in the Throne Speech debate may speak for as long as 20 minutes. Under Standing Order 26(b)(iii), a party’s leadoff speaker can take up to 60 minutes, time which is often split between two or more Members. Since 2003, in the first session of the Parliament, the leadoff speaker for the government has been a newly elected Member, most recently Doug Downey (Barrie—Springwater—Oro Medonte) in 2018. On each occasion, the opposition parties have led off with veteran MPPs.
- It is an established parliamentary convention that Members may speak on any topic they choose during a Throne Speech debate. In contrast, during debates on legislation, want of confidence motions and Opposition Day motions, Members are expected to direct their remarks to the subject matter before the House.

The Throne Speech debate typically begins on the next sessional day after the reading of speech by the Lieutenant Governor. A motion to take the Throne Speech into consideration (i.e., to begin the debate) is introduced on the same day that the speech is read. In 2003, this motion itself was debated, a rare occurrence. By the time the Throne Speech debate commenced, 18 newly elected Members had already delivered their inaugural speeches.

Other Opportunities

As noted earlier, the attraction of the Throne Speech debate as the occasion for inaugural speeches is the absence of a requirement that the debate be focused in any way. In almost every other speaking opportunity, the business before the House is of a specific nature and Members should speak to the point of that business. Members wishing to deliver an inaugural speech in such a context are expected to ask leave of the House in order to do so.

One exception is Members' statements, which may be about almost anything but are limited to no more than 90 seconds. This is normally too brief for an inaugural speech, although some Members have taken advantage of this component of routine proceedings. More commonly, Members simply thank their constituents for electing them and note that this is their first time speaking in the House. This initial statement does not preclude the Member from making a proper inaugural speech at a later date.

Opposition Days have also provided an attractive opportunity for inaugural speeches. These are times set aside for debates on issues selected by the opposition parties. Standing Order 45(a) provides for five such days in each of the spring and fall sittings of the Legislature, distributed among the opposition parties in proportion to their membership in the House. Opposition Days are often scheduled for early in a new session, and Opposition Day motions can sometimes be worded so that an inaugural speech will not be regarded as straying too far from the business at hand.

If Members are unable to deliver their inaugural speeches during the Throne Speech debates or on an Opposition Day, they may have to take advantage of other opportunities. Following the delayed 2003 Throne Speech debate, several Members delivered their first speech during debate of a government bill. In other new parliaments, or following by-elections, Members have even taken advantage of the Budget debate or an interim supply motion. Just under one-half of the inaugural speeches made during the 42nd Parliament took place during the Throne Speech debate.

Content of Inaugural Speeches

The following template offers a list of components typically presented in inaugural speeches delivered during the Throne Speech debate in recent Parliaments.

Contents of an Inaugural Speech - A Template

1. Congratulations to the Speaker on his or her election to that office.
2. Thanks to their constituents, family, friends, and campaign team, if the Member has not expressed this gratitude on a previous occasion.
3. Complimentary, non-partisan remarks about the Member's predecessor as the representative of the riding.
4. A selection of facts and figures about the Member's riding, including its geographical location, main industries, demographic mix, principal communities, and events of historical significance.
5. Comments on the content of the Throne Speech.
6. References to the philosophy and electoral promises of the party to which the Member belongs.
7. An explanation by the Member of his or her motives for entering politics and a discussion of formative experiences.
8. Reference to an individual or individuals whose life and/or work has been inspirational to the Member.



Above all, each Member will want to make the inaugural speech a reflection of what he or she brings to the Legislature.

In the inaugural speeches of the 42nd Parliament, a prominent theme was reflection on the honour of serving as a Member and the historical significance of the Legislative Assembly. Stephen Crawford (Oakville) expressed a sense of humility and commented on two of the carvings in the Chamber:

Today I have the privilege of making my inaugural speech to this assembly. I am humbled by the ways in which our work will influence the lives of our communities and the people of Ontario. Recently, I was told of the significance of the carved statues of an owl and an eagle above our heads in this chamber, the eagle on this side and the owl on this side. The eagle is a reminder to the members who sit on the opposition benches of their duty to be vigilant in monitoring the government. The owl is a reminder to members on the government benches to be wise, listen carefully and always act in the best interests of the people. I find this a very helpful reminder of our roles in this chamber.

