

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2010

McGuinty Hikes Hydro Bills Days Before Budget: MPP Jones

Queen's Park –MPP Sylvia Jones (Dufferin-Caledon) says the McGuinty Liberals are once again putting their hands in the pockets of taxpayers to the tune of \$53 million to pay for their latest tax grab.

The \$53 million hidden hydro tax is a result of McGuinty's Green Energy Act and will appear as a brand new charge to every hydro bill coming to Ontario mailboxes. This charge will be applied in a similar fashion to the existing Hydro Debt Retirement Charge that all families are forced to pay.

“First the Harmonized Sales Tax is going to appear on your bill starting July 1, 2010, now the McGuinty Liberals are going to force a hydro tax on the backs of Ontario families,” said Jones. “In McGuinty's 2007 election platform he promised not to raise taxes. This looks like another broken Liberal promise.”

In the Green Energy Act, the McGuinty Liberals amended section 26.1 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act* to give themselves the power to force energy utilities to collect tax revenue on behalf of the government.

“It is obvious the McGuinty Liberals wanted to blindside Ontario families by not publicizing yet another tax grab,” said Jones. “Ontarians are working harder than ever to pay down the McGuinty debt. The McGuinty Liberals seem to be more focused on forcing more taxes on the backs of Ontario families than getting down to business and creating a solid plan that works for this province.”

-30-

For more information, contact:

Ashley Hammill

416-325-1898

ashley_hammill@pc.ola.org

Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You