March 27, 2006

His Worship
Mayor Larry Di Ianni
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 2006 and enclosed correspondence regarding Council’s resolution requesting that the Province establish a provincially appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner. I appreciate receiving your views and concerns.

While reforms to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act are not anticipated at this time, the provincial government is committed to responsible, accountable, open and transparent local government in Ontario. That is why we are currently reviewing the Municipal Act, 2001. Through this review, we intend to provide municipalities with the flexibility and tools that they require to manage their affairs in an accountable and responsible fashion.

As you know, Bill 53, the proposed Stronger City of Toronto for a Stronger Ontario Act, 2005 – which I introduced on December 14, 2005 – includes a number of provisions that would ensure accountability as well as transparency of operations and decision-making on the part of councils and heads of council.

As we continue to develop reforms that will benefit municipalities across Ontario, your views and suggestions, as well as the changes proposed in Bill 53, will be taken into consideration. We anticipate introduction of possible amendments to the Municipal Act in 2006.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
John Gerretsen
Minister

cc: The Honourable Marie Bountrogianni, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Ms. Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton East
Ms. Judy Marsales, MPP, Hamilton West
Mr. Ted McMeekin, MPP, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot
Ms. Jennifer Mossop, MPP, Stoney Creek