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**Ministry of Municipal Affairs
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05-1401

December 14, 2005

Dear Head of Council:

I am writing to inform you of another step this government is taking to reflect our commitment to treat municipalities with the respect they deserve. Our government strongly believes that the municipal leaders of this province lead mature governments -- and are our partners in public service.

As you know, our government has passed the *Respect for Municipalities Act, 2005*, and removed a significant barrier to providing municipalities the authority to consider using a broader range of fiscal tools.

Today, our government introduced the *Stronger City of Toronto for a Stronger Ontario Act, 2005*. This Act, if passed, would grant the city broad powers within its jurisdiction, and greater flexibility and autonomy to develop solutions to local problems. The Act can be viewed at www.ontla.on.ca.

The introduction of this legislation marks a significant shift in how the province relates to municipalities. This new relationship builds on the strong tradition of consultation between the province and Ontario municipalities. In turn, these steps and our consultation with AMO will inform the development of amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

It is our intention that the next steps would continue the discussions with AMO and municipalities on the kinds of reforms that would benefit municipalities across Ontario.

I thank you for working with the government to achieve our mutual goal of making Ontario municipalities healthy and prosperous.

Sincerely,


John Gerretsen
Minister