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HOUSE OF COMMONS

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David Tilson

Member of Parliament for Dufferin-Caledon
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OTTAWA
November 30, 2009

The Honourable Laurel Broten, M.P.P.
Minister of Children and Youth Services
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2S3

COPY / COPIE

Dear Minister,

I am writing in reference to a copy of a November 9, 2009 letter you received from Mr. Emil Kolb, Chairman of the Region of Peel, regarding provincial funding of Peel's Childrens' Aid Society.

As a Member of Parliament representing a portion of the Region of Peel, I am very supportive of Chairman Kolb's position on this matter.

Sincerely,

David Tilson
David Tilson, Q.C., M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

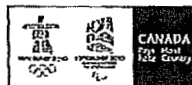
cc. Emil Kolb, Chair, Region of Peel
Janet Menard, Commissioner, Human Services

RECEIVED

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Dept. Of Human Services

| LEGISLATIVE SERVICES | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| COPY TO: | FOR: |
| Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee |
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| Corporate Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Council |
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| Employee and Business Services | <input type="checkbox"/> G.C. |
| Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> File |
| Human Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Peel Living | <input type="checkbox"/> |





Office of the Chair

November 9th, 2009

Mr. David Tilson
M.P. Dufferin - Caledon
229 Broadway Ave. Unit 2
Orangeville, ON
L9W 1K4

Dear Mr. Tilson,

On behalf of Peel Regional Council, I am writing you to express our extreme concern with regard to a funding decision made by the Province of Ontario that will continue to compound many of the child poverty issues currently being faced by Peel Region.

The province confirmed on August 5, 2009 that Peel's Children Aid Society (CAS) will receive \$47,087,839 which is a reduction of \$1.4 million from their 2008/2009 funding. This reduction will leave Peel's CAS \$2.1 million short of their expected necessary expenditures which may lead to a 14 percent cut in its workforce in the near term.

As you would already be aware, one of the greatest challenges we face here in Peel is child poverty. The child poverty level in Peel has been growing rapidly over the past several years and has reached a serious level of 22 per cent or 61,000 children. In all measures and markers, Peel's figures significantly exceed the provincial and national averages. At the current increase of over 1 per cent per year, a rate of increase much greater than any other area in the GTA, child poverty in Peel will reach a level of 25 per cent by 2011.

While we have made some great strides, along with community partners such as Peel CAS, in identifying and addressing some of the root causes and drivers of child poverty, funding losses such as those instituted by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services do nothing but further expose our youth to the perils of poverty such as increased illness, emotional and mental health issues and lower academic achievements.

On October 29, Regional Council took decisive action by bringing forward and passing two resolutions (encl.) highlighting the utmost importance of adequate and sustained levels of funding to Peel CAS. While recognizing that the province is working within extremely tight financial constraints, Regional Council is extremely concerned that Peel's CAS funding shortfall will prevent the agency from providing basic and essential services to children in need.

We urge you to join us in supporting your community in acting as a unified body to counteract social distress as well as to overcome the challenges arising from a very tight fiscal situation for all orders of government.

The Region of Peel has a proven track record of implementing innovative and timely programs, in a co-operative manner, that help to improve the lives of our citizens. We believe your support will strengthen the Region's efforts to work with the province to help reverse the current levels of poverty and all of its social, developmental, and health impacts. If you are amenable, my staff will work with your office in the coming weeks to coordinate a meeting to discuss Peel's specific poverty challenges.

We are insisting on your support in elevating issues surrounding Peel's child poverty rates, including Peel's CAS funding shortfall at the provincial level. It is Council's expectation that you write to Minister Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services, to stress the need for a solution to Peel's CAS funding shortfall and ensure that Peel CAS can provide the level of services that it is mandated. We respectfully request being copied on any correspondence sent to the Minister or CAS on this particular funding issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emil V. Kolb." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Emil V. Kolb
Regional Chair and C.E.O.

CC Janet Menard, Commissioner, Human Services
Minister Laurel Broten, Minister of Children and Youth Services