

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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Jones Demands Liberals Stand Up for Families Waiting for Residential Supports

(Queen's Park) – Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) today called on the McGuinty Liberals to stand up for families who are raising their adult children with developmental disabilities at home.

Families like Linda and David Russell of Caledon have been struggling to find a placement for their 29 year-old daughter Joanne, who is developmentally disabled. Joanne is just one of the 600 people on a waitlist for residential supports at the Brampton-Caledon Community Living.

“The Russell’s are mentally and physically exhausted,” said Jones. “They have accepted the responsibility for caring for Joanne for the past 29 years. They need and deserve a break. But with 600 names on the waitlist for residential supports at the Brampton-Caledon Community Living alone, they see little light at the end of the tunnel.”

Community Living organizations across Ontario typically mark May 4th of each year as a day to celebrate their accomplishments at Queen's Park, but cancelled this year's event as they felt there was nothing to celebrate. In a letter to the Minister of Community and Social Services explaining why they have cancelled their annual day, Community Living said they feel betrayed by the Liberal government.

There are currently more than 12,000 people across Ontario on waitlists for residential supports, and 7,000 people waiting for other supports. 80% of those with developmental disabilities who are on waitlists have parents over the age of 70.

“This is yet another broken Liberal promise—this time to one of the most vulnerable groups in Ontario,” said Jones. “We have come to the point where aging families are going to have no choice but to go into crisis to get residential support for their adult children with developmental disabilities. Languishing on waitlists is not how families like the Russell’s expect to spend their golden years.”

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You