



City of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main Street West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5  
www.hamilton.ca

Hamilton

July 9, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

The Hon. Doug Ford,  
Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office  
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's  
Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Request for Financial Assistance for the City of Hamilton**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford:

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery for the City of Hamilton. The Task Force, an initiative of Hamilton City Council, is comprised of 28 individuals representing all sectors of Hamilton's economy. It was established to help formulate both short- and long-term plans for Hamilton's economy to navigate through the impacts the pandemic.

The Task Force has learned that in the first four months of the pandemic, the City of Hamilton has experienced a budgetary shortfall of approximately \$60 million. Depending upon when the pandemic subsides, this may rise to upwards of \$120 million.

Prior to the pandemic, Hamilton's economy was one of the fastest growing in the nation. However, not everyone in Hamilton has benefited from this this economic growth. Hamilton's economy faces significant challenges. For example:

- The scourge of poverty persists in many seen in many places across the city. Sadly, Hamilton has one of the highest rates of childhood poverty in Canada.
- Hamilton is welcoming to refugees from other countries but that growing segment of our population is supported by badly-needed government assistance.
- Social programs, children's services, public health, long-term care and paramedic services have continuously been downloaded to the municipality and for far too long been supported by the residential tax base.

Given these challenges, among others, Hamilton cannot afford the staggering deficit it is now facing due to the pandemic.

The Task Force is cognizant that the City of Hamilton has laboured intensely to contain costs, find new revenue streams and reduce services in order to remain fiscally responsible. But it is quite clear putting this economy back together cannot be the role of the City of Hamilton alone.

That is why the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery calls on you to provide the financial assistance needed to stave off a fiscal crisis in Hamilton. Without this critical funding from both the Provincial and Federal governments, the City of Hamilton will have no choice but to cut vital services, keep facilities closed and ask for all taxpayers to pay a financial toll that so many in our community simply cannot pay. If this were to occur, it would exacerbate our existing problems and hinder the local, provincial, and Canada-wide recovery that we all desire.

The Task Force is appreciative of the leadership that both the provincial and federal governments have provided, and the steps taken so far to mitigate the effect of the pandemic. We ask that you not allow all these efforts go to waste by allowing our municipal government to spiral into a financial crisis that will only hurt the most vulnerable among us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron J. McKerlie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron J. McKerlie, Chair  
Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery

cc: Hon. Filomena Tassi, Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas  
Mr. Scott Duvall, Hamilton Mountain  
Mr. Bob Bratina, Hamilton East—Stoney Creek  
Mr. Matthew Green, Hamilton Centre  
Ms. Andrea Horwath, M.P.P., Hamilton Centre  
Ms. Monique Taylor, M.P.P., Hamilton Mountain  
Mr. Paul Miller, M.P.P., Hamilton East-Stoney Creek  
Ms. Donna Skelly, M.P.P., Flamborough-Glanbrook  
Ms. Sandy Shaw, M.P.P., Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas