

To Mayor Bob Bratina and Hamilton City Councillors Feb. 22, 2011

I am Dr. Tom Nugent, I am following the actions of the Mayor and Hamilton City Councillors carefully to make sure that they focus on the creation of private sector jobs as their # 1 (ONE) Priority. The neglect by previous mayors and councillors to do so means we now have unacceptable poverty rates and crippling welfare costs in Hamilton. It is misleading to state that Hamilton is a great place to raise a child if his or her guardian cannot find a job and can barely afford the basic needs of that child. At present a child who is raised in Hamilton with a good work ethic, education or trade skill, often has to look else where for career or job opportunities. During the last financial boom in the business cycle, Hamilton was left sitting on the sidelines without sufficient serviced land with good highway access. This resulted in the loss of many businesses and thousands of jobs from Hamilton as well as a failure to attract new ones. Unless a drastic change in thinking occurs at City Hall we will face a repeat of this during the next financial boom.

Also both social and environmental activists in this city need to take a more balance approach towards projects that produce jobs and lower poverty. They should not block projects on the basis of an all or nothing ideology. Instead they should be seeking reasonable modifications of these projects which while considering nature, also provide the opportunities necessary to earn a living.

To attract business, jobs and make Hamilton a good place to raise a child our new Mayor and Councillors must make the tough business decisions to fund Capital projects that will actually make a difference and produce a visible change in Hamilton. Council must start listening to people with experience in the competitive world of private sector business to determine which projects are financially feasible by using competitive cost analysis. This was well demonstrated when a member of Hamilton Council used his private sector business experience to expose padding of the cost of Ivor Wynne Stadium by an agency of the provincial government.

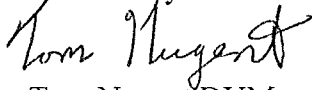
As I outlined in two recent letters to the Mayor and City Councillors there are 3 capital projects that are of up-most importance to the City of Hamilton. The first is the servicing of the Airport Employment lands which should be the # 1 priority in the 2011 capital budget to attract business and jobs to Hamilton. It is logical and pertinent to reserve enough land for the 30,000 plus jobs predicted to be created in this area in the future. Drawing on my background and long term experience in business and farming, I feel that modern planning allows us to create a balance between nature and the needs of man. The Airport Employment Lands will use a few hundred acres of common farm land to provide thousands of jobs for our residents now and in the future. This will be off set by the millions of acres of similar farm land that many farmers have difficulty making a living on. It is estimated by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that it requires approximately 1500 acres of this type of farm land for a single farm family to make a living on. Also CFA statistics also show that up to 75% of farmers rely on themselves or their spouse having a job off the farm in order to keep farming. Airport Employment Lands would provide jobs for people in Urban as well as Rural Hamilton who need extra income to support a small or medium size farm. As more and more farms fail, the land is

frequently purchased by Large Corporate Farms who often care less for the land, but have greater power over the supply and cost of food to the public. To achieve a balance it is reasonable and necessary to use a very small percentage of this type of land to create thousands of jobs. Therefore I feel it is crucial that Council provide the necessary capital funding to service the first phase of the Airport Employment Lands as soon as possible.

The second major consideration to compliment the new economic engine in Hamilton is LRT, I feel that a very stronger business argument can be made for the North- South LRT Line joining the Airport , Airport Museum, Airport Employment Lands, Red Hill Employment Lands, Mohawk College, City Core, MacMaster University, MacMaster Innovation Center and The West Harbour . The North-South “A” Line should be built first as it would generate much more economic activity and have a Ridership less likely to require subsidization by the overburdened taxpayers of Hamilton. The East-West Corridor should have improved affordable bus service until LRT is warranted based on business expertise not on politics and nostalgia. Also a North- South Line would physically join the upper and lower city together. To build the East-West Line first would divide the city even further and provide additional support for area rating of taxes.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final part of the Airport Employment Lands is the Mid Pen Hwy. This is a transportation corridor that would connect Hamilton Airport and Red Hill Employment Lands with the US and a population of 340 million customers. The Mid Pen Hwy would give direct highway excess to “Hamilton’s Future Economic Nucleus”. The Mid Pen Highway is vital to restoring Ontario from a “Have Not Province” to an “Economic Engine” again. When the McGuinty Liberal Government pulled the plug on the Mid Pen Hwy it also pulled the plug on infrastructure vital to the economic recovery of Hamilton. Therefore City Council should demand that the Province reinstate the Mid Pen Highway. The return of Hamilton to a prosperous, self reliant, proud city is a bigger concern than the renovations to a football stadium. The people of Hamilton elected their Mayor and Council to make actual significant changes to produce jobs and reduce poverty. Now is the time to deliver on the trust placed in them.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Tom Nugent DVM

cc. Richard Koroscil, Guy Paparella, John Dolbec, Hamilton-Halton Home Builders Association, Realtors Association of Hamilton-Burlington, Jill Stephen, Bruce McGuaig, Rob MacIsaac, Patrick Dean, Art Zuidema, Mike Kovacevic, Senator David Braley, Ron Foxcroft, Ron Joyce, Michael Degroot, Charles Juravinski, Teresa Casioli, Henry Jasik, Loius Bitioti, Mimi Singh, Larrey Clay, Rose Catarini, Chris Murray, Tim MaCabe, Steve Robichard, Bill Janssen, Joanne Hickey-Evans, Al Fletcher, Michelle Sergi, Cathy Plosz, Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Hon. Chuck Strahl MP, Jim Flaherty MP, Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Yasir Naqvi MPP, Hon Sophia Aggelonitis, Ted McMeekin MPP, Hon. Rick Bartolucci MPP, Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Tim Hudak, Andrea Howarth MPP, Bill Kelly