

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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Jones Travels with Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions

(Queen's Park) –Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) will begin travelling to cities across the province starting June 15, as a member of the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions, a committee that was introduced by Progressive Conservative colleague and leadership candidate Christine Elliott, MPP (Whitby-Oshawa).

The recommendation that a select committee should be established immediately to develop a comprehensive Ontario mental health and addictions strategy received unanimous support from all parties in the Legislature on December 4, 2008. The committee began meeting in March with the goal of getting Ontario to the 'top of its class' when it comes to a mental health and addictions strategy.

"We have recognized the need for this comprehensive study of mental health services because the current system is failing so many in our province," said Jones. "The great thing about this committee is that all parties agree that mental health is not just a Ministry of Health issue. Mental health also impacts on the Ministries of Community and Social Services, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the justice ministries to name a few."

This select committee will focus on the mental health issues of children, the increase of suicide among young people, the mental health and addiction problems facing the homeless, the delivery of programs across the province, access to services among aboriginal communities, and the needs of those in long-term care facilities. In June, the committee is travelling to Windsor, St. Thomas, Hamilton and Kingston to hear from individuals and organizations that have comments and suggestions for the committee.

"I hear from individuals and families who are unable to access services in our community, and I think this committee is an important step in getting Ontarians the services they need," said Jones. "Without community supports in place, people seek care at our hospital's emergency department or tragically end up in our judicial system."

Next week Jones will hear from experts in the field and families so the committee can work toward improving mental health services across Ontario, including the residents of Dufferin-Caledon. If you have a concern you would like share, please contact her at sylviajonesqp@pc.ola.org or 1-800-265-1603.

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You