

The premier dithers

Ujjal Dosanjh must realize buck stops on his desk

Listening to Premier Ujjal Dosanjh as he spoke on a radio hotline show Monday, you would think he'd just taken over his position.

Asked about numerous issues, he kept saying: "I don't have the answer for that" or "The premier doesn't know all the details of what the government is doing" or variations to that effect.

Dosanjh has played the "new kid in town" card just a little too long. He's been premier for more than six months, and has been in the cabinet of not only Glen Clark, but also Mike Harcourt, for more than five years. He needs to start taking responsibility for what is now *his* government.

I appreciate his reluctance to give definitive answers on every question he's asked, because he's concerned about how his answers will be interpreted if he is wrong on a factual point. However, he has to be more of an activist than he's been thus far. Take the controversial SE2 project which will drastically affect Fraser Valley air quality. His government did nothing until the very last day of hearings.



FROM THE EDITOR

FRANK BUCHOLTZ

Another illustration of how his caution is overshadowing the need to get things done came in his response Monday to a question about a B.C. Supreme Court ruling. A judge ruled that children with autism were being discriminated against, because of the government's refusal to fund the expensive Lovass treatment.

This decision came down several weeks ago, yet the government has yet to respond. Reminded of this, Dosanjh said "I haven't had time to

look into it."

Excuse me, Mr. Premier. That's why you have a health minister. Put him to work on the file, and get to it.

Dosanjh has pledged not to be a "one-man government," unlike his predecessor Clark. He said he would give his ministers some work to do. Here's a perfect chance to do so.

Dosanjh promised to begin cooling down B.C.'s hot political scene. Yes, the rhetoric has cooled down for now — but that doesn't mean that the government must move at a glacial pace. There's plenty of work to do.