



NEWS RELEASE

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**Member of Provincial Parliament
OSHAWA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2009

Ouellette Questions McGuinty's New Tax on Kids' Hockey

Oshawa MPP calls taxing hockey un-Canadian!

(Queen's Park) –In the Ontario Legislature today, Jerry J. Ouellette, MPP Oshawa demanded the McGuinty government come clean on how the harmonized sales tax will affect the cost of hockey and other kids' sports across the province.

The McGuinty government claims that if there is no GST on the registration today there will be no HST on the registration in the future.

“The McGuinty Government should be ashamed, and the Minister of Revenue, as a ‘Hockey Dad’ should already know that the registration fee is a very small part of the cost for children to play hockey and other sports,” stated Oshawa MPP, Jerry Ouellette.

What the Minister neglected to explain was that rental fees for arena ice-time and soccer field and baseball diamond rentals will all increase by 8% when the HST comes into effect next summer. These make up 90% of the fees to play sports, let alone the added cost of buying equipment. The HST will also apply to the gas used driving to and from arenas, the coffee and snacks bought during the game and the internet service used to check standings and schedules.

The McGuinty government fails to understand the financial pressures facing parents with kids in sports and that some parents and even organizations are struggling to keep kids playing these days.

“With the current economic struggles, middle-class families cannot afford to pay increased fees for minor sports,” said Ouellette, “It is un-Canadian for Dalton McGuinty to tax kids' hockey.”

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