

**Ministry of Community
and Social Services**

Minister's Office
Hepburn Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1E9
Tel.: (416) 325-5225

**Ministère des Services
sociaux et communautaires**

Bureau du Ministre
Édifce Hepburn
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1E9
Tél.: (416) 325-5225



MAY 22 2012

His Worship Bob Bratina
Mayor
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina:

Thank you for forwarding a copy of the City of Hamilton's response to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario's second discussion paper. Premier Dalton McGuinty also forwarded a copy of your letter to me. I appreciate the time you have taken to share this information.

Our government is always looking for ways to improve our programs to better support clients. The Premier has proposed raising social assistance rates once again this year. This will be the eighth increase made to the rates since 2005, bringing the total increase to 14.9 per cent.

Our government will also be maintaining other improvements to the system. This shows our continued commitment to ensuring that the social assistance system is there for those who need it.

We know there is more work to be done, and that is why we appointed the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance to undertake the most comprehensive review of the system in 20 years. We look forward to receiving their recommendations in June for consideration.

Our government is taking strong action to build a strong economy that creates jobs, promotes growth and productivity, supports key public services and provides a great quality of life for Ontario families.

.../cont'd

Together, we can continue to make progress.

Once again, I appreciate the time you have taken to share this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Milloy', written in a cursive style.

John Milloy
Minister

c: Premier Dalton McGuinty
The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities

March 29, 2012

File #C12-007

The Right Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable John Milloy
Minister of Community and Social Services
6th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario
2 Bloor Street West
4th Floor, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M4W 3E2

Dear Sirs:

Please be advised that at its meeting on March 28, 2012, Hamilton City Council approved Item 4 of the Emergency and Community Services Report 12-003 as follows:

4. **City of Hamilton's Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario (CS11081(a)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)**
 - (a) That Report CS11081(a) respecting City of Hamilton's Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario, be received;
 - (b) That the City of Hamilton Submission to the Commission for the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario – Approaches for Reform, hereto attached as Appendix "A" be endorsed;
 - (c) That the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction Submission to the Commission for Review of Social Assistance in Ontario – Approaches for Reform, hereto attached as Appendix "B" be endorsed; and,
 - (d) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Commissioners of the

Social Assistance Review; with copies to all local Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting:

- (i) The immediate establishment of an Ontario Social Assistance Rates Board to set evidence-based annual social assistance rates that will meet basic living costs, including the cost of nutritious food, and allow individuals and families to live with dignity; and,
 - (ii) Introduce a \$100 monthly mandatory Healthy Food Supplement for those receiving social assistance in the 2012 Provincial Budget.
- (e) That the written submissions from the delegations at the March 19, 2012 Emergency and Community Services Committee who spoke to the issue of the Review of Social Assistance in Ontario be received and copies, hereto attached as Appendix "C" be forwarded with the aforementioned Mayor's correspondence to the Premier, the Minister of Community and Social Services, and the Commissioners for further information and review.
- (f) That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Commissioners of the Social Assistance Review; with copies to all local Members of Provincial Parliament, requesting that as part of the Social Assistance Review, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities be requested to regulate and accredit "degree," "diploma," and "certificates" offered by Private Career Colleges to ensure that vulnerable low income citizens receive a quality education which is recognized by employers and that outcomes of referrals and payment for these programs be monitored for effectiveness.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated. We would ask that you reference File # C12-007 when responding to this correspondence. In addition to the attachments outlined in the resolution, a copy of the staff report is also attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Bob Bratina
Mayor