

Mississauga (Federal Constituency)

# Blenkarn wants 'full-time MP or resignation'

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Although newly-elected Mississauga MP Tony Abbott has yet to take his seat in the House of Commons, former MP Don Blenkarn has already called for his resignation if he isn't prepared to do a "full-time job" for the riding.

In a speech during the Don Blenkarn Appreciation Night party thrown by local Conservatives for the ex-candidate at the Streetville home of Gerry Townsend, president of International Mogul Mines, Blenkarn said:

"I say to Mr. Abbott that he has accepted an obligation from the citizens of Mississauga to do a full-

time job. If he needs any assistance from me or any of you to work for this city, to build a better city and a better country, he only has to call — we'll be there, we'll help."

"In return for that support, we demand a full-time attitude, a full-time effort, and a full-time member of Parliament. If he isn't prepared to give it, I will call for his resignation and retirement."

Blenkarn said that the size and nature of Mississauga riding means that Abbott will have "to work three times as hard as any other member of parliament", adding "I expect him to

carry his load. If he can't, he should resign."

Blenkarn revealed that he still intends to visit Ottawa on a regular basis to make representations, saying "if I can't be heard in the House of Commons, I will be heard outside the House of Commons."

Although he was "disappointed" at the election results, Blenkarn said "I'm not going to quit, and I don't expect you to quit."

On the question of national unity, the former MP claimed "there is a feeling in Western Canada — why belong to a country with a

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leadership in a province that doesn't care?"

The Liberal government, he said, is "dividing the country, creating national disunity, instead of national unity." He asserted that the Progressive Conservatives were the "only party that can unite Canada into the kind of country Laurier dreamed about, the country of the twentieth century, just as the United States was the country of the nineteenth century."

In a brief interview after his speech, Blenkarn said he would run again if the election were held tomorrow, but couldn't predict what his decision would be in four years when the next election will likely be held.