



News Release

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

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For Immediate Release

**MP SUSAN KADIS HEALTH COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR CONDEMNS
CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP
ON THE GROWING EPIDEMIC OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

Ottawa - Susan Kadis M.P., Member of Parliament for Thornhill and Vice-Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee of Health, is profoundly disappointed by the conservative government's glaring failure to provide immediate leadership on the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. "The government response to the health committee report **Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids** shows clearly that the conservative government lacks the resolve to develop a comprehensive national plan to fight childhood obesity. By not confronting this critical issue head on the government is abrogating its responsibility and sacrificing the health and well being of our children," stated Mrs. Kadis.

The committee had found that the prevalence of overweight/obese children had grown to 26% in 2004 up from 15% in 1978. Today's overweight/obese child becomes tomorrow's overweight/obese adult. This leads to a range of problems including preventable chronic diseases such as diabetes, premature death, and reduced quality of life. "Childhood obesity is a multi-faceted issue that requires co-ordination across departmental and jurisdictional lines. Without strong leadership and intervention from the federal government it will not be possible to reverse the trend of increasing childhood obesity which will have devastating consequences for the next generation of Canadians," stated Mrs. Kadis.

Recommendations of the committee to the federal government include:

- immediately identifying a federal lead department or agency for federal interdepartmental action on healthy weights for children.
- the federal government initiating a comprehensive public awareness campaign
- mandatory, standardized, simple front of packaging labeling
- the removal of transfat from the Canadian diet, to be replaced with an alternative low in saturated fat

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