Jill Andrew (Toronto—St. Paul's) described the feeling of awe she experienced walking the halls of the Legislature:

Each day I walk into this building, up and down these hallowed halls, my eyes ascend, I take in a deep breath, I exhale and I remind myself

that I am, in fact, not dreaming. I am here. Busily buzzing through the Legislature, as we all do, does not necessarily afford us the time for an intimate engagement with the breadth of historical images and relics within these walls. But on occasion, especially late at night, the inquisitive child in me stands in awe in this building, looking, observing, intently reflecting upon just what those faces on the wall would say to me, if only the walls could speak.

Several Members balanced their praise for the institution with an acknowledgement of darker moments in its history. Jill Andrew, continuing her observations about the legislative building, added the following caution:

I sometimes run my fingers against the marble, feeling the names, reimagining the social, cultural and political times of those carved into history. “Is this the house democracy built?” I wonder. Well, this magnificent space has been welcoming to many, but it has also been inextricably linked with policies, procedures and legacies that served to exclude, dehumanize and challenge the very right to personhood for many.

Sol Mamakwa (Kiiwetinoong) spoke about his experiences as a First Nations candidate and Member:

When I first decided to run, ... I realized that this is a colonial system; this is a colonial government. The legislation, the policies, the approaches never served First Nations people best.

... Oji-Cree is my first language. It’s really an historic moment as well for us, as First Nations people, to be able to speak the language in the House. Also, most importantly, it’s an historic moment for the people of Kiiwetinoong riding and all the Indigenous-language speakers of Ontario.

Further, let it be said that the people of Kiiwetinoong have worked hard over many years to advance their issues outside of government. My role as an MPP gives us an opportunity to push what is right and what is just inside Ontario’s Legislature.

Like many Ontarians, new Members in the 42nd Parliament were often immigrants or the children of immigrants. Goldie Ghamari (Carleton) recalled her parents’ decision to leave Iran and their arrival in Canada:

My parents had two suitcases, \$50 in their pockets, and a one-year-old baby girl, me. They had no friends, no family, no contacts. My father tells me that our first night in Canada, he rented an unfurnished

apartment. My parents slept on newspapers that night, and I slept bundled up in my father's jacket.

My parents gave up everything they had so that they could raise their family in a free and democratic country, a country like Canada. They came here with nothing and they expected nothing. My parents taught me to work hard, to play by the rules, to be thankful for our freedoms, and, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, to respect and to give back to the people and communities that built Canada and made it the best country in the world.

Other Members mentioned the importance of support from their colleagues—both from their own parties and across the aisle—in adapting to life at Queen's Park. Stan Cho (Willowdale) launched his speech as follows:

Over the past three months, I've started to feel more and more comfortable in this chamber, and I have to say I look forward each and every single day to joining my colleagues, on both sides of the House, to serve the people of my community and all Ontarians.

I'd like to begin by thanking my colleagues for their guidance, support and encouragement in my first days here at Queen's Park. It truly is a testament to our collective purpose here. It doesn't matter if we are from different parties, from rural or urban ridings, veterans or newly elected members. At the end of the day, I believe that we all share the same goal: a better, more prosperous Ontario.

Lindsay Park (Durham) echoed the sentiment:

One of the things that attracted me to politics is that it's the ultimate team sport. It's about working hard together to deliver the best results possible for our communities.... I look forward to working not only with my colleagues on all sides of this chamber, but also with the many staff who make this place function and all of the hard-working public servants who serve our government every day.... We have a duty to our constituents, we have a duty to each other and a duty to the people of Ontario.

