MAR 25 2009

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

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for your letter requesting an increase of the per diem rate for domiciliary hostels and emergency shelters to cover the costs associated with providing these housing options.

Our government is committed to addressing the needs of Ontario’s most vulnerable individuals who require supports for daily living. The 2007 Budget included a two per cent increase, to adult services programs, including domiciliary hostels. This increase, compounded annually over three years, increased the maximum domiciliary hostel per diem rate to $45.90 in June 2007 and further increased to $46.82 on April 1, 2008.

Although we have made important progress in this area and would like to proceed quickly, we need to acknowledge this may not be possible as we are facing a time of economic restraint.

As you may be aware, my ministry and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, jointly funded a research project regarding the needs of domiciliary hostel tenants. Ministry staff are currently reviewing the findings from this project and will take this research into consideration as we move forward on this issue.

Once again, thank for writing.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Meilleur
Minister
February 27, 2009

The Honourable David Caplan  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
80 Grosvenor Street  
10th Floor, Hepburn Block  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2C4

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur  
Minister of Community and Social Services  
80 Grosvenor Street  
6th Floor, Hepburn Block  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1E9

Re: Mental Health and Addiction Support Services and a Proposed Increase in the Per Diem Rate for Domiciliary Hostels and Emergency Shelters

Dear Mr. and Madame Ministers:

Please be advised that Hamilton City Council, at its meeting of February 25, 2009, approved item 8 of the Emergency & Community Services Committee Report 09-003, as follows:

8. Somerville House (CS09022) (City Wide) (Item 12.1)

   (a) That the Mayor correspond with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to request that funding be made available for mental health personal support services to ensure our most vulnerable citizens have the access to these required services.

   (b) That the Provincial Government through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Community and Social Services be requested to provide an enhanced level of funding support; for individuals experiencing mental health and addiction issues, and that per diem rate for Domiciliary Hostels and Emergency Shelters be increased to a level
that is consistent with the actual costs to provide these important housing opportunities in Hamilton and other communities across Ontario.

(c) That the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all local area MPPs be provided a copy of the approved resolution.

(d) That Report CS09022 – Somerville House, remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure, at this time, pursuant to Section 8.1, Subsection (b) of the City's Procedural By-law 03-301, and Section 239, Subsection (b) of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Therefore, we respectfully request your consideration respecting the above matters. Please reference to File #C09005-ECS8 when responding to this correspondence.

Yours truly,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

FE/sp

Copies to:
Ms. Andrea Horwath, M.P.P.
Ms. Sophia Aggelonitis, M.P.P.
Mr. Paul Miller, M.P.P.
Mr. Tim Hudak, M.P.P.
Mr. Ted McMeekin, M.P.P.
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario