



ONTARIO PEER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (OPDI)

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT APPOINTS CABINET & PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS – UPDATE TO MEMBERS

June 30, 2022

Premier Ford Appoints Cabinet & Parliamentary Assistants –

New Minister of Health, but many posts remain the same, including Associate Minister for Mental Health and Addictions:

This past Friday, Premier Doug Ford announced his cabinet following his re-election on June 3rd. His main task was to choose a successor to former Minister of Health, Christine Elliott. While there was much speculation leading up to Friday, Ford kept most of his ministers in the same roles that they had held prior to the general election.

The Ontario Peer Development Initiative congratulates the new Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones, as she assumes that vital role for Ontarians and our sector, while also assuming the role of Deputy Premier. The Hon. Sylvia Jones was most recently the Solicitor General for Ontario and in charge of emergency services. She had received a good deal of attention during the pandemic period, and is said to have proven herself during that period. Minister Jones represents the riding of Dufferin—Caledon, and is one of the longest serving PC MPPs in caucus, having first been elected in 2007. It should also be noted that she served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition PC Party from 2015 – 2018.

The Ford cabinet also includes Hon. Michael Tibollo, who retains his role as Associate Minister for Mental Health and Addictions. OPDI congratulates the Minister on his return, and looks forward to continuing the great relationship that OPDI had built with his office, prior to the election. Of note, Hon. Tibollo won his riding of Vaughan—Woodbridge, running against Liberal leader Steven Del Duca, which was one of the main stories coming out of the June 3rd election.

OPDI also recognizes the appointment of newly elected MPP Charmaine Williams to the post of Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. Minister Williams had a 19-year career as a certified Multi-Systemic Therapist, behavioural consultant and counsellor. She has worked in a number of therapeutic programs and organizations like Associated Youth Services of Peel, Youth Substance Abuse Program, Peel Children's Center and the Reach Out Center for Kids (ROCK) in Peel and Halton Region. OPDI is optimistic that Minister Williams' voice will be an important one for the mental health and addictions sector in the new cabinet.

The full list of Premier Ford's cabinet can be found here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1002164/premier-ford-unveils-new-cabinet-to-build-ontario>

The Ford government also announced the list of Parliamentary Assistants (MPPs who are tasked with assisting specific Ministers in their portfolios). MPP Robin Martin, Eglinton—Lawrence retains her role as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, and is joined by MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Newmarket—Aurora, a rookie MPP who took over former Health Minister's riding in this month's election.

What's Next:

Staffing the Ministers' offices is the next task of this government. Chiefs of Staff to Ministers will be announced in the coming days and we will monitor any changes that will be relevant to the OPDI and its members.

The summer months are normally a time for elected officials to reconnect with constituents and organizations in their ridings. This week it was announced that the legislature will be coming back on August 8th to elect a Speaker of the House, and then table the budget. The legislature will then continue to sit through the fall.

The month of July is a great time for OPDI members to start reaching out to their local MPP (either newly elected or returning to the office) to: a) congratulate them on their win; b) request a time to meet with them; and c) introduce them to the wonderful things that your community organization is doing for their constituents. Should your organization need any assistance in identifying, reaching out to, and booking this meeting with your MPP, please do not hesitate to reach out to the OPDI and we would be happy to assist!