



# The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

Anglican Church of Canada

The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird, Bishop

January 30, 2013

Re: Downtown Casino

Dear Mayor Bratina and Members of Council:

We write to you on behalf of the Anglican congregations in Hamilton to express our grave concerns to you about the possibility of a casino being located in downtown Hamilton.

As you are well aware, the downtown neighbourhoods face significant challenges as the Code Red Series published by the Hamilton Spectator has clearly demonstrated. While some inroads have been made towards addressing these issues, we believe that locating a casino in this area of our city will be a significant setback for our community.

In many ways it seems that locating a casino in the city's downtown would counter the City's own mission statement to "be a healthy, safe and prosperous community." A review of the literature commissioned by the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction concludes, "Hamilton's low income households are likely to bear significant social, economic, and other costs should a casino be built downtown."

The members of our congregations envision neighbourhoods of wholeness, prosperity, and justice. Guided by this vision, and through our many community activities, we are striving to do our part to make our city truly the "best place in Canada to raise a child." We ask that you do your part too by ensuring that a casino is not located downtown Hamilton.

Sincerely,

The Venerable Jim Sandilands  
Archdeacon of Mohawk

The Venerable Rick Jones  
Archdeacon of Undermount

The Very Reverend Peter Wall  
Dean & Cathedral Rector

With support of the Anglican Churches of Hamilton:

St. Alban the Martyr, Hamilton

All Saints, Hamilton

The Church of the Ascension, Hamilton

Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton

St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton

St. Luke's and St. Gabriel, Hamilton

The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer, Stoney Creek

St. John the Evangelist, Winona

St. Paul's (Westdale), Hamilton

St. John's, Ancaster

St. James, Dundas

Christ Church, Flamborough

St. Paul's, Mount Hope

Holy Trinity, Hamilton

Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

St. Michael's, Hamilton

St. Stephen on the Mount, Hamilton

Christ Church, Hannon