

NOV 2 2 2018

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

**Ministère des Services à
l'enfance et des Services
sociaux et communautaires**

Minister's Office

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NOV 13 2018

His Worship Fred Eisenberger, Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I recently received a letter from Ms. Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator in the Office of the City Clerk for the City of Hamilton, in which she shared a letter that you sent to a previous Minister of Community and Social Services in December 2017 regarding income security and social assistance. I am pleased to have the opportunity to respond now.

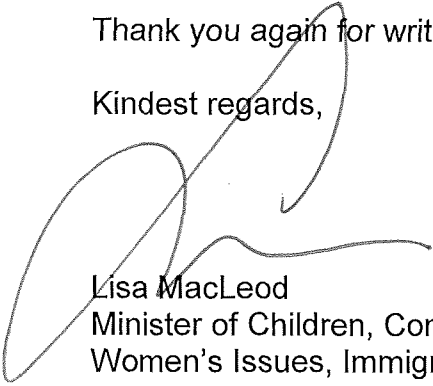
On July 31 this government announced an accelerated 100-day deadline to develop a sustainable social assistance program that focuses on helping people lift themselves out of poverty, re-enter the workforce and get back on track. One in seven people in Ontario are living in poverty, and that is why we have decided that we need a better system across all ministries to support those who are living in vulnerable circumstances. Our plan for social assistance reform and poverty reduction, which is expected in November, will replace the previous government's patchwork system with one that helps stabilize people in need and support them to succeed.

As you may be aware, on September 12, I sent a letter to Mr. Chris Murray, City Manager for the City of Hamilton (enclosed) in which I asked that he share his additional advice or ideas about how we can improve Ontario's social assistance system. Your previous correspondence will be taken into consideration, and I also look forward to receiving any further input that you or he may have as we continue with our work.

.../cont'd

Thank you again for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa MacLeod', written over the typed name and title.

Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Women's Issues, Immigration and Poverty Reduction

c: Chris Murray, City Manager, City of Hamilton
Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk

Enclosure

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September 12, 2018

Mr. Chris Murray, City Manager
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Murray:

Our government is taking action to reform Ontario's social safety net with a focus on helping people get back to work and get their lives back on track. Ontario's municipalities have a critical interest and, in many cases an important role in ensuring people across the province have access to social assistance and other supports when they are in need.

I know that municipalities across the province have provided valuable advice on how the province can change the system for the better. We do not want to duplicate that work. We will make sure to consider that input and advice as we develop our plan.

We also know that there may be other ideas or innovative solutions you have not shared that will improve how we deliver services, reduce administration, remove red tape and focus on achieving better outcomes for people.

We share a responsibility to do better for people in need and to be more efficient with the services we deliver. If you have any further advice or ideas to share, please forward it to MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca. Given our accelerated 100 day target, we ask for your advice and ideas to be kept high level (i.e., 1-2 pages) at this time.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to partner together to strengthen social assistance and related supports for the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Lisa MacLeod
Minister

- c. Janet Menard, Deputy Minister
- Richard Steele, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Assistance Operations Division
- Aki Tefera, Assistant Deputy Minister, Social Policy Development Division