Ontario
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Dear Heads of Council,

I am writing to you regarding my recent speech at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's annual conference, where I announced that an Ontario PC government will reform Ontario's joint and several liability system.

The Ontario PCs recognize that the provincial government must be a partner with municipalities. Together we can be Canada's driving economic engine – a home to job creation. Yet under the Liberals, municipalities and taxpayers are paying more and getting less.

One clear example of this is the issue of joint and several liability. As you know, municipalities can be on the hook for massive damage settlements, even if they are only found minimally liable. This has resulted in spiraling municipal insurance premiums, which often forces municipalities to raise taxes or cut services and recreational activities. Municipalities and taxpayers are paying more and getting less.

Action is long overdue. The Ontario PCs know this – we have raised this issue in the Legislature for years – and we will fix it.

An Ontario PC government will introduce legislation to reform joint and several liability for municipalities. We will ensure that municipalities and taxpayers are protected from unfair and unaffordable litigation practices. We will do so in a way that protects victims and ensures they are fairly compensated.

There are many options for reform. We are committed to consulting with relevant stakeholders, including our municipalities, to ensure we reform the system in a way that is fair to municipalities, victims, and taxpayers.

This is just one of many steps we will take to make life more affordable in Ontario. Ontario's municipalities will be a respected voice under an Ontario PC government, and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown
Leader of the Official Opposition