

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

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MPP Jones Questions Minister on Additional Burden to Children's Aid Societies

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon) today asked the Minister of Children and Youth Services Laurel Broten to table a report setting out the additional staffing requirements to enforce the Minister's *Child Pornography Reporting Act* bill. This bill will broaden the already financially strained mandate of the Children's Aid Societies to include reported cases of child pornography.

The Children's Aid Societies are mandated to perform certain tasks under legislation, and are required to have a balanced budget approved by the Minister of Children and Youth Services at the beginning of each year. This year, a record 37 of the 51 Children's Aid Societies have filed Section 14 reviews, which means they are unable to balance their current mandate with their budget.

"Mandating more tasks of the Children's Aid Societies without proper funding is irresponsible," said Jones. "They have a legislated responsibility to provide front-line care for the most vulnerable children in this province. Cutting their budgets will inevitably mean a reduction in services for at-risk children and longer waiting lists."

Children's Aid Societies in Halton, Wellington, Dufferin County, York, Rainy River, Peel, Simcoe County and St. Catharines just to name a few have been affected by these budget cuts. Many of these Children's Aid Societies fear that the budget cuts will mean a reduction in front-line staff that provide child protection services. By adding the additional pressures of an expanded mandate and an annual report, the *Child Pornography Reporting Act* requirements will burden the system even more.

"Ontario families have a right to be concerned," said Jones. "Provincial legislation says that Children's Aid Societies need to ensure the safety and well-being of children. Inevitably, staffing and other resources are going to have to be cut in order for the 37 Children's Aid Societies who are at risk to comply with the mandate set out by the Ministry. How does the Minister expect Children's Aid Societies to provide more care for less money?"

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You

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Backgrounder

Children's Aid Societies who have filed for Section 14 Reviews

Algoma
Bruce
Chatham-Kent
Dilico
Dufferin
Durham
Elgin
Frontenac
Haldimand-Norfolk
Halton
Hamilton
Hastings
Huron-Perth
Jeanne Sauve (Kapusking)
Lanark
Leeds-Grenville
Lennox-Addington
London
Native Toronto
Niagara
Nipissing
Northumberland
Ottawa
Oxford
Peel
Rainy River
Simcoe
Tikinagan
Timiskaming
Waterloo
Wellington
Windsor
York

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