APR 2 1 2008

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

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your correspondence and enclosed report to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, regarding the City of Hamilton’s support for various tobacco control measures recommended by the Board of Health.

I have noted council’s views in support of our proposed legislation to ban smoking in motor vehicles with children present. The provincial government has heard from many Ontarians and key stakeholders regarding this very important issue. Leading health and medical organizations, municipal governments and individuals have written letters and voiced their concerns about the harmful effects of second-hand smoke in cars.

The McGuinty government has listened and now intends to introduce legislation that, if passed, would protect children from the effects of second-hand smoke. The proposed ban would build on our efforts to protect Ontarians from the dangers of smoking.

I want to recognize the contribution of my colleague, Mr. David Orazietti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie, whose Private Member’s Bill was the catalyst that drove the discussion about protecting children and youth from second-hand smoke in motor vehicles.

Our government’s Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy represents our commitment to protect workers and the public from the deadly effects of second-hand smoke. It is an integral part of our government’s plan to improve the health of Ontarians and reduce pressures on the health care system. For more information, please visit my ministry’s website at www.healthyontario.com, under the “Smoke-Free Ontario” heading.
I have also taken note of council's request for senior levels of government to take action against contraband tobacco. As the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Revenue are responsible for this issue at the provincial level, I have forwarded your letter to my colleagues for their information.

Thank you for your interest in this key issue, and for sharing your views with us. I commend the City of Hamilton for its efforts to encourage Hamiltonians to live healthier, smoke-free lives.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Margarett R. Best
Minister

c:  Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
    Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance
    Hon. Monique Smith, Minister of Revenue
    Hon. Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services
    Mr. David Orazietti, MPP, Sault Ste. Marie
    Mr. Ted McMeekin, MPP, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale
    Ms. Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
    Ms. Andrea Horwath, Hamilton Centre
    Mr. Tim Hudak, MPP, Niagara West-Glanbrook
    Mr. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek