AUG 21 2006

Mayor Larry Di Ianni
Chair, City of Hamilton Board of Health
City Hall, 71 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni:

I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the McGuinty government my appreciation for your work to revitalize Ontario’s public health system.

I am pleased to advise you that in 2006 the province is providing the City of Hamilton Board of Health with $18,305,626 including a one-time grant of $65,000, for the provision of mandatory and related public health programs and services in your community.

This government is committed to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians. We are increasing the provincial share of funding for eligible public health costs from 55% in 2005 to 65% in 2006, with a further increase to 75% on January 1, 2007. Funding from both the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Health Promotion for local public health units has increased from $266 million in 2003 to $442 million in 2006.

As part of our government’s plan to revitalize the province’s public health system, we are currently reviewing the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines to update program standards and incorporate into them a greater focus on performance, accountability and sustainability.

You will receive correspondence shortly from Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division that will include further information regarding your 2006 Program-Based Grant allocation.
Mayor Di Ianni

I look to you, in the public health community, to provide the leadership to ensure the best possible use of our health care resources to support and further the important work of public health.

In closing, I extend to you and your staff my gratitude for the important work you do to protect and promote the health of Ontarians.

Yours truly,

George Smitherman
Minister

c: Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
   Hon. Mary Anne Chambers, Minister of Children and Youth Services
   Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
   Ted McMeekin, MPP (Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot)
   Jennifer F. Mossop, MPP (Stoney Creek)
   Hon. Marie Bountrogianni, MPP (Hamilton Mountain)
   Andrea Horwath, MPP (Hamilton East)
   Judy Marsales, MPP (Hamilton West)
   Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, City of Hamilton Health Unit
   Dr. Liana Nolan, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
   Dr. Garry Aslanyan, President, Ontario Public Health Association
   Doug Reycraft, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario