#### MA-B1-1



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Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon

July 2013

Regional Municipality of Peel Office of the CAO

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Mr. David Szwarc CAO Region of Peel A-10 Peel Centre Dr 5th Floor, Room 504 Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

RELIVED

Dear Mr. Szwarc:

Volunteers are the heart and soul of many organizations throughout Ontario. I have had the opportunity to meet with organizations who promote volunteerism and volunteers like you who have expressed their concerns about the cost of volunteering. This is particularly true if you are required to pay for a criminal record check each time you begin volunteering for a new organization.

That is why I have re-introduced the *Helping Volunteers Give Back Act 2013* in the Ontario Legislature. This legislation would allow volunteers to pay for a criminal check once a year, yet access this record to distribute to multiple volunteer organizations at no additional cost to the volunteer or organization. This cost savings would encourage more volunteers to donate their time to more causes. As you know, without volunteers in our schools, hospitals, and community groups our communities would suffer.

Enclosed please find an overview of my Private Members Bill 38, the *Helping Volunteers Give Back Act 2013*. If you are interested in reading the bill please visit <a href="https://www.sylviajonesmpp.ca">www.sylviajonesmpp.ca</a> or call 416-325-1898. I would also encourage you to share this information with your friends, family and the organization you volunteer with.

I would appreciate receiving any suggestions you may have to improve or amend Bill 38. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any feedback, and thank you for your support of Bill 38.

Sincerely,

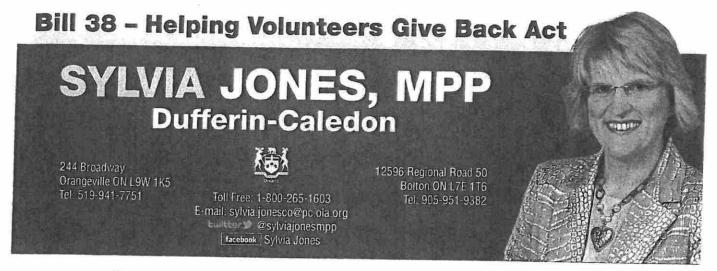
Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon

Enc.

RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED



# Support Sylvia Jones' Private Members Bill: Bill 38, The Helping Volunteers Give Back Act

Volunteers are the heart and soul of many organizations across Ontario. As the Progressive Conservative MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Sylvia Jones has the opportunity to meet with many individuals and organizations who promote volunteerism. Six million people volunteer annually in Ontario, contributing more than 860 million volunteer hours every year. In 2007 for example, almost half of all Canadians volunteered, and of these volunteers, forty percent were involved with two or more organizations. Many volunteer organizations however, particularly those dealing with children and vulnerable adults, require their volunteers to submit a criminal record check. This results in volunteers having to pay out of their own pocket for the criminal record check, or the organization having to fundraise to underwrite the cost of the criminal record check.

This is why Bill 38, the Helping Volunteers Give Back Act, 2013 will be beneficial to Ontarians. Bill 38 would allow volunteers to pay for their criminal record check annually, and then access this record throughout the year to distribute to multiple volunteer organizations at no additional cost to the volunteer or the organizations. This cost saving initiative would encourage more volunteers to donate their time to more causes. Volunteerism is important to communities, and without volunteers in our schools, hospitals and community groups, our communities would suffer.

## Benefits of Volunteering

**Economic Benefits:** activities undertaken by volunteers reduce costs of organizations, which allows them to increase programs within our communities.

**Social Benefits:** volunteering helps build better communities and better families. It fosters a greater trust between people and society. Volunteers also benefit from the feeling they get from helping others.

Career Benefits: recent graduates or the unemployed have the opportunity to meet people and gain valuable work experience through volunteering. Youth may discover a hidden career path by volunteering.

Working For You!

Sylvia Jones, MPP - Dufferin-Caledon www.sylviajonesmpp.ca

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### **How YOU Can Help**

- If keeping the spirit of volunteerism alive is important to you, write to your local MPP and ask them to support Bill 38. You can find the contact information for your MPP by visiting the website of the Ontario Legislative Assembly at: www.ontla.on.ca and clicking on "Contact an MPP." Please be sure to copy MPP Sylvia Jones in your correspondence at sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org.
- To get a copy of Bill 38 go online to www.sylviajonesmpp.ca or call 416-325-1898.
- Share this information with friends, family and the organizations with whom you volunteer.
- Send us your feedback at sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org.

"I am proud to support Bill 38. As a 20 year volunteer with at risk individuals, anything that makes my work safer and more accessible is a win. Simply put, Bill 38 is the right thing to do."

> Helen Musclow, Waterloo Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Volunteer, and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient.

"Volunteer MBC is pleased to offer its support for Bill 38 for a number of reasons, but one in particular is because the fee charged to volunteers for criminal record checks in many cases is often cost prohibitive, particularly for unemployed volunteers, youth and newcomers who are using the volunteer skills they gain to build their resumes."

Carine Strong, Executive Director, Volunteer Mississauga Brampton Caledon.

If you would like more information or have questions about Bill 38, please contact the office of Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon at:

Room 443, Legislative Building, Queens Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A8, (416) 325-1898 or Working For You! 244 Broadway, Orangeville, ON, L9W 1K5, 1-800-265-1603 or 12596 Regional Road 50, Bolton, ON, L7E 1T6

Email: sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org