

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

La première ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



May 28, 2013

His Worship R. (Bob) Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
Second Floor, 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for your letter and sharing council's resolution about the interest arbitration system in Ontario. The input of our municipal leaders is always welcome and appreciated.

While developing solutions for the interest arbitration system, we listened to the concerns of municipalities and labour organizations across the province.

The interest arbitration provisions in the 2012 Budget would have provided a focused and balanced package of reforms. These reforms would have increased accountability, transparency and timeliness within the interest arbitration system. With these reforms, we had hoped to build a sustainable model for wage negotiations that was respectful of collective bargaining, as well as a fair and transparent interest arbitration process. Unfortunately, they failed to pass with the budget and pushed back the cause of interest arbitration reform.

We are currently looking at possible improvements and reforms to the interest arbitration system that will receive greater support and consensus. This consensus is needed so that when we bring forward interest arbitration legislation again, these vital reforms are not again stalled. Our government remains committed to continuing to work on addressing these concerns.

As my colleague the Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour, would also be interested in this issue, I have passed along a copy of your letter to him for his information. I trust that he will also give your comments his careful consideration.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Yasir Naqvi

