HS- D2-1

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

Minister

6th Floor
400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: (416) 325-6200
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Ministère des Affaires civiques et de l'Immigration

Ministre

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400, avenue University
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tél.: (416) 325-6200
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Ontario

Regional Municipality of Peel
Office of the Regional Chair
JUL 16 2010
RECEIVED

REFERRAL TO
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ✓

July 5, 2010

Emil V. Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton ON L6T 4B9

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) and its extension. I am pleased to hear about the successful initiatives the Region of Peel has developed with the help of COIA funding.

COIA was designed to create more collaboration between provincial and federal governments for the settlement and integration of newcomers in Ontario.

We are particularly pleased that the Municipal Annex in COIA has contributed not only to increased settlement funding to the Region of Peel, but also to successful initiatives such as the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG).

PNSG has conducted exemplary research on matters related to newcomers, and is recognized as a model for local planning initiatives. The launch of the report, Newcomer Settlement and Inclusion in Peel: Building on Existing Assets, on June 16 is an example of your innovative work. We look forward to what we can learn from the information coming out of the six working groups.

We are also pleased that PNSG operates as a Local Immigration Partnership. We strongly support the engagement of municipalities in immigration and selection, given their understanding of local economic and social issues. We will be seeking your input and guidance on matters related to immigration levels planning and issues around local planning.

We look forward to ongoing collaboration with our federal, municipal and community partners to improve the lives of newcomers, and in turn, all residents of the province.

Thank you again for writing to me about this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES			
COPY TO:		FOR:	
Chair	✓	✓ Committee	
CAO	✓	✓	
Corporate Services		Council	
Public Works			
Employee and Business Services Sept. 9/10		R.C.	
Health Services		File	
Human Services	✓	✓	
Peel Living			

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Office of the Chair

June 14, 2010

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism
Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
400 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

Dear Ministers:

On behalf of the Region of Peel, I would like to thank both of you for signing a one-year Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) extension. In the coming months we look forward to working with both orders of government to establish a long-term funding arrangement that continues to improve the lives of all newcomers choosing Ontario as their home.

Since 2004, Peel residents have greatly benefitted from settlement funding provided through COIA. With Peel's annual growth rate of 27,000 immigrants, we are pleased with your commitment to collaborate with local municipalities and other stakeholders in designing a new agreement.

By working with community partners such as the United Way of Peel, the Region has leveraged funds allocated through COIA to develop initiatives such as the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group (PNSG), established in 2007. The PNSG was established prior to the launch of the Local Immigration Partnership program that works towards ensuring the successful settlement and integration of immigrants into all aspects of community. Our partners around the PNSG table are anticipating that the continuation of this important model will be funded under the new program.

To build on its existing successes, the PNSG is currently prepared to begin the next steps of its long-term strategy. The next steps include identifying details of a comprehensive model and implementation strategy which address existing gaps in the services provided to immigrants coming to Peel.

In addition to PNSG, there have been a variety of other successful Regional initiatives funded through federal and provincial governments to help support newcomers to Peel, that include:

1. Development of a municipal immigration web portal – ImmigrationPeel.ca.

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2. Increased funding service provider agencies in Peel to expand delivery of settlement integration services.

3. Commissioned six discussion papers that provide knowledge on Peel's immigrant experiences, and provides recommendations on how the Region can further assist in their successful integration in Peel.

4. *Regional involvement* on COIA Committee's including:
   - COIA Municipal Immigration Committee
   - Settlement Working Group
   - Language Working Group

A long-term extension to COIA, would provide a sense of certainty to agencies which will help enable them to effectively integrate immigrants into our society. This is especially true in high growth areas like Peel where the additional funding is critical to bring services in line with the rest of the country

Thank you once again, for your efforts to extend COIA. We look forward to continuing to work with you both to find solutions that reach our collective goals of making a difference in the lives of all Ontario immigrants.

Please feel free to contact me at 905-791-7800 x4309 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

CC: Navdeep Singh Bains, MP, Mississauga-Brampton South
Bonnie Crombie, MP, Mississauga Streetsville
Bob Dechert, MP, Mississauga-Erindale
Ruby Dhalla, MP, Brampton-Springdale
Albina Guarnieri, MP, Mississauga East-Cooksville
Andrew Kania, MP, Brampton West
Gurbax Malhi, MP Brampton Gore/Malton/Springdale
Paul Szabo, MP, Mississauga South
David Tilson, MP, Dufferin-Caledon
Bob Delaney, MPP, Mississauga-Streetsville
Vic Dhillon, MPP, Brampton West
Peter Fonseca, MPP, Mississauga East-Cooksville
Linda Jeffrey, MPP, Brampton-Springdale
Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
Kuldip Kular, MPP, Bramalea-Gore-Malton
Amrit Mangat, MPP, Mississauga-Brampton South
Charles Sousa, MPP, Mississauga South
Harinder Takhar, MPP, Mississauga-Erindale