

MEETING WITH JOYCE SAVOLINE

Jane Stephen, Eleanor Christie and Marianne Singh-Waraich met with Joyce for fifty minutes on February 8th 2011. We dealt with a list of issues.

1. Child Care

Since last year there has been no change in the number of spaces or funding. We addressed the issue of before and after school care which she did not respond to. She was concerned re the private providers and felt that the wealthier children would benefit the most. The latter is incorrect as the programme was set up to benefit low income children so all children would have an equal start in grade one. This issue is under platform discussion.

2. Poverty

Affordable housing was discussed. She stated that there was a huge amount of rental housing available. With regards to social housing she thought the private rental market should be subsidized and there should not be ghettos.

3. Women's Issues

No increase has occurred in funding women's shelters. Sylvia Jones, the community and social services critic advocates for this. Joyce was aware that the shelters are full over capacity. There has been some movement in the issue of sexual harassment particularly from the teacher's federation. Pay equity has not budged—still 70%.

4. Home Care

Joyce thinks that the LHIN'S should be abolished, has no faith in them, believes too much money is going to non-front line care and that there is no community or user input. She did not say what they should be replaced by other than praising the previous health councils. She agreed with what we said re home care.

5. Food Safety

She was not knowledgeable in this area other than to say municipalities enforce the provincial regulations.

6. Student Debt

Since last year there has been no change in student grants and loans particularly for part- time students.

7. JBMH

She is opposed to the city taxpayers having to pay 60 million \$ to the hospital fund. The new CEO is doing an excellent job. The five year plan is now ten years and JBMH should be included in the next ten year plan. She believes her role is to just ask the odd question.

8. Resolutions

Copies were given to her of the Chrysotile Asbestos and Funding of Aboriginal Education resolutions which address the provinces.

9. Aboriginal Affairs

Joyce stated that nothing is being done in Aboriginal Education but it is our understanding that the Ministry of Education has increased their budget. She said that the Conservative critic Toby Barrett is working hard to raise the Caledonia issue. Tim Hudak and Barrett have visited Caledonia many times.

10. COPE

Originally the new highway issue was put away for 20 years but recently the Municipal Affairs and Housing Ministries sent a letter with a map attached which included a new highway. Local bureaucrats were requested to attach this to their official plan. Joyce doesn't believe that the QEW should be expanded anymore. Hudak is concerned re the Niagara/Hamilton route and believes there is a need for an economic roadway but hasn't committed to a specific route. Ted Chudleigh previously promoted the route travel from Highway 6 to the 401. We were told that Toby Barrett and Jerry Ouellette were the environment critics.