Mr. Fred Eisenberger  
Chair  
City of Hamilton Board of Health  
City Hall, 1st Floor  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Eisenberger:

I am pleased to announce that the provincial government has committed $109,035 to the City of Hamilton - Public Health Services for Healthy Living Hamilton for the period January 1st, 2007 to December 31st, 2007. This funding is subject to City of Hamilton - Public Health Services entering into a grant funding agreement with the Ministry of Health Promotion.

The McGuinty government recognizes the significant cost of preventable diseases to Ontarians and to our health care system. We believe that initiatives such as the Ontario Heart Health Program: Taking Action for Healthy Living, will help support our primary objectives of healthy living and active living and the role they play in disease prevention.

Since its inception in 1998, the Ontario Heart Health Program, (OHHP) has evolved in response to new evidence, emerging trends and community needs. As the OHHP enters the final year of Phase II, I am pleased that ministry staff are working with representatives of the Ontario Heart Health Network, Chronic Disease Prevention Managers, and other stakeholders to determine how to build on the program's strengths and successes while advancing the goals of the Ministry of Health Promotion.

As we work on developing the future direction of the program, the Ministry of Health Promotion will continue to provide funding for the Ontario Heart Health Program until December 31st, 2008, subject to approval by the Legislature.
Together with our partners in the community, we are fostering improved health through the development and implementation of effective health promotion programs and strategies for addressing chronic disease prevention. We are working to ensure that Ontarians have access to programs and services so they can make the healthiest choices where they live, learn, work and play.

The administrative details regarding this funding will be communicated to you shortly through the office of Pegeen Walsh, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Branch.

Thank you for your continuing efforts and co-operation in working with the Ministry of Health Promotion to promote a healthier Ontario. Your important contributions and continued hard work and dedication will help to improve the quality of life and health of all Ontarians.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Watson, MPP
Minister

c: Ms. Judy Marsales, MPP, Hamilton West