February 26, 2007

Mr. Larry Dilanni
Board of Health Chair
City of Hamilton - Public Health & Social Services
1 Hughson Street North, 4th Floor
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 3L5

Dear Mr. Dilanni:

Subject: Public Health Capacity Review – Final Report

I am writing to advise that Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on February 15, 2007:

That the Regional Chair, the Chair of Human Services Section of General Committee, the three area Mayors and the appropriate Regional staff meet with the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to convey that Public Health should remain part of the Region of Peel Corporation and that Regional Council should continue to serve as the board of health;

And further, that the Regional Chair meet with local MPPs to convey that Public Health should remain part of the Region of Peel Corporation and be governed by an elected Regional Council;

And further, that the Regional Chair write to the Mayors and Chairs of Public Health Units, where public health is integrated into the municipal structure, for their support of Peel's position that Public Health should remain a part of the municipality and be governed by an elected Council;

And further, that the Province assume 100 per cent of Public Health costs should the Province implement autonomous boards of health where Regional Council is no longer the board of health;

And further, that the Capacity Review recommendations pertaining to "Revitalizing the Public Health Work Force, Demonstrating Accountability and Performance Measures, Research and Knowledge Exchange and Strategic Partnerships" as described in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Health, dated January 19, 2007, titled "Public Health Capacity Review - Final Report", be supported;

And further, that a copy of the subject resolution be sent to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa).
This resolution was made in response to a report to Council about the recommendations made in the final report of the Capacity Review Committee, released in May, 2006.

On behalf of Regional Council, I request that you give consideration to the above resolution.

During the Capacity Review of Local Public Health, members of Peel Regional Council recognized the following benefits for maintaining the current governance structure for Peel Health:

- Elected officials are directly accountable to their constituents on public health issues and policies;
- Surge capacity to respond to emergencies
- Administrative efficiencies and economies of scale;
- Greater opportunity for advocacy on public health issues with provincial and federal governments through the Regional Chair and Regional Council;
- Medical Officer of Health has greater ability to influence local public health policy;
- Public health does not have to compete with hospital budgets for limited health dollars;
- Enabling joint program and policy initiatives with other Regional services to address determinants of health.

Thank you for considering this resolution. I look forward to your reply. Please quote the Region’s reference number in your reply.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:vm

c: Janette Smith, Acting Commissioner of Health

Also sent to:
Ms. Pat Perkins, Board of Health Chair, Durham Region Health Department
Mr. Gary Carr, Board of Health Chair, Halton Region Health Department
Mr. Peter Partington, Board of Health Chair, Niagara Region Public Health Department
Mr. Ken Seiling, Board of Health Chair, Region of Waterloo, Public Health
Mr. Bill Fisch, Board of Health Chair, York Region Public Health Services
Ms. Diane Holmes, Board of Health Chair, Ottawa Public Health
Mr. John Filion, Board of Health Chair, Toronto Public Health
Dr. George Pasut, Chief Medical Officer of Health (A), Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ms. Pat Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ms. Linda Stewart Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa)