APR 08 2008

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

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2007, about the construction of a pedestrian crossing over the Queen Elizabeth Way to the Waterfront Trail and Greenway, and for your interest in the Building Canada plan.

Through Building Canada, the Government of Canada is taking action – making strategic investments in infrastructure that contribute to a growing economy, a cleaner environment, and strong and prosperous communities. The $33-billion Building Canada plan represents the largest federal commitment to public infrastructure in 50 years.

Over 50 percent of the plan will flow directly to municipalities, including the $11.8-billion Gas Tax Fund (extended to 2013-14) and an estimated $5.8 billion through the GST Rebate. As well, the $2.275-billion Provincial/Territorial Base Funding Initiative provides each jurisdiction $25 million per year to support core infrastructure priorities.

There are also three national targeted funds: the $2.1-billion Gateways and Border Crossings Fund, the $1.25-billion Public-Private Partnerships Fund, and the $1-billion Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative.

The $8.8-billion Building Canada Fund will invest in clean water and sewage treatment infrastructure, the core National Highway System, public transit, and green energy, among other categories. The Building Canada Fund also has dedicated funding for projects in communities with populations of fewer than 100,000 – helping these smaller communities face their unique challenges.

More information on the Building Canada Fund is available at www.buildingcanada.gc.ca.
Our government is committed to signing a Framework Agreement with the Government of Ontario. However, to date, the Province has not come to the table to conclude an agreement with the Government of Canada. Until such time as an agreement is signed, money cannot flow to Ontario’s municipalities under the Building Canada Plan. I would invite you to encourage the Province to conclude negotiations on a Framework Agreement so that we may begin to flow this much needed infrastructure funding to our communities.

I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of our Building Canada booklet summarizing the Government of Canada’s new long-term infrastructure plan.

Please accept my best wishes.

[Signature]

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

Enclosure

c.c. Mr. David Sweet, M.P.