



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

**Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa**

110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1
Tel.: (613) 580-2496
Fax: (613) 580-2509
E-mail: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

**Bureau du maire
Ville d'Ottawa**

110, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
Tél. : (613) 580-2496
Télééc. : (613) 580-2509
Courriel : Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

September 10, 2012

Honourable Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Labour
Minister's Office
14th Floor
400 University Ave
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

Dear Minister Jeffrey,

On behalf of the City of Ottawa, I wanted to thank you for meeting with my colleagues, Councillors Eli El-Chantiry and Keith Egli, as part of the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference. We appreciated the opportunity to voice our concerns, shared by many in the municipal sector, about the rising cost of compensation for emergency services personnel and the impact, both locally and provincially, of the current interest arbitration system.

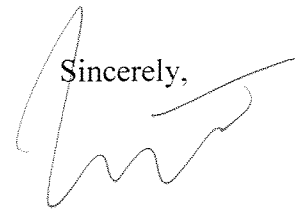
The City of Ottawa firmly believes that, in keeping with the recommendations made by Mr. Drummond and the other members of the Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services, structural changes to the interest arbitration system for emergency services are necessary if we are to reign in the increasing cost of compensating police and fire fighters.

We believe that further consideration needs to be given to the Drummond Commission call for an independent panel of arbitrators. This would represent a successful recognition of the collective efforts of municipalities, as reflected in the work of groups like the Emergency Services Steering Committee of the Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO) and Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO).

The City of Ottawa is committed to finding ways to control compensation costs, both on its own and as part of the MARCO/LUMCO Committee. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with you and your Provincial Government colleagues to ensure that we can afford to maintain those critical services on which the residents of Ottawa and the rest of Ontario rely.

Thank you, once again, for meeting with the City of Ottawa and for the opportunity to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Jim Watson

Mayor
City of Ottawa

JW/gy

Cc. Councillor Eli El-Chantiry, City of Ottawa
Councillor Keith Egli, City of Ottawa
Mr. Kent Kirkpatrick, City Manager, City of Ottawa
Mr. Rick O'Connor, Clerk and City Solicitor, City of Ottawa
Mr. David White, Manager, Litigation and Labour Relations, City of Ottawa