

Richard Plett to Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Council  
October 7, 2019

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Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
71 Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Council,

First, I would like to sincerely thank Mayor Eisenberger for reaching out with 5 key areas Hamilton City Council has identified as priority areas impacting the City of Hamilton where the collaboration with the Federal Government is essential.

### **OVERVIEW**

I run in this election Hamilton Mountain under my name Richard Plett for the Rhinocéros Party with no real expectation of actually being elected. I just see so very clearly what we have been electing all across Canada on the Federal level really do not do much of anything except follow the instructions of their Federal Party non elected behind the scenes leadership and I just disagree with that strongly enough to try myself against all odds.

I do not like using the word **priority**, to me when a politician says that word, they are almost always full of it.

I prefer **task** and that is exactly what I will be doing, I will be **tasking** myself if actually elected and that is very remote; with following through on what I learn from residents of Hamilton Mountain as well as the rest of Hamilton and Canada as well, that really is what an elected Member of Parliament should be doing anyways. Mayor Eisenberger, you and council represent all the residents of Hamilton and working very closely with you and council will be a task I am very willing to do.

The Federal Government offers many programs and funding opportunities and it will be important to have at least one representative from the Hamilton area who will take the time to read and find out about those programs and funding opportunities and have a close relationship with the Hamilton Municipal Government to take full advantage of such funding when the opportunity arises. You see while my colleagues in Parliament will be cheering and jeering and pounding their tables (I am really not trying to make fun of them, that is actually what they do) during question period and as such I will be spending my time searching for ways to accomplish the goals we together will set for Hamilton.

### **Hamilton City Council Priorities**

Modernizing the federal – Municipal Relationship

New Funding Tools

Predictable Transit Funding

Housing Affordability

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Support

**Housing Affordability**

Housing affordability is so very important to many residents in Hamilton I have spoken with and is why I mention it first.

I have spoken with residents that tell me there is a 10 year wait list for social housing and sometimes it is longer if they have special needs like ground floor access. This will be the type of thing that I will be needing to verify with you if it is true and go from there.

I also agree with you that financial incentives should be put in place to assist first time home buyers or renters that have consistently paid more than 1 thousand dollars rent for a period of time and wish to have home ownership. I mean I have talked with people that work at close to the minimum wage at present and would just like to stay in Hamilton, but actually own a place of their own, they amaze me, they pay rent to support a landlords mortgage and there is nothing wrong with that, it is just they deserve the opportunity of home ownership in the community they wish to live in. I think we can try and make it happen, not sure how, we will have to figure that out together if you are willing?

I see Hamilton has an unfunded requirement for 14,000 units in need of capital repair which currently stands at 700 million dollars. I would like to learn more about this claim if elected and I will seek you out to explain precisely.

I also see poverty exists in all corners of Hamilton according to your report ranging from 5 to 46 percent depending on the area. I have to imagine this is true as Hamilton is the city in the area with the services that these people need. I see this everyday and I do have experience with someone who was in need of services elsewhere. I devoted my time with this person learning about food banks, furniture banks and support groups, including churches who help support those in real need. There are many good people out there who help those in need. I will be looking to learn from them also.

Back to poverty, personally I would like to see some sort of universal dental care for those in need in the area who do not have insurance to cover such costs. Can we start some type of new program here in Hamilton, any ideas?

According to your report almost 50 Percent of your Family Shelter capacity is being used by families seeking asylum in Canada and you say is not sustainable with current funding. What is your capacity for Family Shelters? I will be seeking figures and facts when elected or if which I doubt.

Back to rental housing I see where your report states that those with the lowest incomes pay up to 69 percent in rent of their incomes. I will be seeking the back ground data on that and wanting to speak with these people that pay that amount.

There is one thing I wish to mention about affordability in Hamilton and quite frankly across Ontario and I know this is a provincial matter, but young people just starting out and whatever position they find

themselves in, how do they afford car insurance on top of everything else, I mean I hear 6 grand a year plus for car insurance, something is wrong if that figure is correct.

### **Modernizing the federal – Municipal Relationship**

It will be modernized if Hamilton Mountain elects me Richard Plett as their representative. I will seek out and listen to Hamilton City Council and work with you. You do represent everyone in Hamilton and you will be most important to me.

I will also be very transparent and open in where and what I spend my time doing and I will take my direction from Hamilton Mountain residents that would have elected me.

In your report you state that it would help to modernize the federal-municipal relationship if there was a permanent, predictable, direct federal investment in areas of core, long-term needs like housing and public transit and you added in addition, funding support would be more effective if there was more flexibility within funding programs to target local needs.

What are the specific local needs you are talking about?

### **New Funding Tools**

In this report you state that you have complete knowledge of local challenges and opportunities in the short, medium and long – terms.

I will be looking for specifics of that knowledge if elected.

You also state new funding tools must be long-term and predicable, so you can plan ahead, reduce waste and be flexible, so local expertise can identify what solutions come first and efficient and accountable for less bureaucracy and focus on outcomes.

That all sounds very good and everything, but I think we will have to be more of opportunists when it comes to funding. I will be spending my time searching and seeking funding for Hamilton projects and I will need your help in doing so. I will be relying on Hamilton Mountain residents as well as Hamilton City Council. I am very serious with the political system we currently have at the federal level nothing is really long term and predicable, we just have to work together the best we can to accomplish what common goals we can to try and make things better for the people we represent.

### **Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Support**

I would truly like to learn more what Hamilton City Council needs in the disaster mitigation and adaptation support of your report.

I will want to learn what you are investing in climate change adaptation projects.

As you can see, I read things and reports and ask questions. I get involved and I am more than willing to if elected which is very doubtful, but if I do, will you be willing to work with me on a real level?

**Predictable Transit Funding**

There is nothing predictable with the Federal Government. All I can assure you is I will do my best to seek out funding for transit needs for Hamilton.

Public transportation is the one issue that has surprised me the most in speaking with residents of Hamilton Mountain. I actually did not realize it was that much of an issue until I started listening to people. I have more listening to do in that regard and I will have to leave this issue very open at present. I will follow the direction of the residents of Hamilton Mountain.

I will tell you I have listened to concerns of driver safety and these are very serious and personal to the drivers and their family members. There is stress involved and fear for their personal safety of some I have spoken with.

I respectfully ask that Hamilton City Council not wait and look right away at the safety concerns of drivers that presently move people around Hamilton.

Safety of public service workers who interact with the public are definitely on my task to do list.

**Add – On**

Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Council I would just like to add I have spoken and listened to many Hamilton Mountain residents about much more than the 5 priorities listed in your report as I am sure you have also. Some of what we all hear is most sanding.

I would like to think we all really share the common goal of improving things for people that we represent or hope to represent. I will do so with you in good faith.

Mutatis mutandis,

Richard Plett

Hamilton Mountain

Rhinoceros Party

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**Foot-note**

Just for fun the first year I think we should let voters have a day to throw soft tomatoes at us.

Hard copies to follow: Mayor Fred Eisenberger, Councillors Tom Jackson, Maureen Wilson, Terry Whitehead, Jason Farr, Arlene VanderBeek, Brad Clark, John Paul Danko, Chad Collins, Sam Merulla, Nrinder Nann, Esther Pauls, Brenda Johnson, Judi Partridge, Maria Pearson and Lloyd Ferguson