September 17, 2007

The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister
Ministry of Health Promotion
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Funding for Tobacco Control Programming

City Council, at their meeting of September 12, 2007, considered your letter regarding the above matter.

Please be advised that Council has received this correspondence and has referred it to the Board of Health.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

RC: sr

c.c. Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
1 Hughson St. N., 4th Floor

Ida Bedioui, Legislative Assistant, Board of Health
AUG 08 2007

Mr. Fred Eisenberger  
Chair, Board of Health  
City of Hamilton Board of Health  
City Hall, 71 Main Street West  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

The McGuinty government is continuing its aggressive strategy to prevent and control tobacco use, which is the number one preventable cause of death and illness in Ontario. Our Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy is among the most comprehensive of its kind in North America, and puts our province at the leading edge of tobacco control.

Our collective efforts have resulted in the reduction of per capita consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products to 18.7 per cent and we have achieved almost total compliance with The Smoke-Free Ontario Act in workplaces, bars and restaurants in the one year since it came into force.

Of the $60 million committed to the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy in 2007-08, a significant portion is allocated to support public health agencies in their efforts to implement tobacco control strategies, including combating smoking.

I am pleased to inform you that $1,107,012 is to be provided to your health unit for the period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 for tobacco control programming in your community. This funding is subject to appropriations by the Ontario Legislature and the Board of Health entering into a grant funding agreement with the Ministry.

You will receive further correspondence from Pegeen Walsh, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, with details on your funding and accountability requirements. Your allocation may be adjusted at that time to reflect the performance contracts that you have negotiated with Ministry staff.

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By working together, we will maintain Ontario's leadership in tobacco control and prevention. I want to acknowledge the enormous strides that public health units have made in the reduction of tobacco use and improving the health of their communities.

Thank you for your continuing efforts and co-operation in working with the Ministry of Health Promotion to promote a healthier Ontario. Your important contributions and continued hard work and dedication will help to improve the quality of life and health of all Ontarians.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Watson, MPP
Minister

c: Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health
   Ms. Judy Marsales, MPP, Hamilton West