

# NEWS RELEASE

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## SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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For Immediate Release  
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### **Jones Introduces Private Members Bill to Support Volunteers in Ontario**

(Queen's Park) – Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon), today introduced Bill 170, the *Criminal Record Checks for Volunteers Act, 2009*, into the Ontario Legislature.

This bill will allow volunteers who donate their time with multiple organizations to pay for their criminal record check once per year, and allow volunteers to access this record to distribute to multiple volunteer organizations at no additional cost to themselves or to organizations.

“This cost saving initiative would encourage more volunteers to donate their time to multiple causes,” said Jones. “Volunteerism is an important sector, and without them in our schools, hospitals and community groups, our communities would suffer.”

Most volunteer organizations, particularly those dealing with children and seniors require their volunteers to submit a criminal record check. In many cases, volunteers have to pay out of their own pocket for a criminal record check or the organization has to fundraise to underwrite the cost of the criminal record check.

“Every day, thousands of volunteers donate their time and energy without expectation of a financial reward,” said Jones. “Thousands of Ontarians benefit from the selfless acts of volunteers.”

“I am confident my colleagues across the province will support me in acknowledging this concrete demonstration of the acknowledgement of the importance of volunteers and the voluntary sector,” said Deborah Gardner, Executive Director of Volunteer Toronto. “As a volunteer centre, we are very pleased to see support of any act of volunteerism and any mechanisms that increase the likelihood of civic engagement. Forward thinking will be a benefit not only to those who volunteer, but to those who are in receipt of these generous acts of time and skill.”

“Volunteering is a fundamental act of citizenship in our province,” said Jones. “As more and more people become involved in volunteering, our communities continue to grow and prosper. By caring and contributing to change, volunteers are changing lives while increasing their own life skills.”

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*Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You*