

## Federal-Provincial Relations

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### Hon. John McCallum (Markham—Unionville, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, never before has a federal [finance minister](#) trashed the business climate of Ontario in such a vitriolic and unacceptable way. Never before has a federal finance minister told the world that Ontario is the last place to invest. Especially with manufacturing jobs hemorrhaging by the day, the people of Ontario want their governments to work together to solve real problems.

Why can the minister not understand this simple point and stop bashing Ontario and stop bashing the people who call that province their home?

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### Hon. Jim Flaherty (Minister of Finance, CPC):

The concern, Mr. Speaker, is, of course, with the people of Ontario, the workers of Ontario and the businesses of Ontario because the Government of Ontario's business tax policies are hurting business growth in the province of Ontario.

On October 30, in the economic statement, we challenged the provinces and territories to join us in reducing the business tax burden by 2012. British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick are all moving in that direction. This is for the sake of businesses, business growth and the people, the workers of the province of Ontario.

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### Hon. John McCallum (Markham—Unionville, Lib.):

Mr. Speaker, he keeps on bashing.

Last Thursday, the [Prime Minister](#) and Dalton McGuinty issued a press release calling for greater collaboration. Here is an opportunity for the minister. Just today, the Ontario government announced \$17 million for the Ford plant to reopen in Windsor. Just today, Ford asked the federal government to match that contribution.

Will the minister put his money where his mouth is and match that \$17 million contribution?

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### Hon. Jim Flaherty (Minister of Finance, CPC):

Mr. Speaker, my criticism of the Government of Ontario and the Premier of Ontario cannot hold a candle to the criticism of the NDP government of Ontario by the Liberal government here when Bob Rae--

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### The Speaker:

The hon. [Minister of Finance](#) may have forgotten but there is a new member of the House whose name I think he just bandied about and it is out of order to refer to members by their names. I think he meant the hon. member for [Toronto Centre](#) and, if so, he would want to use that name in his answer.

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### Hon. Jim Flaherty:

Mr. Speaker, I do wish the member for [Toronto Centre](#) the same success in opposition here in this House as he had serving in Ontario also in opposition.

The Liberals do not listen to their own advice. Here is what the member for [Markham—Unionville](#) said. He said, “The new Canadian advantage and the Liberal vision”--  
**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh!