February 20, 2018

The Honourable Daiene Vernile
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Vernile:

At its meeting of February 14, 2018, Hamilton City Council approved Item 4.2, which reads as follows:

7.2 Provincial Library Funding

WHEREAS, public libraries support the goals of the Province of Ontario Culture Strategy to promote cultural engagement and inclusion, strengthen culture in communities, fuel the creative economy, and promote the value of the arts;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library is a source of pride in the community, contributing to social and cultural well-being by providing safe, inclusive, and vibrant community spaces where everyone is welcome to learn, work, connect, and have fun;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to seek funding opportunities through grant programs, donor development and community support;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to manage resources with the utmost care and is committed to the sustainability of its services;

WHEREAS, the Hamilton Public Library continues to have a limited operating budget which is 94% funded by the City of Hamilton; and,

WHEREAS, the annual provincial operating grant received by the Hamilton Public Library has remained fixed at $949,451 per year since amalgamation, while consumer price inflation has increased by more than 35% during this time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:
(a) That the Mayor correspond with the Honourable Daiene Vernile, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, to urge the Province to recognize the contribution of public libraries within their communities by:

(i) Ceasing the budget freeze to public libraries, in acknowledgement to the services they offer to all residents; and,

(ii) Providing adequate and appropriate funding for public libraries, with increases each year going forward, in line with the consumer price index; and,

(b) That a copy of the Council approved resolution be sent to the to the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs, to local MPs and MPPs, to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to the Ontario Library Association, and to the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

We respectfully request your serious consideration respecting this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

Copied: The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Filomena Tassi, M.P., Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough – Aldershot
David Christopherson, M.P., Hamilton Centre
Scott Duvall, M.P., Hamilton Mountain
Bob Bratina, M.P., Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
Andrea Horwath, M.P.P., Hamilton Centre
Monique Taylor, M.P.P., Hamilton Mountain
Paul Miller, M.P.P., Hamilton East – Stoney Creek
Sam Oosterhoff, M.P.P., Niagara West – Glanbrook
Ted McMeekin, M.P.P., Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough – Aldershot
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Library Association
Federation of Ontario Public Libraries