

Jaczek wins in Oak Ridges-Markham

By Angela Gismondi

Dr. Helena Jaczek will be returning to Queen's Park to represent the riding of Oak Ridges-Markham.

The Liberal incumbent defeated Progressive Conservative candidate Farid Wassef on June 12, winning her third straight provincial election in the riding. Jaczek, the former York Region Medical Officer of Health, has been the MPP in the riding for the last seven years. This is the second time she has defeated Wassef.

It was a close race, but in the end Jaczek won with 36,858 votes or 45.5 per cent of the vote. Wassef earned 30,259 or 37.4 per cent of the vote. NDP candidate Miles Krauter took third with 9,483 votes, or an 11.7 per cent share.

Green Party candidate Emilia Melara pulled in 2,762 votes for 3.4 per cent.

Libertarian Karl Boelling picked up 1,384 votes, or 1.7 per cent.

Gennady Vilensky, a Trillium Party candidate, gathered 233 votes, or a .3 per cent share.

Jaczek pointed out that Oak Ridges-Markham is one of the largest ridings in the province and the population continues to grow.

"The responsibility of representing all these people at Queen's Park weighs heavily on me," said Jaczek after being welcomed to her victory party at Ithaca Restaurant in Markham by over 100 volunteers and supporters. "But I know with the amazing support of all of you, I can do this."

Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne won a majority government in the election with 59 seats. The Tories finished with 27 seats and the NDP remained at 21 seats.

"It's a great night to be a Liberal in Ontario," said Jaczek. "Tonight is a wonderful vindication of our Premier, Kathleen Wynne. No one can say she has not been elected by the people now."

Now that the election is over, it's time to get down to business, Jaczek noted.

"We need a budget to move forward," said Jaczek. "We need to continue to build this great province." The majority of the people in Ontario have decided that is what they want too."

But first she took a moment to celebrate the win.

"Now it's just time to party," said Jaczek.