December 9, 2011

His Worship
Mayor Bob Bratina
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

On November 8, 2011, the province announced the new Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario (IAH) program, a joint initiative between our government and the federal government. The IAH will provide over $480 million in federal and provincial funding for the creation and repair of affordable housing over four years.

The IAH builds on the success of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (AHP) and the principles of Ontario’s Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. The IAH complements and supports our new vision for affordable housing—helping to build a strong foundation and better futures for Ontarians, and supporting our economy in communities across the province.

This new initiative will offer a variety of program components aimed at addressing affordable housing needs across the housing continuum and provides increased flexibility, with accountability, to municipal Service Managers, housing proponents, and other housing partners to deliver affordable housing in their communities.

To assist with the planning and delivery of the program, Service Managers have been provided with a three-year (2012-13 to 2014-15) notional funding allocation for their area.
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I am pleased to advise that the total three-year notional funding allocation for the City of Hamilton is up to $16,874,982.

Each Service Manager’s total notional funding allocation is divided by fiscal year and must be committed within that fiscal year. Funding that is not committed by the end of each fiscal year will lapse.

Year 1 (2011-12) of the program is designed as a transitional year and as such, no allocation has been provided for this year.

Instead, Service Managers that have the capacity to commit funds in Year 1 are encouraged to bring forward funding from their overall total notional allocation to be used in this year. Service Managers are encouraged to submit business cases outlining their plans for Year 1 to the ministry for funding approval consideration.

Service Managers have also been provided with the Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario Program Guidelines, which outline the program’s requirements. The Guidelines are available on the ministry’s website for your reference at http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=9288.

Our government continues to recognize the need for affordable housing across Ontario and we believe that the future of housing depends on sustained funding. While the IAH will provide funding for housing over the next four years, I encourage you to support the province’s call for a national housing strategy and a long-term funding commitment from the federal government that is fair to Ontarians and will help meet the needs of Ontario families.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Minister

c: Ms. Gillian Hendry, Director of Social Housing and Homelessness
   City of Hamilton