



September 23, 2008

I am writing to provide you with an outline of the City of Hamilton's strategic priorities for consideration during the 2008 Election Campaign and to ask for your support in our ongoing Fairness to Hamilton campaign.

After many years of cutbacks and offloading from upper levels of government, Canadian municipalities are struggling to meet their responsibilities. Of every tax dollar collected from all levels of government, 50 cents goes to the federal government, the province receives 42 cents, while only 8 cents goes to municipalities.

Municipalities can no longer meet the growing funding needs in policing, affordable housing, public transit, environmental protection, and most important, the rapidly growing backlog of infrastructure repairs.

While these concerns cannot be fixed overnight, we must begin our rejuvenation process now so the people of Hamilton can be confident that our water is clean and safe, that public transit can be expanded and enhanced, and that our community can attract new employers and increase job opportunities.

As mayor of one of the oldest, largest, and diverse cities in Canada, I am asking you to join your local government in championing the basic needs of the people of Hamilton by persuading the federal government – regardless of which party wins the October 14 election – to address Hamilton's concerns by partnering with us and investing in our great community as we continue to grow and improve opportunities for sustainability and future prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor of Hamilton

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