MOTION

Council Date: February 15, 2006

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR …McHattie………………………………………………..

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR……………………………………………………..

WHEREAS the stock of social housing is a valuable asset that will meet the affordable housing needs of our vulnerable citizens now and in the future;

AND WHEREAS this public asset represents a considerable investment by the Federal and Provincial Governments over many decades and must be sustained;

AND WHEREAS the prime funding responsibilities for social housing costs in Ontario have been transferred to municipalities which rely on a stressed property tax base;

AND WHEREAS the property tax pressures being experienced by the City of Hamilton and other municipalities clearly undermines our municipal ability to properly fund a program that is ultimately seen as income re-distributive;

AND WHEREAS the City of Hamilton and social housing providers in our community are initiating cost-reduction strategies such as energy efficiency initiatives to reduce social housing subsidy costs and will continue to implement cost-saving initiatives;

AND WHEREAS these cost-reduction strategies are successful but it is not enough and in no way will correct the current fiscal imbalance of social housing subsidy costs;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Federal and Provincial Governments acknowledge the financial impact of the social housing subsidy on the municipal property tax base;

AND FURTHER that the Federal and Provincial Governments agree to partner with municipalities and increase their financial contributions to social housing subsidy costs;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all local area Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).