

Jones reinforces Tory commitment to scrap Drive Clean program



Sylvia Jones was joined last week by Fines Ford Lincoln owner Bob Fines and Frank Notte of the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association in announcing plans to get rid of the Drive Clean program. Photo by Angela Gismondi

By Angela Gismondi

Sylvia Jones has announced that if elected, the Progressive Conservative Party plans to eliminate the Drive Clean program. With the provincial election taking place today (Thursday), Jones made a stop at Fines Ford Lincoln in Bolton last week to reinforce the Tories' commitment to get rid of the program. She was joined by business owner Bob Fines, Frank Notte, director of government relations for the Trillium Automobile Dealers Association, and representatives from the local automobile community.

"The program is no longer necessary in Ontario and should be phased out," Jones explained.

Ontario's Drive Clean is an automobile emissions control program which began in 1999 under the PC government of Mike Harris. The government introduced the program with the primary goal of testing automobile emissions and identifying the most polluting vehicles. The program is administered by Parson's Protect Air, through the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and Ministry of Transportation (MTO). The actual testing is carried out by privately owned and operated automotive shops, under contract to the MOE.

The Drive Clean test determines if a vehicle meets Ontario emissions standards. By law, certain cars, vans, trucks, motor homes and buses must pass a Drive Clean test before they can be licensed to be driven on Ontario roads. But critics say the program has outlived its useful life and that it is a waste of time and money for both car owners and automotive shops.

"I understand how this is impacting you in the industry and I want to make sure everyone knows that we are getting rid of it," said Jones. "We are the only political party that has made the commitment to eliminate Drive Clean."