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## Pettapiece pushes government to fast-track Rea and Walter Act

(Queen's Park) – Perth-Wellington MPP Randy Pettapiece questioned the government in the legislature yesterday about the *Rea and Walter Act*, a Private Member's bill that would enhance firefighter safety. The bill was wiped off the legislative agenda when the government suddenly prorogued the legislature ahead of the June election. Pettapiece reintroduced the bill on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

"The Rea and Walter Act passed unanimously at second reading, but the bill died when this government, for political reasons, decided to prorogue the Legislature," said Pettapiece during Question Period. He asked community safety minister Marie-France Lalonde to agree to fast-track it.

In her response the minister encouraged Pettapiece to "reintroduce that bill again in this session," clearly unaware that Pettapiece already reintroduced the *Rea and Walter Act* nearly two weeks ago. She also ignored Pettapiece's request to fast-track the bill and blamed "the new management" of the PC caucus.

"I was surprised the minister chose to make a partisan issue out of this," noted Pettapiece. "Our bill passed over a year ago, and the government has had over a year to move it forward."

"And now, just before an election, she tries to blame the brand-new PC leader for her own government's failure to act? Give me a break."

Pettapiece continued: "Firefighter safety is something we should all be able to agree on. It's no wonder so many people are so frustrated with this government and with Ontario politics today."

Pettapiece restated his strong support for seeing the *Rea and Walter Act* passed into law before the election. He called on the government to help make that happen.

"It's time to take action," Pettapiece said in his question. "If the government doesn't agree, why did they support the *Rea and Walter Act* at second reading, and when will they finally act on it?"

Unsatisfied with the minister's response, Pettapiece took the extra step of forcing a "late show" debate on the issue. That debate is scheduled for this evening.

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Link to Question Period video: [https://youtu.be/6JK\\_fRoAYHE](https://youtu.be/6JK_fRoAYHE)

Related: <http://pettapiece.ca/2018/03/27/pettapiece-reintroduces-rea-and-walter-act/>

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