

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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Jones Demands Health Care Equity for Dufferin-Caledon

(Queen's Park) – Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon), this week called upon the Liberal government to meet the health care needs of the residents of Dufferin County.

Jones delivered this statement in the Ontario Legislature:

“I rise today to inform the Legislature about the tale of two hospitals. Both the Toronto Grace Health Centre and the Shelburne site of the Headwaters Health Care Centre provide care for complex continuing care and palliative care patients. But that is where the similarity ends.

As we all know, on the eve of the Toronto Centre by-election, the minister found \$15 million to save the Toronto Grace Health Centre. No last-minute reprieve was available for Headwaters, and so the complex continuing care beds are being transferred out of the Shelburne community.

In response to this transfer, which will reduce the number of acute care beds in our community, the Central West LHIN has initiated the Shelburne community health task force, to determine the health needs of the community, including the feasibility of the Shelburne health centre. Both the mayor of Shelburne and I are currently members of the task force.

Interestingly, when Shelburne Mayor Ed Crewson attended the recent Ontario Good Roads Association convention in Toronto, he had an opportunity to ask the minister publicly if she would commit to providing funding to implement the recommendations of the Shelburne community health task force. Unfortunately for Shelburne, the minister has been unwilling to commit to writing a cheque, as she has done for the Toronto Grace. Instead, to the mayor's great disappointment, he received "health bafflegab" for an answer.

In Ontario, we pride ourselves in having a health care system that is accessible to everyone. I would ask the minister to remember that the residents in north Dufferin deserve as much of our attention and financial commitment as the residents of Toronto Centre.”

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You