Finally, an inaugural speech is never hurt by a humorous anecdote. Michael Parsa (Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill) recounted the new Member orientation and the Clerk's attempt to convey the significance of serving as an MPP:

When we came here initially we had an orientation. The staff have been so great. I think everybody can attest to this. They were telling us and they gave us one fact—to be honest with you, for the first portions of the fact I missed half of it because I was so dazed with a

smile from ear to ear as I was looking around this chamber, shocked that I'm sitting here. Once I got myself back together and paid attention to what the Clerk was teaching us, I heard him give us a fact: Out of the millions who have lived in our beautiful province, only about 1,800 people have had the opportunity to serve here. So it is an incredible honour for every single one of us and that should be [remembered] every single day when we come to work.

Resources

Not all Members will approach their inaugural speech with the same level of confidence. Even Premier Ross expressed nervousness, noting that “for some mysterious reason I had the utmost dread of rising to my feet.”⁶ Leading off for the government in the Throne Speech Debate in April 2001, MPP Norm Miller (Parry Sound-Muskoka) summarized the challenges of speaking in the Legislature:

Those of you present realize it is not an easy task to give a major speech following the Lieutenant Governor's important address. I said during the recent campaign that I was not a politician or a public speaker. Today, I can safely say I am only one of these.

Members might also struggle to find time in their busy schedules to prepare their speeches. In her inaugural speech in 2003, MPP Jennifer Mossop (Stoney Creek) described the chaos of the first days in her new career:

I had the weekend to prepare, three days. And then I remembered that the moving truck was coming the next morning and I imagined myself amid dozens of unpacked boxes, rocking the baby with one toe and pecking away at my keyboard, trying to come up with a speech. I wondered, maybe for a moment, if anybody would mind if I read from the phone book.

The Legislative Library and Legislative Research provide confidential, non-partisan research and analysis, reference, circulation, and news services to MPPs and their staff, Legislative Committees, and Legislative Assembly staff. For example, the Library has created profiles of Ontario's 124 electoral districts, offering demographic information, interactive maps, results from recent elections, and interesting readings related to each riding.

Sample Inaugural Speeches

Selected speeches from the previous eight Ontario parliaments are linked below.

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Anand, Deepak	Mississauga—Malton	2021 Nov. 29	42nd
Andrew, Jill	Toronto—St. Paul's	2018 Nov. 14	42nd
Arthur, Ian	Kingston and the Islands	2018 Sept. 19	42nd
Baber, Roman	York Centre	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Babikian, Aris	Scarborough—Agincourt	2018 Jul. 26	42nd
Begum, Doly	Scarborough Southwest	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Bell, Jessica	University—Rosedale	2018 Jul. 01	42nd
Berns-McGown, Rima	Beaches—East York	2018 Sept. 24	42nd
Bethlenfalvy, Peter	Pickering—Uxbridge	2018 Oct. 18	42nd
Bouma, Will	Brantford—Brant	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Bourgouin, Guy	Mushkegowuk—James Bay	2018 Sep. 31	42nd
Burch, Jeff	Niagara Centre	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Calandra, Paul	Markham—Stouffville	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Cho, Stan	Willowdale	2018 Sept. 24	42nd
Crawford, Stephen	Oakville	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Cuzzetto, Rudy	Mississauga—Lakeshore	2018 Jul. 30	42nd
Downey, Doug	Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Dunlop, Jill	Simcoe North	2018 Aug. 01	42nd
Fee, Amy	Kitchener South—Hespeler	2018 Aug. 01	42nd
Ford, Doug	Etobicoke North	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Fullerton, Merrilee	Kanata—Carleton	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Ghamari, Goldie	Carleton	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Gill, Parm	Milton	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Glover, Chris	Spadina—Fort York	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Harden, Joel	Ottawa Centre	2018 Jul. 19	42nd
Harris, Mike	Kitchener—Conestoga	2018 Jul. 24	42nd
Hassan, Faisal	York South—Weston	2018 Oct. 18	42nd

