July 9, 2008

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

Thank you for your letter regarding the City of Hamilton’s Hostels to Homes (H2H) Pilot. I have been asked to respond.

As you may be aware, a memorandum was recently sent to Ms. Gillian Hendry, Director, Employment and Income Support Branch, in regards to the extension of the H2H Pilot in Hamilton.

Building on early pilot results that have been very promising, the ministry has recently received approval to extend the pilot by an additional 18 months to facilitate another round of intake. As Hamilton is not expected to complete the first phase of the pilot until the summer of 2009, approval has been granted for the recruitment of 40 participants for inclusion in this second phase of the pilot.

Please note that Phase 1 of the pilot is currently being evaluated to assess the effectiveness of the pilot, including the funding timeframe. As such, phase 2 does not provide for an extension of the length of time over which current participants may remain in the pilot. The evaluation will also help to inform future decisions of the pilot.

I trust that this information is helpful to you. I am pleased with the positive results of the H2H pilot thus far, and look forward to our continued collaboration with the City of Hamilton and shared future successes. Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Erin Hannah
Director, Ontario Works