

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

For Immediate Release
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MPP Jones Questions Minister on Spending at the Social Benefits Tribunal

(Queen's Park) – Progressive Conservative MPP Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon) today asked the Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur to explain why taxpayers footed the bill for Liberal friend and Acting Chair of the Social Benefits Tribunal Frank Miclash's \$2300 per month Toronto apartment.

Frank Miclash, former Liberal MPP was appointed Acting Chair in May 2008. The Ministry of Community and Social Services approved a \$2300 per month apartment rental, even though some months Miclash was in Toronto for a little as four days, according to Freedom of Information requests. By comparison, a shelter allowance for a single mother receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) assistance receives \$714 per month.

“On the heels of the Auditor General's report, irresponsible spending such as this indicates a poorly managed government,” said Jones. “While Liberal friends benefit, the taxpayers are stuck with the bill.”

“The Auditor has said there has been \$1.2 billion in waste in the OW program and ODSP,” said Jones. “The Minister and this Liberal government need to take immediate action. \$1 billion was wasted in the eHealth scandal, spending scandals have dominated the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, and the Liberals have dug Ontario into a \$24 billion deficit.

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For more information, contact:

Ashley Hammill

416-325-1898

ashley.hammill@pc.ola.org

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Backgrounder

Frank Miclash

- Appointed Member of the Social Benefits Tribunal in October 1999
- Appointed Acting Chair in May 2008
- Community and Social Services approved an 8 month lease on a condominium in Toronto for Mr. Miclash's use from May 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 at a rate of \$2,300 per month
- During the 8 month period, Miclash appears to have stayed in Toronto for the following periods of time:
 - May 2008: 12 days
 - June 2008: 8 days
 - July 2008: 4 days
 - August 2008: 10 days
 - September 2008: 19 days
 - October 2008: 15 days
 - November 2008: n/a
 - December 2008: 9 days
 - January 2009: 21 days
 - February 2009: 3 days

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