



Office of the Chair

September 26, 2008

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Room 281
Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Thank you for the letter updating us on the current status of your *Strong Ontario for a Strong Canada* campaign. The Region of Peel is pleased to lend our support to achieve fairness for Ontarians.

As you know, Peel Region is one of the largest and fastest growing communities in the country. To sustain the high quality of life our citizens have come to enjoy and expect, we need to work together to ensure the voices of the 12.9 million Ontarians, including 1.2 million Peel residents are heard and their needs are appropriately addressed.

On September 22, the Region's Government Relations Committee hosted a briefing session for federal election candidates in Peel's nine ridings. Candidates were presented with "*Strengthening Peel and all Municipalities: Working Together for a Stronger Canada*". The presentation provided candidates with information on the priority issues affecting residents of the Region including:

- Reducing poverty
- Affordable housing
- Immigration
- Employment insurance
- Health care

The briefing session was also an important step for us in the relationship we wish to build with the next federal government. We are also writing to each of the federal political party leaders to advise them of our positions. Two of our proposals specifically speak to your campaign to address the need for equity for our unemployed workers and for our citizens requiring health care. A third proposal addresses the need for stronger immigrant settlement support and professional recognition. We view these as key investments for staving off rising poverty in our community and for strengthening our economy, currently being affected by the international economic downturn. (About 40 per cent of Peel's economy is based in manufacturing and trade).

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We are pleased to share with you the presentation along with additional election material available on our website at www.peelregion.ca. After September 29, we will also be posting candidates' responses to a questionnaire distributed at the session.

For further information, please contact Sandra Sharpe, Chairman's Office, at 905-791-7800, ext. 4309.

In closing, we would just add that we are committed to working together to ensure the continued success this great country depends on.

Sincerely,



Emil V. Kolb, Regional Chair

Encl.

CC. Members of Peel Regional Council
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Leader of the National Liberal Party
Mr. Jack Layton, Leader of the National New Democratic Party
Ms. Elizabeth May, Leader of the National Green Party
2008 Federal Election Candidates, Peel Region Ridings
Ms. Deborah Dubenofsky, City Manager, City of Brampton
Ms. Janice Baker, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Mississauga
Doug Barnes, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Caledon
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
United Way of Peel Region
Fair Share for Peel Task Force
Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy Committee
Peel District School Board
Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council
Brampton Board of Trade
Mississauga Board of Trade
Caledon Chamber of Commerce
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Ontario Chamber of Commerce