

From Queen's Park by Sylvia Jones MPP ? Jones appointed PC Critic for Children and Youth Services



In early September, when my Leader Patrick Brown asked me to serve as Deputy Leader, he also asked me to take on the role of Progressive Conservative Critic for Children and Youth Services.

As I have held the role of PC Critic for Children and Youth Services previously, I am looking forward to once again working with front line workers and service providers who serve our province's children and youth. I have tremendous respect for the advocates who work tirelessly to ensure children in Ontario have the opportunity to succeed. I am looking forward to working again with them to achieve this vision.

In my new critic portfolio, I will hold the Ministry of Children and Youth Services accountable to the people of Ontario. Some of the major issues within the Ministry that I see include the implementation of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN). CPIN was one of the major recommendations made as part of the Jeffrey Baldwin Inquest. CPIN would establish a standardized computer system connecting all Children's Aid Societies across Ontario. Currently there are only four child protection agencies using the new program.

Another area my new critic responsibilities include is children and youth with developmental disabilities. While serving as a member on the Select Committee on Developmental Services, I had the opportunity to hear from individuals, families and service providers from across Ontario about the opportunities and challenges within the developmental disabilities sector. The Select Committee's final report set out 46 recommendations that received all-party support to improve developmental services in Ontario. With my new critic responsibility I will continue to push the government to implement the 46 recommendations.

Other areas of concern include an issue recently raised by the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth is ensuring our province's youth have access to justice and ensure their rights are protected in our youth justice system.

If there are any specific issues or concerns you would like to share with me, please contact me at 416-325-1898 or email me at sylvia.jonesla@pc.ola.org