

NEWS RELEASE

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PC Party Calls for Back-to-Work Legislation Finally Heard: Jones

(Queen's Park) – Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon) was pleased to hear that the voices of 50,000 York University students and the Progressive Conservative party were finally heard on Saturday when Premier McGuinty agreed to recall the Legislature to introduce back-to-work Legislation.

“This legislation is welcomed, however long overdue,” said Jones. “Our party has been calling on the McGuinty Liberals to act on this labour dispute for almost three months. Their inaction and complete disregard for the livelihoods of 50,000 students is inexcusable.”

CUPE 3903, which represents York University employees, went on strike November 6, 2008. Since that date, the two sides have been unable to reach a settlement at the bargaining table.

“I have heard from hundreds of students who depend on summer employment to pay their tuition, but will have that time cut short because of a lengthened semester,” said Jones. “Some graduating students have told me they may have to put off graduate school for an entire year because they have no grades to submit with their applications. Some are unable to accept employment in their field because they will not have completed their education on time.”

The Legislature resumed on Sunday afternoon, with the hopes that York students could be back in the classroom on Monday, however the NDP voted against the proposed legislation, so further debates will be heard this week.

“No more time can be wasted,” said Jones. “York students have been through months of inaction and excuses. They deserve nothing less than to get back to school. The PC party will make sure that the McGuinty government, which has disappointed so many students and families, follows through with their commitment.”

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You