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Regional Municipality
of the Region of Peel
JUL 23 2010
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Mr. Emil V. Kolb
Regional Chair & C.E.O.
The Regional Municipality of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
Brampton ON L6T 4B9

Dear Mr. Kolb:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2010, addressed to the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, concerning the extension of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA). I apologize for the delay in responding.

We are also pleased that we were able to extend this agreement by an additional year and look forward to working with Ontario to improve outcomes for newcomers.

As your letter demonstrates, COIA has made it possible for organizations in Ontario to provide much needed services in communities such as yours to integrate newcomers into our economy and Canadian society. Building on the important accomplishments achieved to date under COIA, the Government of Canada will continue to work in partnership with the government of Ontario, local municipalities, settlement service provider organizations, and other stakeholders to make a real difference in the lives of Ontario immigrants.

Thank you for taking the time to write and share the successful local initiatives under way in the Regional Municipality of Peel.

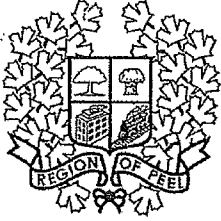
Sincerely,

N. Vizcaino
Ministerial Enquiries Division

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	Council
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Peel Living	

REFERRAL TO _____
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HS-D5-2



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.

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:
 - o COIA Municipal Immigration Committee
 - o Settlement Working Group
 - o 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