Mr. Fred Eisenberger  
Chair, City of Hamilton Board of Health  
City Hall, 1st Floor  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5  

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming transfer of the Small Drinking-Water Systems (SDWS) program from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). On behalf of the McGuinty government, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your leadership in advancing this important initiative.

As you are aware, in Spring 2007, the government passed the Health System Improvements Act, 2007 which provides for the transfer of legislative responsibility for five categories of non-residential and seasonal residential drinking-water systems from MOE to MOHLTC. Once Schedule D to this Act is proclaimed, public health inspectors will begin conducting site-specific risk assessments of small drinking-water systems in the province.

Provincial support for the SDWS program is being provided on a 100% basis for start-up activities, including an initial planning period followed by a two-year period of conducting the initial site-specific risk assessments.

I am pleased to advise you that in 2008 the province is providing the City of Hamilton Board of Health with $47,700.00 to prepare for and deliver the SDWS program in its first year of start-up. This allocation represents 100% funding for eligible start-up costs for your public health unit in 2008.
Mr. Eisenberger

In addition to this funding, MOHLTC will be providing further program supports prior to program implementation, including technical and program-specific training for public health inspectors, education and outreach materials, information system supports for managing the program, and technical and laboratory supports.

You will receive correspondence shortly from the Public Health Division that will include further details regarding your 2008 funding allocation for the SDWS program.

The government is committed to working together with municipalities, boards of health, and local medical officers of health to advance Ontario’s public health system. I extend to you and your staff my appreciation for the important work you do to protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

Yours truly,

George Smitherman
Deputy Premier, Minister

c: Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Ted McMeekin, Minister of Governemnt and Consumer Services, MPP (Ancaster-Dundas Flamborough-Westdale)
Gerry Martiniuk, MPP (Cambridge)
Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton Centre)
Sophia Aggelionitis, MPP (Hamilton Mountain)
Paul Miller, MPP (Hamilton East-Stoney Creek)
Jim Brownell, MPP (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry)
Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
Juanita Gledhill, Chair, Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network
Doug Reycraft, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario