

JOHN R. O'OOLE, M.P.P.
DURHAM

August 3, 2004

The Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Toronto ON M7A 1A4

Dear Premier McGuinty:

Today I met with a group known as VOCO (Voices of Central Ontario). They visited my Constituency Office as part of their "Red Casket Relay" which is to draw attention to the "death of democracy" in general and, more specifically, to the de-amalgamation referendum of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

I have enclosed a copy of some highlights of the VOCO position on de-amalgamation. These have been shared with each of the Durham Region MPPs. The VOCO representatives quote from a February 2002 written promise you made as Leader of the Opposition. It states: "I have committed that a Liberal government will ensure a binding referendum is held to allow local citizens to determine whether or not to dismantle the amalgamated city." As you will know, the binding referendum held last November favoured de-amalgamation.

Promises made must be kept. Politicians need to be held accountable. We often wonder why there is so much voter apathy. The solution is not to make promises that can't be kept. This high standard has no ideological bias and should be expected of everyone who serves the public.

Premier, I respectfully request that you respond to the Voices of Central Ontario (VOCO) and either make good on your commitment to accept the results of the referendum or give reasons (acceptable to those who support de-amalgamation) on why your commitment cannot be kept. The citizens deserve an answer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

John O'Toole, MPP
Durham

Encl.

cc. Mr. John Panter, Voices of Central Ontario
The Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing