



# **News Release**

**Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill**

**For Immediate Release**

## **SUSAN KADIS HEALTH COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR WELCOMES TABLING OF REPORT ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY**

March 27, 2007

**Ottawa – Susan Kadis**, Member of Parliament for Thornhill and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Health welcomes the tabling of their report in the House of Commons entitled *Healthy Weights for Healthy Kids*. “The long-term implications of childhood obesity are absolutely alarming. I can’t overstate the urgency of this problem. For the first time in recorded history, today’s younger generations are expected to live shorter lives than their parents due to obesity,” stated Mrs. Kadis.

“Our report provides a clear blueprint for the federal government to take immediate action to provide new and dedicated infrastructure funding to help eradicate childhood obesity. It is now up to the federal government to work in collaboration with the provinces and territories, together with children, parents, teachers, physicians, community planners and other stakeholders to stem the rising rate of childhood obesity in our country. We share a collective responsibility and need to take decisive action simultaneously on numerous fronts,” stated Mrs. Kadis.

“I am a strong believer that we need to re-focus our efforts on health promotion and disease prevention,” declared Mrs. Kadis. Witnesses appearing before the Committee echoed the conviction of the Committee that the federal government must act now to collect data to support achievable targets for reducing obesity and to increase research capacity across a range of health determinants that affect the food choices and physical activity levels of children.

Recommendations include:

- federal government moving quickly to utilize the positive message of the Olympics to halt the increase in childhood obesity by the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games
- a comprehensive public awareness campaign
- mandatory, standardized, simple front of packaging labeling
- the removal of trans fat from the Canadian diet, replace with an alternative low in saturated fat

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