

**ANDREA HORWATH**

LEADER OF ONTARIO'S NDP CHEF DU NPD DE L'ONTARIO

August 27, 2012

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

Dear Premier and Minister:

RE: Hamilton Casino

The City of Hamilton is currently in discussions with OLG officials regarding proposals for a casino. Confidential talks between City and OLG officials skirt our democratic process and should cease immediately.

I urge you to direct OLG officials to discontinue any further private meetings with city officials and to allow the City of Hamilton the time required to engage fully with residents to ensure Hamiltonians' input regarding a casino is heard and considered.

It is important we take into account a casino's impact on problem gamblers, traffic and noise concerns and the fact that dollars spent at a casino may very well be a dollar not spent at other Hamilton attractions.

I believe that a transparent process including a referendum is the best way forward and is what the people of Hamilton – and in fact all Ontarians in any community across our province – deserve. I urge you to proceed with a referendum process before further consideration is given to a Hamilton area casino.

Sincerely,



Andrea Horwath, MPP
Hamilton Centre

CC: Mayor Bob Bratina and Hamilton City Council

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