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Hogarth, Christine	Etobicoke—Lakeshore	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Kanapathi, Logan	Markham—Thornhill	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Karahalios, Belinda	Cambridge	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Karpoche, Bhutila	Parkdale—High Park	2018 Oct. 15	42nd
Ke, Vincent	Don Valley North	2018 Oct. 18	42nd
Kernaghan, Terence	London North Centre	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Khanjin, Andrea	Barrie—Innisfil	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Kramp, Daryl	Hastings—Lennox and Addington	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Kusendova, Natalia	Mississauga Centre	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Lecce, Stephen	King—Vaughan	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Lindo, Laura Mae	Kitchener Centre	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Mamakwa, Sol	Kiiwetinoong	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Martin, Robin	Eglinton—Lawrence	2018 Jul. 30	42nd
McKenna, Jane	Burlington	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Monteith-Farrell, Judith	Thunder Bay—Atikokan	2018 Dec. 03	42nd
Morrison, Suze	Toronto Centre	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Pang, Billy	Markham—Unionville	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Park, Lindsey	Durham	2018 Jul. 31	42nd
Parsa, Michael	Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill	2018 Jul. 24	42nd
Piccini, David	Northumberland—Peterborough South	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Rakocevic, Tom	Humber River—Black Creek	2018 Jul. 19	42nd
Roberts, Jeremy	Ottawa West—Nepean	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Sabawy, Sheref	Mississauga—Erin Mills	2018 Jul. 24	42nd
Sandhu, Amarjot	Brampton West	2018 Jul. 30	42nd
Sarkaria, Prabmeet Singh	Brampton South	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
Schreiner, Mike	Guelph	2018 Jul. 16	42nd
Shaw, Sandy	Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Singh, Gurratan	Brampton East	2018 Jul. 16	42nd

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Singh, Sara	Brampton Centre	2018 Jul. 30	42nd
Skelly, Donna	Flamborough—Glanbrook	2018 Aug. 01	42nd
Smith, Dave	Peterborough—Kawartha	2018 Jul. 23	42nd
Stevens, Jennifer (Jennie)	St. Catharines	2018 Oct. 04	42nd
Stiles, Marit	Davenport	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Surma, Kinga	Etobicoke Centre	2018 Dec. 03	42nd
Tangri, Nina	Mississauga—Streetsville	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Thanigasalam, Vijay	Scarborough—Rouge Park	2018 Jul. 17	42nd
Wai, Daisy	Richmond Hill	2018 Jul. 18	42nd
West, Jamie	Sudbury	2018 Oct. 30	42nd
Yarde, Kevin	Brampton North	2018 Dec. 03	42nd
Anderson, Granville	Durham	2014 Dec. 9	41st
Ballard, Chris	Newmarket—Aurora	2014 Dec. 8	41st
Cho, Raymond	Scarborough—Rouge River	2016 Sep. 15	41st
Dong, Han	Trinity—Spadina	2014 Dec. 9	41st
Fraser, John	Ottawa South	2014 Nov. 3	41st
French, Jennifer	Oshawa	2014 Jul. 9	41st
Gretzky, Lisa	Windsor West	2014 Jul. 9	41st
Hoggarth, Ann	Barrie	2014 Jul. 8	41st
Kiwala, Sophie	Kingston and the Islands	2014 Jul. 7	41st
Lalonde, Marie-France	Ottawa—Orléans	2014 Jul. 9	41st
Malhi, Harinder	Brampton—Springdale	2014 Dec. 1	41st
Martins, Cristina	Davenport	2014 Jul. 9	41st
McGarry, Kathryn	Cambridge	2014 Jul. 8	41st
McMahon, Eleanor	Burlington	2014 Dec. 8	41st
Milczyn, Peter	Etobicoke—Lakeshore	2014 Jul. 8	41st
Naidoo-Harris, Indira	Halton	2014 Dec. 9	41st
Potts, Arthur	Beaches—East York	2014 Jul. 15	41st
Romano, Ross	Sault Ste. Marie	2017 Sep. 27	41st
Thibeault, Glen	Sudbury	2015 Mar. 2	41st

