



February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The Ontario Trillium Foundation  
45 Charles Street East, 5th Floor  
Toronto ON, M4Y 1S2

Dear Grant Review Team,

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the Age-Friendly Cities proposal of the Hamilton Council On Aging.

According to United Nations estimates, the number of older persons (60+) will double from the current 600 million to 1.2 billion by 2025, and again, to 2 billion by 2050. For the first time in history, there will be more seniors than children. Demographers predict that by 2031 almost 25 percent of Canadians will be over sixty-five. The vast majority of older people live in their homes and communities, but in environments that have not been designed with their needs and capacities in mind. (*Public Health Agency of Canada-Global Age Friendly Cities Project.*)

This situation presents challenges; but more importantly, from the Chamber's point of view, it also offers opportunities for communities that are smart enough to plan ahead.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, as the voice of ethical enterprise, is committed to making the City of Hamilton and all of its communities a great place to live, work, play, visit, and invest, by promoting growth and prosperity of individuals, organizations, and businesses. The Chamber is the oldest, largest, and most broadly based business organization extent within the Hamilton economic region. Today, we comprise 1,900 members representing 1,150 Companies and organizations that collectively employ 75,000 people full time from all parts of the City of Hamilton, indeed, and beyond.

Working in collaboration with other parts of the community to make Hamilton an Age-Friendly City is not only totally consistent with the Chamber's mission, but aligns perfectly with our strategic goals. Specifically: *To act as the "Voice of Hamilton Business" through advocacy with the three levels of government and the public media, giving special attention to Municipal affairs on the monitoring of public policy and community development matters and thereby promote and support Economic Development opportunities that will encourage business investment, attract new business, create jobs and provide the foundation for a sustainable and vibrant business community.*

At the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, we see enormous opportunities for business to anticipate and respond to the needs of our changing population, creating new goods and services to meet community needs. Having business in at the start of the age-friendly process will allow business to shape that response as we learn from others around the table and around the world.

In the few years since its formation, the Hamilton Council On Aging has demonstrated its ability to bring together different parts of the community to make concrete improvements in services for seniors. We are confident that they can provide the leadership required to help Hamilton become an Age-Friendly City. Please consider supporting this proposal.

Sincerely,

Tyler MacLeod  
President, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

cc HCOA  
Aurelia Tokaci, Chair, and all members of the Chambers' Community Development Committee.