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December 22, 2005

Mr. John Bedell
Treasurer
OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs)
c/o Community Living North Halton
725 Main Street East
Milton, ON L9T 3Z3

Dear Mr. Bedell:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the Toronto pre-budget discussion on December 14, 2005.

As you know, Ontario, with its economic diversity and growing, highly-educated population, is well positioned to manage the challenges and opportunities ahead. However, the government must continue to manage its finances prudently.

Through the pre-budget consultation process, I have the chance to hear your views regarding what more the government can do to ensure a productive economy and better services for people, while maintaining the plan to eliminate the deficit no later than 2008-09.

I have benefited greatly from many of the observations and proposals you have provided. The many unique strengths and needs in different parts of the province remind me of all the important issues that I have to keep in mind as the government plans for the future.

I want to thank you for your contribution to a lively and important discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing Ontario. You can be assured your views and recommendations will be considered as we prepare for the upcoming budget.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight Duncan".

Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance