Mr. Fred Eisenberger  
Chair, City of Hamilton Board of Health  
Office of the Mayor  
77 James Street North, Suite 230  
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

On behalf of the McGuinty government, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your work in supporting Ontario's public health system.

I am pleased to advise you that in 2009 the province is providing the City of Hamilton Board of Health with $23,172,138 for the provision of mandatory and related public health programs in your community. This amount includes funding previously announced for an Infection Prevention and Control Nurse for each public health unit and the Small Drinking Water Systems Program.

Even in times of considerable fiscal constraint, this government continues to make significant investments to support the public health system. In 2009, for mandatory and related programs, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion are investing an additional $23.8 million over 2008 for a total of $553 million. Since 2003, funding has more than doubled, including both uploaded costs and increased investments in public health capacity.

As in 2008, the government will allocate 5% growth funding for mandatory programs to boards of health utilizing a funding approach that is more responsive to local needs. The 5% growth funding will be provided as an across-the-board increase of 3% for common cost drivers as well as 2% in targeted funding for population growth and low income populations. Within the approved funding, each local board of health is expected to deliver programs and services that meet the Ontario Public Health Standards and other requirements of the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

You will receive correspondence shortly from Allison J. Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister (A), Public Health Division that will include specific information regarding your 2009 allocations for mandatory and related programs.

In closing, please accept my appreciation for the ongoing contributions you and your staff make as we endeavour to provide a public health system that will best protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

Yours sincerely,

David Caplan  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
c: Hon. Margaret R. Best, Minister of Health Promotion
Hon. Deborah Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale
Gerry Martiniuk, MPP, Cambridge
Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health,
   City of Hamilton - Public Health & Social Services Department
Valerie Sterling, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Carol Timmings, President, Ontario Public Health Association
Peter Hume, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario