



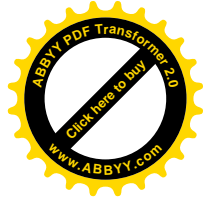
# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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February 3, 2009

### **Jones Calls for Mental Health All Party Committee to Start its Work**

On December 4, 2008, my colleague Christine Elliott, Whitby-Oshawa received unanimous support from all parties in the Ontario Legislature that a select committee be established immediately to develop a comprehensive Ontario mental health and addictions strategy. This committee will conduct hearings and undertake research to enhance Ontario's a mental health and addictions system.

This could not come at better time for residents of Dufferin-Caledon. I hear from individuals and families who are unable to access services in our community. Without community supports in place, people seek care at our hospital's emergency department or tragically end up in our judicial system.

There is an urgent need for a comprehensive mental health strategy in this province. There can be no more turning a blind eye to the mental health and addictions crisis facing Ontario.

This select committee will focus on the mental health issues of children, the increase of suicide among young people, the mental health and addiction problems facing the homeless, the delivery of mental health programs across the province, access to mental health services among aboriginal communities, and the mental health needs of those in long-term care facilities.

I am very happy the Progressive Conservative Party led this initiative. We have recognized the need for this comprehensive study of mental health services because it is failing so many in our province. I urge the Liberal government to move forward on setting out the terms of reference and meeting dates for this committee so we can begin the task at hand. The sooner we can create a plan, the sooner we can put the plan into action.

Communities across Ontario are dealing with mental health and addictions issues everyday. In our community I know people struggle to find the resources they need.

If you have a concerns you would like share, please contact me at [sylviajonesco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylviajonesco@pc.ola.org) or 1-800-265-1603. Together we can make a difference.

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## **Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You**

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