October 16, 2005

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

Dear Mayor Dilanni:

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 2005, in response to my request for further information on the damages incurred as a result of the August 19, 2005 storm event.

I am pleased to hear that there was minimal displacement of families and that no one experienced extreme hardship that necessitated access to social assistance due to the storm.

As I mentioned in my September 13, 2005 letter, the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program (ODRAP) provides assistance when damages are so extensive that they exceed the financial resources of the affected individuals, the municipality and the community at large. I also explained that the intent of ODRAP is to provide financial assistance in extraordinary situations, where the impacts are of such magnitude that it is beyond the local municipality’s ability to manage.

In order to sufficiently evaluate the impact of this event on your municipality and justify your need for provincial assistance, I had requested further information including a solid estimate of costs and details of the damages incurred. In a teleconference with City of Hamilton staff on September 2, 2005, ministry staff explained the program requirements and the importance of this information to an evaluation of your municipality’s request.

However, the information provided in your September 22, 2005, response does not provide the detail required to demonstrate the impact of this event on your municipality and its residents. It does not set out public and private damages and their associated costs, nor does it identify whether the damages are covered by private insurance.

Therefore, based on the information provided about the event and its impacts, I have decided that it would not be appropriate for me to declare specific areas in the City of Hamilton as a disaster area for purposes of ODRAP.
His Worship
Mayor Larry DiIanni

I understand that staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will visit Hamilton on October 31, 2005, to make a presentation about ODRAP to your municipality’s Emergency Control Group and others. I trust that the information they provide will assist you in your emergency management planning.

Thank you, again, for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

John Gerretsen
Minister

c:  The Honourable Dr. 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