AUG 08 2006

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

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

Thank you for the copy of your letter of 13 July to the Prime Minister requesting that a ship be named after the City of Hamilton. I also received a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister from Member of Parliament, Ms. Chris Charlton, on this matter.

As you may be aware the government intends to renew Canada’s capability to deploy and sustain Canadian maritime operations worldwide, through the acquisition of three Joint Support Ships, the first of which will be available in 2012. These vessels, in addition to supporting current fleet operations, will provide a significant new capability to support the deployment of Canadian Forces personnel in a variety of missions, ranging from humanitarian assistance to peace support operations.

Since the introduction of the HALIFAX-class Canadian patrol frigates in the early 1990s, commissioned ships in the Canadian navy have been named after towns and cities across Canada. This practice was continued with the KINGSTON-class maritime coastal defence vessels and the VICTORIA-class submarines. Once the Joint Support Ship project gets underway, a Ships' Names Committee will be formed to solicit proposals for naming the new class. The Committee will be provided with general guidelines for names, including, for example, that the ships names are representative of the various regions of the country and that they are recognizably Canadian. The Committee recommendations will be made to the Maritime Commander and the Chief of the Defence Staff, who will endorse the proposals and pass them on to government for approval.

I have forwarded your letter to the Chief of the Maritime Staff, so that your proposal will be available when the Ships’ Names Committee starts its work.

Thank you again for writing and for your support of the Canadian navy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Honourable Gordon J. O’Connor, PC, MP

cc: Office of the Prime Minister
Ms. Chris Charlton, MP