

# NEWS RELEASE

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## SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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For Immediate Release  
July 20, 2009

### **Physician Recruitment Funding in Jeopardy** *Liberals ignore the needs of families in Dufferin-Caledon*

(Queen's Park) –Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) is alarmed that a review of the province's Underserviced Area Program (UAP) could mean communities in Dufferin-Caledon will lose financial incentives to recruit and retain much-needed doctors.

"If the McGuinty Liberals have their way most residents in Dufferin-Caledon will lose support for physician recruitment," said Jones. "I receive calls on a weekly basis from individuals and families who are looking for a family doctor."

Jones noted that the government is using a new "Rurality Index for Ontario" scale under which communities with a score of under 40 will no longer be eligible to receive incentive funding to attract and keep doctors. Mono (38) and Orangeville's (22) funding would immediately cease because they are below the threshold. Shelburne (40) and East Garafraxa (40) are in danger of losing funding with scores at the threshold. Amaranth (44), East Luther/Grand Valley (45), Mulmur (44) and Melancthon (47) are only slightly better with scores between 44 and 47. Caledon would be automatically excluded because they are part of the GTA.

Six years ago Dalton McGuinty promised to recruit and train more doctors; six years ago the Premier promised that no person would go without the medical attention they needed. However, six years have passed and nearly 20,000 residents<sup>1</sup> of Dufferin-Caledon are still without a family doctor.

"I believe McGuinty is introducing a two-tier health care system," said Jones. "If you have a family doctor you have access to other health professionals, such as diabetes education or mental health, through a Family Health Team and referral to specialists. If you do not have a family doctor you do not have access to the new Family Health Team services and you must rely on the Emergency Department for your care."

Jones is asking residents to join her in a letter writing campaign to express outrage at the McGuinty government's ill-advised attack on our community's physician recruitment efforts. Individuals can access a sample letter on Jones' website at [www.sylviajonesmpp.ca](http://www.sylviajonesmpp.ca) or call 1-800-265-1603 for further information.

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<sup>1</sup> UnderServed Re-Designation for Orangeville/Caledon, 2009 Report