May 5, 2008

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
230-77 James Street North
Hamilton City Centre
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter providing feedback on our recent 2008 Ontario Budget. I appreciate your kind words regarding our government’s action to support municipalities.

Partnerships for progress are essential to Ontario’s social and economic development. That is why we have worked very hard to establish a real partnership with Ontario’s municipalities, including participating in the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review. As you know, we have more than doubled operating assistance and started uploading the Ontario Drug Benefit program and the Ontario Disability Support Program. When complete, this uploading will save municipalities some $900 million annually by 2011.

Our government wants to ensure that Ontario municipalities have the tools and flexibility they need to effectively serve their citizens. I am pleased that our one-time grant of $12 million will bring significant benefits to the City of Hamilton. We know that, by strengthening our communities, we will also be strengthening our province.

Thank you again for writing. My colleagues and I look forward to continuing to build on the progress we have made together to boost economic growth, create new jobs and enhance the quality of life of all Ontarians. Please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

Dalton McGuinty
Premier