

# Sullivan says it's time for a change

By JASON MISNER

*The Champion*

It's a dreary Friday afternoon as rain pelts the large windows of Halton Liberal candidate Barbara Sullivan's campaign headquarters on Main Street East. The hurricane-turned-tropical storm Isabel is making its final push through the region.



**Barbara Sullivan**

But inside the former Quality Greens building, it's bright and cheery.

Campaign posters of a smiling party leader Dalton McGuinty flank all four walls. Volunteers are jovial as they answer phones, send faxes and prepare for the remaining 13 days of the Ontario election campaign. It culminates with a vote October 2.

Ms Sullivan won't let rain dampen the spirits of a campaign she said is soaking with optimism. Voters are telling her it's time for renewal, for a change in the way this province is governed.

"We think the riding is imminently winnable," said Ms Sullivan, a Liberal MPP for the former Halton Centre riding from 1987 to 1995. "There's absolutely no question people want change, and I'm receiving an extremely positive response at the doors and in meetings."

Ms Sullivan said people are telling her the way health-care, environmental protection and education are handled in Halton needs fixing.

She said to help make money available for those changes, her government would rescind the tax cuts being promised by the Tory government in its current platform. It would also, among other options, save the \$600 million Ms Sullivan said the Tories have spent on consultants this term and pursue payment of almost \$400 million in back taxes small businesses owe the Province.

That money would be used in "priority public services" that would inevitably help make Ontario a more attractive place for businesses and residents to locate.

Ms Sullivan said doctor shortages in Milton, Acton and Georgetown needs attention.

She said her party's platform to increase spaces in medical school, streamlining accreditation for foreign-trained graduates and tuition incentives for medical students will go a long way in curing the physician problem in the Halton riding.

"It won't be solved overnight," she said. "I would really work hard to convince new graduates to locate here. I think with a concerted effort we ought to be able to attract a solid team of physicians to this community."

Ms Sullivan said the Niagara Escarpment — what she calls a "precious part of Halton's natural heritage" — needs better protection. The proposed mid-peninsula highway, which would run from north Burlington through the escarpment to Fort Erie, would be completely re-evaluated under a Liberal government.

"The need for the highway has to be examined," Ms Sullivan said.

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