



JULIA MUNRO

MPP – York Simcoe



Ensuring an accessible justice system for all Ontarians: MPP Munro targets improper personal injury lawyer behaviour in new Private Members' Bill

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TORONTO, ON – Today, Julia Munro, MPP for York-Simcoe, signaled her intention to introduce a Private Members' Bill that would protect accident victims and other consumers from certain legal practices.

The Bill would incorporate key elements of former MPP Tim Hudak's Private Members' Bill, the Protection for Motor Vehicle Accident Victims and Other Consumers from Unfair Legal Practices Act, specifically, sections dealing with high contingency fees, referral fees, and aggressive advertising. MPP Munro is expected to table the Bill in early 2017.

"Some members of the legal profession have been attracting clients and then referring cases out to other lawyers in return for hefty referral fees," said MPP Munro. "Clients are often unaware that the firms they contact will refer them elsewhere.

The Bill will also tackle the lack of transparency surrounding contingency fee agreements in Ontario. Because of this lack of transparency, Munro argues, injury victims are often ill-equipped to make informed decisions on whether to enter into a contingency fee agreement. Meanwhile, victims are often shocked at the amount of their settlement that goes towards legal fees.

"Ontarians deserve a system which clarifies the process. With this Bill, I will continue to fight for increased transparency," added MPP Munro. "I urge all my colleagues from all parties to stand up, be counted, and support my Bill to help protect Ontario consumers."

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