



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SYLVIA JONES, M.P.P.
Dufferin-Caledon

May 15, 2009

The Hon. Deborah Matthews
Ministry of Children and Youth Services
80 Wellesley St. W, 14th Flr,
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

Dear Minister Matthews:

I am writing today as a member of the Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions who is concerned about the possible closure facing the Robert/Smart Centre in Ottawa.

As you know, this centre provides care for teenagers with serious or complicated mental-health problems. The centre is the only one of its kind in Ottawa that provides residential care as well as day programs, and one of only two in the province with a secure unit.

It is proven that it is more cost-effective to treat mental illness in teenagers. Those left untreated due to a lack of services may find themselves in the judicial system or dependant on emergency rooms for care.

I am asking your ministry to look closely at the Robert/Smart Centre situation. This issue is very time sensitive and requires your immediate attention, as the centre is facing filing for bankruptcy protection at the end of this month. We cannot close the door to providing mental health services to young Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

cc. Gordon Floyd, CEO and Executive Director, Children's Mental Health Ontario
Erin Boudreau, Manager of Communications, Children's Mental Health Ontario

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