

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2009

Jones Demands Liberals Listen to Concerned Ontarians about HST

(Queen's Park) – Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon), yesterday called upon the Liberal government to listen to the issues put forth by citizens who are concerned about the blending of the GST and PST in Ontario.

“I have heard from many homebuilders, realtors and future homeowners who have valid concerns about how this McGuinty Sales Tax will affect jobs and businesses,” said Jones. “The new housing industry is a significant creator of employment. This is a time when Ontario needs to be creating and sustaining employment, not killing it.”

The new McGuinty Sales Tax will apply to new homes over \$400,000, but will affect the resale market as well. The new McGuinty Sales Tax will affect the services necessary to purchase a home, like legal fees, appraisals, real estate commissions, home inspection fees, and moving costs. The Ontario Real Estate Association estimates that this could add over \$2,000 to a resale home transaction.

“Here in Dufferin-Caledon, the average cost of a home is just under \$430,000, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board,” said Jones. “The McGuinty Liberals are once again hitting Ontarians with yet another tax grab.”

“I have received hundreds of e-mails from residents who not only have the economic downturn to be concerned about, but they now have to worry about how the McGuinty sales tax grab will hurt their business,” said Jones.

In 2008, real estate in Ontario accounted for \$56.6 billion in sales, over \$6 billion in economic spending, and \$1.35 billion in land transfer tax revenue to the provincial government. In addition, the real estate industry employs 110,000 Ontarians directly or indirectly.

“This Liberal initiative will drive Ontarians into the underground economy,” said Jones.

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You