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Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

March 7, 2019

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Hamilton City Councillors
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

To Mayor Fred Eisenberger & Members of Hamilton City Council,

Hamilton families are shocked by the recently uncovered 2013 friction test report, which throws into question the safety of the Red Hill Valley expressway since its opening. Families who lost loved ones on this dangerous roadway deserve answers about these buried safety concerns, and all Hamiltonians need assurances that this will never happen again. A judicial inquiry can shed light into the many years of what Hamiltonians see as questionable claims about the safety of this roadway and finally bring justice, and some closure, for families who lost loved ones.

Last week, we met with the families of Jordyn Hastings and Olivia Smosarski – two young women who tragically lost their lives on expressway in 2015. We were struck by the unity and the strength of these families in the face of tremendous anguish and grief. For the past four years, they worked tirelessly to improve the safety of the Red Hill Valley and the Lincoln Alexander Parkways by pushing for changes like median barriers and lower speed limits. Between 2012 and 2015, there were 668 vehicle accidents on the Red Hill Valley Parkway, with too many people losing their lives or suffering severe injuries because of this dangerous roadway. The Hastings, Smosarskis, and so many others have channeled their grief and pushed for safer conditions along the expressway so that no family has to experience a loss like they have.

We need to do right by all families that have suffered loss or injuries by uncovering the truth about what led to the buried friction test report and years of questionable claims about the safety of the Red Hill Valley Parkway. As elected MPPs for the Hamilton area, we urge that you do the right thing and open the review of these circumstances to a judicial inquiry.

Signed on behalf of all Hamilton area NDP MPPs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea Horwath".

Andrea Horwath,
MPP, Hamilton Centre
Ontario NDP Leader