January 27, 2014

His Worship R. (Bob) Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Second Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for your letter regarding the City of Hamilton’s funding under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). I appreciate the time you took to write on behalf of the members of Hamilton City Council. Our government knows that combating homelessness and finding affordable housing solutions are not easy social problems to solve, and I appreciate Hamilton as a municipal partner who cares deeply about finding these solutions.

In response to concerns from municipalities regarding the difficulty to transition to the CHPI without reducing services, our government provided $42 million in one-time funding through the Ministry of Community and Social Services to support Service Managers during the transition period. This funding was in addition to the $246 million already provided for 2013-14. Service Managers have until March 31, 2014, to use these transitional funds – along with their current CHPI funding allocations – to address their local needs.

In addition to the funding in 2014-15, we will be providing $251 million to Service Managers under the CHPI. This amount represents an overall increase of 2 per cent and all Service Managers will see an increase in their CHPI 2014-15 planning allocations.

The CHPI is part of our government’s strategy to find permanent, long-term means to address homelessness, rather than funding stand-alone programs and short-term solutions. Under the CHPI, Service Managers have greater flexibility to be more responsive to changing client needs. Over time, this approach will shift the focus of services from reactive responses to homelessness to more proactive and permanent solutions.

I note that you have also provided a copy of your letter to my colleague the Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As this issue falls within her area of responsibility, I have asked that the minister provide you with a further response.
Mayor Bratina, thank you again for writing. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Linda Jeffrey