



Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

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July, 2017



Mayor Lehman and Council
City of Barrie
70 Collier Street PO Box 400
Barrie, ON
L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor  and Council,

I wanted to inform you of a private member's bill I introduced on May 31st, Bill 141 – Sewage Bypass Reporting Act, 2017. Bill 141, if passed, requires the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to promptly publish reported instances of sewage bypasses to the public. I understand that municipalities are required to report instances of sewage bypasses to the MOE. Bill 141 would require the next step; the MOE to make the information available to the public no longer than 24 hours after being reported.

The intent of Bill 141 is twofold. First, residents deserve to know as soon as possible when a sewage bypass has occurred, so they can make safe and educated decisions about how they use their local waterways. Secondly, the public can easily access information on our sewage systems, which will help residents understand the importance of investments in key infrastructure, like water treatment plants and sewage pipes, to their health and community.

Please find enclosed a pamphlet with further details about Bill 141. If you support my private member's bill, I encourage you to write a letter to the Minister of Environment and urge him to adopt this important legislation. I have enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Minister Murray asking him to adopt the provisions of Bill 141. I would appreciate also receiving a copy of your letter to the Minister.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Sylvia Jones".

Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon
Deputy Leader of the PC Caucus



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July 21st, 2017

Hon. Glen Murray
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

Dear Minister Murray:

As you are no doubt aware, millions of litres of untreated or partially treated sewage is bypassed from sewage treatment plants every year into our local waterways. Unfortunately, the state of some of the province's sewer infrastructure means that untreated or partially treated sewage is regularly bypassed. Despite municipalities reporting to your ministry instances of sewage bypasses, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) does not make that information readily available to the public.

That is why I introduced my private member's bill on May 31st; Bill 141 – the Sewage Bypass Reporting Act, 2017. If adopted Bill 141 would require the MOE to publish sewage bypasses to the public as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours after the bypass was reported. If adopted, Bill 141 would ensure that residents are aware of instances of sewage bypasses and can make safe and educated decisions about how they use their local waterways. The bill will also increase government transparency and allow individuals to see the need and benefits of investments in our water and sewer infrastructure.

Will you commit to implementing the provisions of Bill 141?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvia Jones".

Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

SYLVIA JONES, MPP

Dufferin-Caledon

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Support Private Members Bill 141 to Require the Ministry of Environment to Report Instances of Sewage Bypasses

Bill 141 will ensure that Ontarians know when untreated or partially treated sewage is bypassed into their local waterways. Bill 141 will require the Ministry to publish when, where, why the discharge occurred and the measured or estimated volume of discharge as soon as possible but no longer than 24 hours after the bypass was reported.

In 2006 the Ministry of Environment (MOE) estimated that the total volume of sewage dumped from sewage treatment plant bypasses was approximately 18 billion litres. Despite the MOE already requiring reports from municipalities on instances of sewage bypasses, this information is not readily available to the public.

The Ministry of Environment reports that in 2006 over 1,500 sewage bypasses and combined sewer overflows occurred. More recently in June 2017, the Toronto Star reported that the City of Toronto dumped 1.3 million cubic metres of partially treated sewage into Lake Ontario.

While some municipalities proactively report to the public it is not consistent across the province. If passed, Bill 141 would ensure that Ontarians know when untreated or partially treated sewage is bypassed into their local waterways. Bill 141 will also ensure that residents understand the importance of investing in key infrastructure like water treatment plants and pipes.

How YOU Can Help

- Share comments on Bill 141 – Sewage Bypass Reporting Act, 2017. Please contact my office at sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org.
- You can sign the petition support Bill 141 by visiting: www.sylviajonesmpp.ca.
- To get a copy of Bill 141, visit www.sylviajonesmpp.ca or call **416-325-1898**.
- Share this information with others who want to ensure the public is aware of sewage bypasses in Ontario.
- If you have questions, please email sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org.

Support for Bill 141

"Informing the public about sewage bypasses as they happen gives people the information they need to protect their health. It also helps people to be more informed about the need to properly capture and treat sewage in order to protect the Great Lakes."

- *Lake Ontario Water Keepers*

"The Sewage Bypass Reporting Act is a very important step forward in being more open and transparent with the general public about what we are knowingly discharging into our public water courses. People need to know when a sewage bypass occurs so they can make more informed decisions about how and when they use public waterbodies, and to help inform future decisions around public infrastructure investments."

- *Harry Bauman, President, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association*

If you would like more information or have questions about Bill 141, 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
244 Broadway, Orangeville, ON, L9W 1K5, 1-800-265-1603 or
12596 Regional Road 50, Bolton, ON, L7E 1T6

Email: sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org

Working For You!