



December 15, 2017

## **MPP Cristina Martins Bill Receives Award for Bill Prohibiting Mandatory High Heels in the Workplace**

**2462**

### ***Award Celebrates Bill's Passage as Part of Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017***

Earlier today, Cristina Martins, MPP for Davenport was presented with an award by the Ontario Podiatric Medical Association, for her advocacy on foot health and her private Members Bill, the Putting Your Best Foot Forward Act 2017.

The Bill, now incorporated into the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017* amends the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHS) to prohibit employers from requiring an employee to wear footwear that is not appropriate to the protection required for their work.

The Putting Your Best Foot Forward Act 2017 further enhances these protections for workers by amending the Act to specifically include protection for all workers under OHS from being required to wear unsafe footwear as part of dress and uniform codes. With the Bills' passage earlier this month, workers across Ontario will be further protected by the 445 Health and Safety Inspectors across the province.

According to the Ontario Podiatric Medical Association while 6% of Canadians have foot injuries, women are four times as likely to have long term problems with foot health. This is often due to wearing high heels for long periods of time.

MPP Martins' Bill to protect workers helps to support the government's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

#### **Quotes:**

"The passage of my bill means that Workers across Ontario will be protected from being mandated to wear unsafe footwear in the workplace. I want to thank the Ontario Podiatric Medical Association for their advocacy on this issue, and for their recognition here today. My hope is that with the passage of this bill, Ontarians everywhere will be able to put their best foot forward."

- *Cristina Martins, MPP for Davenport*

"This legislation has created a lot of interest and attracted a lot of support--and not just in Ontario. Podiatrists know, and the clinical evidence proves, that people who wear high heels for long periods of time are prone to bunions, musculoskeletal pain and foot and ankle injury and deformity."

- *James Hill, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, FACFAS, President of the Ontario Podiatric Medical Association*

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