November 4, 2008

His Worship, Mayor Fred Eisenberger
and Members of Council
City of Hamilton
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council

On behalf of the Earl Kitchener School Council we wish to express our support for the Light Rail Transit project being considered by the City of Hamilton. Apart from noted and well known benefits to economic development, urban revitalization, transportation demand management and environmental sustainability, we would like to highlight a few direct and potential benefits to the education and well being of our children.

As a dual-track (English and French Immersion) school located in the vicinity of the downtown core and with a large catchment area, Earl Kitchener will be positively impacted by the improved accessibility provided by Light Rail Transit. These include alternative transportation options for the daily trips families have to take between home, school and work, but also novel ways to organize field trips to cultural and historical landmarks around the City of Hamilton.

Less directly, an increase in long term population and employment densities along the LRT line can reverse the trend of falling enrollment in the downtown area, thereby dispelling the prospect of school closures and consolidations we currently face.

Finally, having children in elementary school now, we hope to see Light Rail Transit fully operational in time for them to experience in their youth the wide range of educational, cultural and social opportunities that a revitalized City of Hamilton can offer.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Hilson
Chair

Matheus Grasselli
Vice-chair

Clarks