## Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games

Ministre responsable des Jeux panaméricains et parapanaméricains de 2015

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August 19, 2015

Mayor Eisenberger City of Hamilton 71 Main Street West Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your indispensable contributions to the success of the TORONTO 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games.

The Games were a unique opportunity to shine the spotlight on the best of our province. The City of Hamilton put its best foot forward in hosting visitors from across the hemisphere and welcoming your fellow Ontarians. You, your fellow council members, dedicated municipal staff and enthusiastic residents can all be proud of showcasing your community on the world stage.

This was a summer of unprecedented sporting excellence for Canadian athletes and a festival of pride and celebration for Ontario. Team Canada finished second overall in the Pan American Games, with 217 medals, and also finished second in the Parapan American Games, with 168 medals - its most successful Pan American and Parapan American Games ever.

More than 1.1 million event tickets were sold and fans across Ontario and Canada cheered on our amazing athletes to new heights of achievement. Tens of thousands of visitors joined Ontarians who attended celebrations and participated in these Games in so many creative, fun and inspiring ways. Residents of the participating municipalities embraced the Games experience, taking part as Games torchbearers or as one of the more than 23,000 volunteers who welcomed over 10,000 athletes and officials from the Caribbean and the Americas.

The legacy of these Games goes beyond the new and revitalized sport and recreation infrastructure, improved accessibility and community programs: it's in the pride we can all share in delivering an unforgettable celebration of sport and culture. It's in showing the world the best of Canadian hospitality, diversity and unity, in bringing the world to Canada and Canada to the world.

Expectations for the TORONTO 2015 Games – the largest international multi-sport games ever held in Canada – were always high. Hosting an international event of this scale presented challenges and hurdles to clear on the path to success. I look back with great pride at what we have achieved, and it was a great pleasure to collaborate with the City of Hamilton in bringing the Games to Ontario.

Thank you again for helping to make the TORONTO 2015 Games such a spectacular success.

Sincerely

Michael Coteau

Minister

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