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 regarding the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) and its treatment under social assistance policy. Premier Dalton McGuinty forwarded it to me for my consideration, and I would like to address the issue you have raised.

As you may be aware, the National Child Benefit (NCB) is comprised of the basic Child Tax Benefit (CTB) and the NCBS. The CTB is not deducted from a family’s social assistance. Under current policy, the NCBS is considered to be income and is deducted from social assistance payments.

Since we took office, we have made certain that all increases to the NCBS stay in the hands of the people who need it most. This means that by the end of this fiscal year, families with children in receipt of social assistance will have received an additional $36.7 million in support from the federal NCBS. This is a reflection of our commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable people and treat Ontario’s poorest families with dignity and respect.

The goals of the NCB initiative are to prevent and reduce child poverty, support parents moving into the labour market and reduce duplication and overlap of government programs. Ontario reinvests the NCBS in initiatives including the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families. Guided by the goals of the National Child Benefit, each jurisdiction has the flexibility to make reinvestments under the NCBS that meet the needs of families in their communities. Municipalities reinvest the NCBS towards programs like Healthy Babies Healthy Children, child care for social assistance recipients and Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP). This government is examining Ontario’s approach to the NCBS and will decide whether it should be changed or restructured.

.../cont’d
Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Sandra Pupatello
Minister

Cc: Premier Dalton McGuinty