

For Immediate Release

June 2, 2006

**TONY WONG'S PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION RECEIVES
UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

*Resolution Sought to Promote, Support and Encourage Excellence In Character in
Ontario's Youth*

Queen's Park – Thursday marked the introduction of MPP Tony Wong's Private Member's Resolution, in the Ontario Legislature, which in turn received unanimous consent. The Markham MPP's resolution sought to have Ontario declared a "Province of Character" in keeping with the "Character Community" concept which grew out of an initiative in the United States by the International Association of Character Cities(IACC).

"That, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Ontario should declare the Province of Ontario to be a "Province of Character" by encouraging the citizens of Ontario to foster a climate, which promotes, supports and celebrates excellence in character in its schools, businesses, homes and community-based organizations in order to strengthen Ontario's families and communities."

"The purpose of my resolution is to engage the citizens of Ontario, including elected officials, community leaders, business, school boards, health professionals and our youth in recognizing and promoting the importance of good character," said Tony Wong, MPP. "By declaring Ontario a "Province of Character", we would serve as an example for cities, towns and municipalities across the province to adopt a similar culture of good character".

This resolution also had special meaning and importance for York Region which declared itself a Character Community, along with the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board, both of which have implemented character education programs in their schools.

"In January 2002, York Region became the first Canadian municipality to be declared a Character Community. Our nine area municipalities have all declared themselves to be communities of character," said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. "Since that time, York Region residents, businesses, community groups and sports organizations continue to embrace the 11 principles of Character Community and make it an important part of their daily lives."

"It is important for all of us to invest time in determining the kind of province our children and grandchildren will inherit - by creating it now," said Dr. Avis Glaze, Chief Student Achievement Officer. "I strongly support this initiative."

In a "Province of Character", everyone works together to ensure that families are strong, neighborhoods are safe, education builds character and businesses are productive," said Wong.

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