

# NEWS RELEASE

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## SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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For Immediate Release

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### **Liberals Fail to Stand Up for Families Waiting for Child Support: MPP Jones**

(Queen's Park) -Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon) and Progressive Conservative Critic for Community and Social Services reveals child support payors that are in default received the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) bribe cheques.

The Minister of Community and Social Services confirmed in a letter yesterday that support payors in arrears who are registered with the Family Responsibility Office (FRO) received the HST bribe cheques handed out by the McGuinty Liberals, if they were eligible. These cheques should have been re-directed to support recipients who are raising their children without court ordered support payments.

“These HST bribe cheques should have been re-directed to support recipients - many of whom have not seen support payments in years,” said Jones. “The cheques were signed, sealed and delivered by Dalton McGuinty; these cheques should have been sent to families not receiving their court ordered child support.”

The Family Responsibility Office has the right to garnish wages, employment insurance payments, federal income tax returns and federal GST cheques.

“Dalton McGuinty could have ordered the HST cheques sent to parents in arrears to be directed to families not receiving child support,” said Jones. “Parents not receiving child support have a responsibility to provide for their children, and these cheques could have helped families in need. They could have gone a long way towards food, clothing or school supplies for children; instead it went into the pockets of deadbeat parents not fulfilling their court-ordered child support responsibilities.”

“There are still two more HST bribe cheques to come in the coming year,” said Jones. “Dalton McGuinty should ensure that these cheques go to parents who are raising their children, as the court orders have stated.”

Two thirds of registered Family Responsibility Office clients are in full or partial compliance, meaning a full third of clients are not receiving any support payments. According to the 2009-2010 Ombudsman's Report, the Family Responsibility Office was the second most complained about government agency in Ontario.

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For more information, contact:

Ashley Hammill

416-325-1898

[ashley.hammill@pc.ola.org](mailto:ashley.hammill@pc.ola.org)

*Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You*