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Vernile, Daiene	Kitchener Centre	2014 Jul. 7	41st
Armstrong, Teresa J.	London—Fanshawe	2011 Dec. 5	40th
Campbell, Sarah	Kenora—Rainy River	2012 Feb. 22	40th
Coteau, Michael	Don Valley East	2011 Nov. 23	40th
Crack, Grant	Glengarry—Prescott—Russell	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Damerla, Dipika	Mississauga East—Cooksville	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Fedeli, Victor	Nipissing	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Forster, Cindy	Welland	2011 Dec. 7	40th
Jackson, Rod	Barrie	2011 Nov. 30	40th
Leone, Rob	Cambridge	2011 Dec. 8	40th
MacLaren, Jack	Carleton—Mississippi Mills	2012 Feb. 23	40th
Mantha, Michael	Algoma—Manitoulin	2011 Dec. 5	40th
McKenna, Jane	Burlington	2012 Mar. 7	40th
McNaughton, Monte	Lambton—Kent—Middlesex	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Milligan, Rob E.	Northumberland—Quinte West	2011 Dec. 7	40th
Natyshak, Taras	Essex	2011 Nov. 29	40th
Nicholls, Rick	Chatham—Kent—Essex	2011 Dec. 7	40th
Pettapeice, Randy	Perth—Wellington	2012 Apr. 2	40th
Schein, Jonah	Davenport	2011 Dec. 5	40th
Singh, Jagmeet	Bramalea—Gore—Malton	2011 Nov. 30	40th
Smith, Todd	Prince Edward—Hastings	2011 Nov. 30	40th
Taylor, Monique	Hamilton Mountain	2011 Nov. 29	40th
Thompson, Lisa M.	Huron—Bruce	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Vanthof, John	Timiskaming—Cochrane	2011 Nov. 30	40th
Wong, Soo	Scarborough—Agincourt	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Yurek, Jeff	Elgin—Middlesex—London	2011 Nov. 28	40th
Aggelonitis, Sophia	Hamilton Mountain	2008 Mar. 19	39th
Albanese, Laura	York South—Weston	2008 Mar. 17	39th
Bailey, Robert	Sarnia—Lambton	2008 Mar. 19	39th
Dickson, Joe	Ajax—Pickering	2008 Mar. 19	39th
Gélinas, France	Nickel Belt	2007 Dec. 12	39th

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Hillier, Randy	Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington	2007 Dec. 13	39th
Jaczek, Helena	Oak Ridges—Markham	2008 Mar. 17	39th
Jones, Sylvia	Dufferin—Caledon	2008 Mar. 17	39th
Mangat, Amrit	Mississauga—Brampton South	2008 Apr. 1	39th
Miller, Paul	Hamilton East—Stoney Creek	2007 Dec. 13	39th
Moridi, Reza	Richmond Hill	2008 Mar. 31	39th
Naqvi, Yasir	Ottawa Centre	2007 Dec. 5	39th
Pendergast, Leanna	Kitchener—Contestoga	2007 Dec. 3	39th
Shurman, Peter	Thornhill	2008 Mar. 31	39th
Sousa, Charles	Mississauga South	2008 Mar. 18	39th
Berardinetti, Lorenzo	Scarborough Southwest	2004 Jun. 7	38th
Broten, Laurel C.	Etobicoke—Lakeshore	2003 Nov. 25	38th
Brownell, Jim	Stormont—Dundas—Charlottenburgh	2003 Dec. 15	38th
Craitor, Kim	Niagara Falls	2003 Dec. 2	38th
Delaney, Bob	Mississauga West	2004 May 20	38th
Duguid, Brad	Scarborough Centre	2003 Nov. 26	38th
Jeffrey, Linda	Brampton Centre	2004 Apr. 7	38th
Leal, Jeff	Peterborough	2003 Dec. 16	38th
McNeely, Phil	Ottawa—Orléans	2003 Dec. 9	38th
Milloy, John	Kitchener Centre	2004 Apr. 7	38th
Mitchell, Carol	Huron—Bruce	2004 Mar. 22	38th
Mossop, Jennifer F.	Stoney Creek	2003 Dec. 11	38th
Oraziotti, David	Sault Ste. Marie	2003 Nov. 26	38th
Qaadri, Shafiq	Etobicoke—North	2003 Dec. 11	38th
Ramil, Khalil	London—Fanshawe	2003 Dec. 16	38th
Sandals, Liz	Guelph—Wellington	2003 Dec. 16	38th
Scott, Laurie	Haliburton—Victoria—Brock	2003 Dec. 15	38th
Van Bommel, Maria	Lambton—Kent—Middlesex	2004 Apr. 7	38th
Watson, Jim	Ottawa West—Nepean	2003 Dec. 15	38th

