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

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am replying, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment, to your letter of May 15 regarding the City of Hamilton’s endorsement of the resolutions by the Heritage Canada Foundation and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the establishment of tax incentives to encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places.

In its search for new collaborative ways to conserve historic places, the federal government has announced the establishment of a National Trust for Canada. The Trust will be managed and directed by private sector individuals, at arm’s length from the Government, and will be able to receive donations and contributions to ensure its long-term sustainability. The Trust will work with the private sector, the heritage community and different levels of government to ensure the rehabilitation and conservation of historic places. The federal government is currently considering options regarding the structure, roles and responsibilities of such a new entity. It is expected that the National Trust will play a major role in the conservation of historic places in Canada.

In addition, Canada’s Economic Action Plan provides $75 million to Parks Canada for upgrades to national historic sites. This funding will also be used to assist non-federally administered national historic sites eligible to receive support through the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program.

The Government of Canada is committed to conserving our historic places and to working with the heritage community and other levels of government to achieve this goal.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada

C.C.: The Honourable Jim Flaherty, P.C., M.P.
Mr. David Sweet, M.P.
Mr. Dean Allison, M.P.
Mr. Wayne Marston, M.P.
Mr. David Christopherson, M.P.
Ms. Chris Charlton, M.P.