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Exiting minister still big on Liberals

\$6.5M 2010 Teva grant 're-announced' at plant

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Sandra Pupatello, the minister of economic development and trade, won't be seeking re-election this fall, but that did not stop her from promoting the Ontario Liberals.

Ms Pupatello was in Stouffville Friday morning to see first-hand how the Ontario government's \$6.5-million grant to Teva Canada is being used.

"You are part of the drug industry that actually allows people to afford health care," Ms Pupatello told about 100 Teva staffers during an employee appreciation function.

The minister went on to say that for the last two years, Ontario has been tied for first place with California for greatest foreign direct investment in North America.

Farid Wassef, a pharmacist at Main Street's Stouffville IDA as well as the Conservative candidate for MPP of Oak Ridges-Markham, thought it odd one of the 15 high-profile Liberals not seeking re-election came to

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PEOPLE



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Siblings Paul (from left), Heather, Alyshia and Ken Higgins pose with a photograph of their father, Malcolm Higgins, who lost his life in a car accident a year ago this week. Mr. Higgins' decision to donate his organs and tissue saved three lives and gave sight to another person.

'Dad's selfless decision saved three lives'

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

It's amazing how a conversation can have such a profound impact on your life.

Several years ago, my father, longtime Stouffville resident Malcolm Higgins, first spoke of his desire to become an organ donor.

Sadly, last summer, his wish came true.

He was in a single-vehicle car accident and sustained a critical brain injury. When my family and

I learned my father would never awake from his injury, we chose to withdraw life support.

He was six months shy of his 50th birthday and well known in the community for his work with Music Mania, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, Scouts Canada and other organizations.

A paralegal and former Toronto police officer, he was the lead singer for a variety of AC/DC trib-

ute bands.

Thursday — July 14 — marked the one-year anniversary of his passing, a date I was sure would never come.

I remember the day so vividly: the fear, the heartbreak and the devastation were overwhelming. I also remember another feeling: comfort. My father met the criteria for organ donation and donated his lungs, eyes and both kidneys, saving three lives.

According to Trillium Gift of Life Network, the organization responsible for organ and tissue donation in Ontario, the need for organs is great. There are more than 1,500 Ontarians currently on the waiting list for a transplant. Every three days, someone on the wait list dies because the life-saving organ they need is not available.

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