FEB 01 2006

His Worship Larry Di Ianni
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

Thank you for your letter of November, 25, 2005, providing a copy of your council’s report regarding school crossing guards and the legislative changes in Bill 169, the Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005.

Safety is a high priority for my ministry. This legislation, which received Royal Assent on November 21, 2005, is proof of that commitment to safety. In fact, your resolution reflects several of the measures that are included in the Act. These measures will improve pedestrian safety, specifically for schoolchildren, by clarifying driver responsibilities at school crossings and by increasing fines and demerit points.

Under this legislation, drivers will be required to stop when a school crossing guard enters the roadway, and they must remain stopped until the children, other pedestrians, and the guard have cleared their half of the roadway and it is safe to proceed.

I am confident that this legislation will improve the safety of school and pedestrian crossings.

Further, my ministry is currently developing a communication and public education strategy to ensure that drivers are aware of their responsibilities. We will be counting on a number of stakeholders, including municipalities, to help convey this important message.

I commend your council on its interest and support in this matter, and I thank you for sharing your comments with me.

Sincerely,

Harinder S. Takhar
Minister