Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton, Culture and Recreation  
Dundurn Castle, Hamilton Scourge, Hamilton Waterworks, and McQuesten  
House / Whitehern  
National Historic Sites of Canada  
Suite 250  
77 James Street North  
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3  

Re: Launch of National Historic sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am pleased to be writing you today to inform you of an opportunity for your organization contained in our Government’s Economic Action Plan. As part of the Action Plan’s commitment to invest in projects that will provide stimulus and jobs to the economy, funding will be provided for the renewal of the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program with a total budget of $20 million.

Our Government is proud to provide the support to organizations across the country seeking to maintain and improve our National Historic Sites. These celebrated places are the source of great national pride, making the need to preserve them for future generations an important one.

Additionally, my colleagues and I recognize the economic impact these sites have on their home communities. The contribution of National Historic sites to tourism in over 400 communities through direct spending, visitor spending and spin-off economic activity will ensure that the effects of this program will be felt well beyond our Government’s investment.

The National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is a contribution program whereby up to 50 percent of eligible costs incurred in the conservation and presentation of a national historic site are paid by the program in the form of reimbursements to the site owner. A recipient can be eligible to receive a maximum of $1 million. Eligible recipients are incorporated not-for-profit organizations, other levels of government and not-for-profit Aboriginal organizations.
In order to be considered for funding, technical and planning documents for each project must be provided to Parks Canada for consideration using established criteria. Parks Canada will select projects necessary to ensure the preservation, rehabilitation and commemorative integrity of the National Historic Site in question. Presentation projects intended to inform the public of the importance of the National Historic Site will also be eligible. The initial application deadline is April 24, 2009, with subsequent twice-yearly deadlines for the receipt of applications to be announced in the future.

For further information, please consult the Parks Canada Website at www.pc.gc.ca or contact the Program Office for the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program at:

Planning and Programs Branch
National Historic Sites Directorate
Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street (25-5-Q)
Gatineau QC K1A 0M5
Toll free: 1-866-377-1947
Fax: 819-953-4909
Email: partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca

I would like to close by thanking you for your ongoing commitment to National Historic Sites of Canada as well as the benefits to our national heritage and economy that they provide.

Regards,

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.