September 15, 2006

City of Hamilton
Councillor Art Samson, Chair
Members of the Corporate Administration Committee
c/o Carolyn Biggs, Legislative Assistant

Re: Approval of the 2006 Accessibility Plan for the City of Hamilton

Dear Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Hamilton Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities with respect to the 2006 Accessibility Plan for the City of Hamilton.

The Advisory Committee, after having provided input to the plan over several meetings this year, reviewed the final plan at their meeting on September 5, 2006 and endorsed the plan.

The Advisory Committee members expressed their appreciation to staff, particularly Maxine Carter, for the excellent job and very substantial amount of work undertaken to prepare the plan. The committee is also very appreciative of the ongoing cooperation from City staff in working to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities in the City of Hamilton.

As we look forward to the implementation of standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the committee has become very busy with the number of matters which require our attention. In order to address the workload, we have now formed sub-committees to address the areas of standards being developed by the Province, and find that the current level of resources are not sufficient to effectively manage all of the issues which must be addressed. The committee would certainly appreciate Council addressing the matter of resources necessary for the committee to continue its work on behalf of the City.

In addition, we feel that is very important for all members of Council, in addition to the designated Councillor, to become familiar with the matters addressed by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities by attending meetings of the Advisory Committee, and again invite each member of Council to attend one to two meetings of the committee.

The committee would like to acknowledge the City and its response to the development and implementation of the plan.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Nolan, Chair
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities