

Jones angry that unemployment is so high

Ontario's unemployment rate has been higher than the national average for more than six years, and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones is blaming the Liberal government for it.

She charged that Liberals' economic record continues to hurt the province's economy, evidenced by Ontario's unemployment rate being above the national average for 82 straight months.

"Kathleen Wynne has been Premier for 10 months, and we've still seen nothing even remotely close to a credible jobs plan for Ontario," Jones said. "We've seen the Premier ridiculously strike dozens of 'consultation' panels, 37 in total, since becoming Premier, and yet when it comes to Ontario's economy, this Liberal government has no plan."

October was the 82nd consecutive month Ontario's unemployment rate was above the national average, Jones stressed. Particularly hard hit was the manufacturing sector, which the latest release from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey showed lost approximately 16,100 employees last month.

The only area for job growth in October was the public sector, where 24,000 employees were added to the taxpayers' payroll.

"As the provincial bureaucracy gets bigger and bigger under the Liberals' direction, hard-working Ontarians who pay the taxes are losing their jobs," Jones charged. "It is time to change the team that leads this province because the Ontario PC plan is to create jobs, and help families keep more of their hard-earned money."

Jones drew a connection between Ontario's dismal job numbers, and the provincial government's persistently high deficits.

"At this point, the Liberal plan appears to be 'allow spending to continue to grow more and more, and eventually, implement new taxes to pay for it,'" Jones said. "We saw as much with last week's Fall Economic Statement, where Finance Minister Sousa rejected calls to reduce spending, and shrugged off the prospect of not balancing the budget by 2017/2018."

"We will not see jobs come back to Ontario so long as the Liberal government continues to over-tax, over-charge, and over-regulate Ontarians and their economy," Jones concluded. "And as long as the Liberals continue to recklessly over-spend, the prospect of higher taxes and fees to pay for that over-spending will always threaten economic growth."