

NEWS RELEASE

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McGuinty Liberals Balloon Provincial Deficit to Over \$24 Billion: MPP Jones

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon) was in the Legislature yesterday as the Minister of Finance broke the bad news that Ontario's deficit has reached a record \$24.7 billion.

Since the McGuinty Liberals came to power in 2003, \$65.2 billion has been added to Ontario's debt. During these tough economic times, Ontarians are paying more and getting less. Since the McGuinty Liberals have been in power they have introduced a health tax, tire tax, paint tax, electronics tax; and come this Canada Day, Ontarians will be hit with a 13% harmonized sales tax.

"The McGuinty Liberals tax and spend policies have dug Ontario into a deep and dark hole," said Jones. "The prosperity of Ontario has been well-known and built up for generations. Well paying jobs have been driven away, we have become a 'have-not' province, we have the highest tax rate for new business investment, the slowest rate of private sector growth, and a Liberal government that is turning a blind eye to all of it," said Jones.

It has only been 30 weeks since the Minister of Finance announced a record breaking \$14.1 billion deficit in his March budget. Adding another \$10.6 billion in debt to the books is staggering, especially when the Auditor General reported last week that Ontarians received no value in the \$1 billion spent at eHealth.

"Ontarians are working harder than ever to pay down this McGuinty debt," said Jones. "The McGuinty Liberals seem to be more focused on forcing more taxes on the backs of Ontario families than getting down to business and creating a solid plan that works for this province."

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You