



Pan-Orthodox Association of Greater Hamilton

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. - Psalm 133.1

January 28, 2013

MAILING ADDRESS

c/o 10 Princip Street
Hamilton, Ontario
L8W 2M3

EXECUTIVE

President

Father William Makarenko

Vice President

Mr. George Donison

General Secretary

Father Geoffrey Korz

Treasurer

Mr. Maurice Klem

MEMBER CHURCHES

All Saints of North America
Orthodox Church

Father Geoffrey Korz

Holy Resurrection Romanian
Orthodox Church

Father Lucian Puscariu

St Demetrius Greek
Orthodox Church

Father Demetrios Giannion

St Nicholas Serbian
Orthodox Cathedral

Father Vojislav Pavlovic

St Nicholas Serbian
Orthodox Church

Father Lazar Vukojevic

Father Djuro Samac

Father Stevo Stojanovic

Our Lady of Glastonbury
Orthodox Church

(Western Rite - Russian
Orthodox Church Abroad)

Father James Deschene

Panagia Greek Orthodox Church

Father Theologos Drakos

Prophet Elias Greek
Orthodox Church (Brantford)

Father Constantine Marinos

St Vladimir's Ukrainian
Orthodox Church

Father William Makarenko

Mayor & Council

City of Hamilton

c/o Hamilton City Hall

Dear Mister Mayor & Members of Council:

Greetings with the New Year.

RE: Casino Deliberations - City of Hamilton

On behalf of the 20,000 Orthodox Christian faithful who live in Greater Hamilton - including Serbs, Greeks, Ukrainians, Russians, Romanians, and many others - we are writing to implore you to reject any decision which would bring a casino to Hamilton, particularly to the downtown core.

Increased Pastoral Burden on Churches

Firstly, as a faith community, our parishes have a vested interest in the spiritual and personal well-being of our City, and also share the burdens of increased social care and economic needs that arise out of gambling in the community. It would be a tragedy if our Council were to dive headlong into initiating a local casino, which would only add to this burden.

Experience With the Impact of Gambling

Secondly, many families within our communities come from former communist countries, such as Ukraine, Serbia, Greece, and Romania, and have felt first hand the impact that addictions including gambling have had on the quality of daily life in the community. On their behalf, we would submit to you that, in the experience of hundreds of our faithful, our community can do without repeating these tragedies of daily life.

Real Jobs - Not "McJobs"

Thirdly, members of our faith communities have for the most part made their way to Hamilton to benefit from work in our prosperous community. The vast majority of our families contributed decades of work to Hamilton's steel industry. Councillors are well aware that the majority of

...2

jobs that would be derived from a casino would be underpaid, part-time service work. We would ask: is this kind of "McJob" the basis for a promising future for the people of Hamilton, or its reputation as a city?

We pray that you as a Council will be granted wisdom in your deliberations, and hope that your decision will be one which you will be proud to share with our faithful and other Hamiltonians come the next municipal election.

The Lord's blessing,

Fr W. Makarenko+

Father William Makarenko+
President

Father Geoffrey Korz+

Father Geoffrey Korz+
General Secretary