

Editorial ? This Provincial election is Hudak's to lose

We agree there is a certain inherent danger in trying to predict what's going to happen in politics, if for no other reason than there are just too many variables.

That's why it wasn't until we heard NDP Leader Andrea Horwath definitely say that her party wasn't going to support the budget brought down last Thursday by Finance Minister Charles Sousa that we knew for sure that there was going to be an election in the coming weeks.

The budget that Sousa presented, on behalf of the Kathleen Wynne Liberals, went to some considerable lengths to try and appeal to NDP voters, and we suspect that's going to be a major focus of the coming campaign. We anticipate there are going to be a lot of questions about why the New Democrats kept propping up the scandal-plagued Liberal government, while they try to claim the Grits have adopted their ideas.

With Horwath and Wynne fighting over the left wing votes, that could make things easier for Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak.

But the campaign still has several weeks to go, and nothing has yet been decided. The burden right now is on Hudak to show he has a plan and vision to represent a viable alternative to roughly 11 years of Liberal government. The Tories say that plan and vision exists, so it's up to them to prove it, and sell it to the electorate.

Hudak and company would do well to remember that the electorate in Ontario has shown a tendency to be forgiving when it comes to the Liberals. Remember Dalton McGuinty's pledge in 2003 not to raise taxes. The first budget after he took power included the heavy Health Care Premium, yet he was returned with another majority in 2007. It's not impossible for the voters to overlook the current scandals too.

We see an opportunity there for the Tories, but it's up to them to make use of it.

Of course, that's going to be among many issues we expect to be swamped with between now and election day.

These campaigns tend to be emotional times, and sometimes people get a little too wrapped up in things. Get involved in the election. Attend debates. Above all, make sure you get out and vote. Don't worry, we'll remind you about that one a couple of times. But don't get carried away. Don't take it personally when someone disagrees with you, especially when that someone's a candidate.

As of this writing, we are only aware of one candidate running in Dufferin-Caledon. Don't worry there will be others.

And we wait for June 12.