

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

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et du Logement**

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08-3029

March 11, 2008

His Worship  
Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton  
77 James Street North  
Suite 230  
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 6, 2008 to Premier Dalton McGuinty and the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, requesting that the provincial funding agreement be amended to allow the City of Hamilton to purchase the Lister Block. I am responding on their behalf.

The government is committed to maintaining Ontario's heritage and preserving our history. Accordingly, it has committed \$7 million for the rehabilitation of the Lister Block. A revision to the original Lister Block grant approval has been approved.

This approval provides flexibility to the City of Hamilton and the owners of the Lister Block to reach a lease agreement or a purchase-and-sale agreement for a restored Lister Block. The purchase of a portion of the Lister Block may result in a better investment by the City and, in turn, a better investment for the Province. The agreement will include a timeline for finalizing a lease or purchase agreement by June 30, 2008.

If you require additional information, please contact Ms. Diane McArthur-Rodgers, Manager of Municipal Programs in the ministry's Municipal Programs and Education Branch, at 416-585-6047.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Watson".

Jim Watson, MPP  
Minister

c: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario  
The Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance  
and Chair of Management Board of Cabinet  
The Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Government  
and Consumer Services  
Ms. Sophia Aggelonitis, MPP, Hamilton Mountain