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Wilkinson, John	Perth—Middlesex	2004 Mar. 22	38th
Wynne, Kathleen O.	Don Valley West	2003 Dec. 15	38th
Yakabuski, John	Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke	2003 Dec. 2	38th
Bountrogianni, Marie	Hamilton Mountain	1999 Oct. 26	37th
Bryant, Michael	St. Paul's	1999 Oct. 28	37th
Di Cocco, Caroline	Sarnia—Lambton	1999 Nov. 1	37th
Dombrowsky, Leona	Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington	1999 Nov. 1	37th
Dunlop, Garth	Simcoe North	1999 Nov. 17	37th
Levac, Dave	Brant	1999 Oct. 28	37th
Miller, Norm	Parry Sound—Muskoka	2001 Apr. 23	37th
Parsons, Ernie	Prince Edward—Hastings	1999 Oct. 28	37th
Peters, Steve	Elgin—Middlesex—London	1999 Nov. 1	37th
Smitherman, George	Toronto Centre—Rosedale	1999 Oct. 27	37th
Barrett, Toby	Norfolk	1995 Oct. 4	36th
Bartolucci, Rick	Sudbury	1995 Oct. 5	36th
Colle, Mike	Oakwood	1995 Oct. 3	36th
Duncan, Dwight	Windsor—Walkerville	1995 Oct. 3	36th
Galt, Doug	Northumberland	1995 Oct. 5	36th
Gerretsen, John	Kingston and the Islands	1995 Oct. 4	36th
Hodgson, Chris	Victoria—Haliburton	1995 Oct. 4	36th
Mushinski, Marilyn	Scarborough—Ellesmere	1995 Oct. 5	36th
O'Toole, John	Durham East	1995 Oct. 10	36th
Pupatello, Sandra	Windsor—Sandwich	1995 Oct. 4	36th
Carr, Gary	Oakville South	1990 Nov. 26	35th
Churley, Marilyn	Riverdale	1990 Nov. 21 & Dec. 3	35th
Ferguson, Will	Kitchener	1990 Dec. 3	35th
Harnick, Charles	Willowdale	1990 Dec. 3	35th
Harrington, Margaret	Niagara Falls	1990 Nov. 28	35th

MPP	Riding	Date	Parliament
Mammoliti, George	Yorkview	1990 Nov. 28	35th
McGuinty, Dalton	Ottawa South	1990 Nov. 28	35th
Turnbull, David	York Mills	1990 Dec. 3	35th
Ward, Brad	Brantford	1990 Nov. 26	35th
Wark-Martyn, Shelley	Port Arthur	1990 Dec. 3	35th
Wilson, Jim	Simcoe West	1990 Nov. 27	35th
Witmer, Elizabeth	Waterloo North	1990 Nov. 28	35th

Notes

¹ This paper is a revised version of a document originally prepared by Larry Johnston, a former Research Officer at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

² The phrase “inaugural speech” is now also employed in several Australian state legislatures, though the Australian Parliament uses the expression first speech.

³ This seems particularly true in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, where excerpts from Members’ inaugural speeches are commonly presented on party, Member, or even parliamentary web sites.

⁴ See also Audrey O’Brien and Marc Bosc, editors, *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, 3rd edition, “[Maiden Speech](#),” 2017.

⁵ Sir George W. Ross, *Getting Into Parliament and After* (Toronto: William Briggs, 1913), p. 89.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 86.

Asked. Answered.

LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY AND LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

Customized Research, Briefings and Research Papers

416-325-3900

<https://librarypublications.ola.org>

libraryinquiry@ola.org