

ORPP gone if Tories take power

By Bill Rea

Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown announced last week that the proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) will be scrapped if he heads the next government.

This was stated in an article in the Toronto Star last week, but Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones said Brown has been saying that since earlier this year, when it was announced that implementation of the plan would be delayed.

Brown was quoted as saying ORPP will be repealed, with the money already collected being refunded. Jones added that will apply to both employees who have had money deducted from their paycheques and employers, who have been obliged to make contributions.

Jones also pointed out the refunds should not be a serious burden on the government coffers. The next election is slated for the fall of 2018. By the time that comes around, Jones said ORPP will only have been in place about six months, so it should be much easier to wrap it up.

She added it's always been understood that the Tories would scrap the plan.

Finance minister Charles Sousa was quoted in the Star story that the government is planning to move ahead with ORPP, unless the federal government enhances the Canada Pension Plan.

"They know the feds are going to be moving forward on something," Jones said, adding she expects the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne will back off if the announcement comes. "I think there's a good chance that will happen."