November 30, 2010

Rose Caterini
City Clerk, City of Hamilton
Office of the City Clerk
77 James St. N., Suite 220
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Madame Clerk:

The Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction has been pleased to work with Hamilton City Council over the past five years to address Hamilton’s unacceptable levels of poverty. The City of Hamilton’s leadership on poverty reduction has been instrumental in leveraging investments from business, the community and other levels of government. Hamilton’s progress has been highlighted nationally on several occasions – including last year when the Roundtable was awarded a Canadian Urban Institute Award.

In 2010, the Roundtable launched a New Action Plan focused on specific priorities to help move individuals and families out of poverty through targeted initiatives and investments. The Roundtable looks forward to continuing to work with City Council in the months ahead on priorities such as ‘Making Hamilton a Living Wage Community’, putting community developers back into neighbourhoods, social assistance reform, a Hamilton social inclusion strategy and incubating a universal school nutrition program. We will also continue to work with the City and community partners around early childhood development, affordable housing, food security and affordable public transit priorities.

The Roundtable will shortly be announcing the intention to restructure our collaborative table to ensure it provides greater transparency, effectiveness and accountability to advance the priorities of the New Action Plan (which was endorsed by Council in September). The presence of Councillor Brian McHattie as a key member of the Roundtable has been instrumental to our success. Although HRPR is not officially a committee of the City of Hamilton (HRPR was co-convened by the Hamilton Community Foundation and the City), I would like to request Councillor McHattie’s continued participation in our work as an appointee and liaison from Hamilton City Council.

We look forward to continuing our collective efforts with City Council to Make Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child.

Sincerely,

Tom Cooper
Director