

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**REMARKS BY:
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**BUILDING PROSPERITY AND
STRONG COMMUNITIES**

**DELIVERED TO THE CANADIAN CLUB
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RETURNING AS I JUST HAVE FROM SOUTH ASIA, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT REFLECT ON HOW BLESSED WE REALLY ARE.

THE SCENE WHICH CONFRONTS YOU WHEN YOU TAKE A HELICOPTER RELIEF FLIGHT IN TO THE EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED ZONE IN THE HIMILAYAS IS ALMOST BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

YOU ARE IN AWE, TO BEGIN WITH, THAT PEOPLE – BY THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS – LIVE IN TINY REMOTE SETTLEMENTS DOTTED ALL OVER THE SIDES OF THE BIGGEST MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD.

THESE ARE SETTLEMENTS AS REMOTE AS ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE, AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM TOIL – JUST AS THEIR ANCESTORS DID – TO CLEAR A TINY BIT OF TERRACED LAND TO GROW SOME FOOD.

WHEN WE LANDED ON A SPACE THE SIZE OF A PARKING PAD, YOU COULD SEE THAT THEIR MODEST HOMES HAD SIMPLY COLLAPSED IN THE EARTHQUAKE, AND THEY WERE NOW LIVING IN TENTS DONATED FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

THEY CAME RUNNING FROM EVERYWHERE AS WE LANDED WITH ONE MAN WEARING TWO PIECES OF PLASTIC TABLECLOTH TIED WITH BINDER TWINE ON HIS FEET. THOSE WERE HIS SNOW BOOTS FOR THE WINTER CONDITIONS THAT CAN BE VERY SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

IN ONE OF THE TSUNAMI AFFECTED REGIONS OF SRI LANKA, A YEAR AFTER THAT DISASTER, WE VISITED THE TEMPORARY HOUSING IN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PLACED.

WHILE IT IS A MIRACLE ONCE AGAIN JUST HOW MUCH THE WORLD HAS DONE, THESE FAMILIES ARE STILL LIVING IN SPACES WHICH MIGHT TOTAL 125 SQUARE FEET.

ONE WOMAN PROUDLY SHOWED ME WHAT SHE CALLED HER KITCHEN, A SPACE OF MAYBE 10 SQUARE FEET FROM WHICH SHE FEEDS HER FAMILY OF FOUR. IT GOES WITH THE ONE DOUBLE BED, FOR THAT SAME FAMILY OF FOUR.

THERE WAS NO MENTION OF A WASHROOM BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ONE. IN BOTH OF THE VILLAGES WE VISITED, 21 FAMILIES SHARED THE SAME 3 OUTDOOR LATRINES.

I WILL TELL YOU THAT SEEING THESE DISASTERS DOES CHANGE YOUR LIFE. NOTHING CAN PREPARE YOU FOR THE SCALE OF THE DEVASTATION OR THE STORIES OF THE LOVED ONES LOST.

BUT WATCHING THE RELIEF EFFORTS ALSO GIVES YOU A SENSE OF GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A CANADIAN – FOR THE WORK OF CANADIANS IS EVERYWHERE – AS WELL AS A GREAT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THE GOOD PEOPLE CAN DO WHEN THEY WORK TOGETHER.

NOWHERE IS THIS MORE VISIBLE THAN AMONG OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO BE TAKING A FAR MORE INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK ON THEIR LIVES AS CITIZENS OF BOTH CANADA AND THE WORLD.

THEY ARE SMART, THEY ARE COMPASSIONATE AND THEY ARE MAKING AS BIG A DIFFERENCE AS HUMAN BEINGS COULD POSSIBLY MAKE.

THEY MAKE YOU SO PROUD – THEY ARE LEARNING ABOUT LEADERSHIP AND HELPING OTHERS AND -- AFTER WATCHING THEM – I HAVE THIS SIMPLE RECCOMENDATION FOR THE PARENTS IN THE ROOM:

IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER SAYS THEY WANT TO SPEND A FEW MONTHS OVERSEAS IN A HOTSPOT DOING SOMETHING FOR OTHERS, WHETHER IT IS AN EARTHQUAKE A TSUNAMI OR THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, DON'T BE SQUEAMISH OF FEARFUL -- OR AT LEAST DON'T SHOW IT.

JUST SAY YES.

AND SO I RETURN HOME TO A NEW CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT AND A NEW PRIME MINISTER -- STEPHEN HARPER.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CAMPAIGN WITH PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE HARPER BEFORE I LEFT, AS WELL AS TO DO WHAT I COULD TO HELP CLOSE TO 30 OF THE CANDIDATES WHO STOOD FOR THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN ONTARIO.

TO ME, THE GREATEST BENEFIT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT IS THE OPPORTUNITY IT GIVES US TO STOP THE DRIFT WE HAVE SEEN IN OUR COUNTRY IN RECENT YEARS.

IT IS NOT A DRIFT THAT HAS US ON ANY ROCKY SHOAL AS YET. BUT IT IS A DRIFT WHICH SHOULD CAUSE YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHETHER WE REALLY HAVE ANY GREAT NATIONAL PLANS AND GOALS ANYMORE.

IT IS A DRIFT WHICH HAS SEEN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS FOCUSSED NOT ON THOSE GREAT PLANS AND GOALS BUT ON A PATCHWORK QUILT OF TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS AND ONE-OFF DEALS. NO ONE REALLY TALKS ABOUT CANADA AND WHERE WE ARE GOING TOGETHER. IT'S MORE ABOUT EVERY PLACE FOR ITSELF.

THIS IS THE DRIFT THAT HAS LET ISSUES LIKE CRIME GET AWAY FROM US – IN AREAS RANGING FROM THE LACK OF ADEQUATE SANCTIONS FOR CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR -- TO THE LACK OF ACTION TO PREVENT CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS – TO THE NEED TO FIGHT THE ROOT CAUSES OF CRIME AT THEIR SOURCE.

I WELCOME OUR NEW PRIME MINISTER'S ELECTION NIGHT RESTATEMENT OF HIS COMMITMENT TO REBUILD FEDERALISM, TO RESTORE REAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TO ACT ON CRIME.

THE CRIME FILE HAS BEEN A BIG PRIORITY OF OURS AS WELL. MR HARPER HAS SAID HE WILL MAKE THE ACCOUNTABILITY LAW HIS FIRST BILL IN PARLIAMENT – I HOPE THAT HE WILL MAKE THE CRIME BILL HIS SECOND.

I ALSO WELCOME MR HARPER'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE FISCAL IMBALANCE IN CANADA. THIS IMPORTANT NATIONAL DISCUSSION MUST NOT START FROM THE PREMISE THAT WE SHOULD INCREASE TAXES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT IS VERY CLEAR TO ME, AND PAINFULLY CLEAR TO CANADIANS – ESPECIALLY HERE IN ONTARIO – THAT WE ARE ALREADY PAYING ENOUGH TAX.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT THOSE TAX DOLLARS ARE NOT FINDING THEIR WAY TO THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DELIVERING SERVICES.

IN FACT WE HAVE SEEN THE DISCOMFORTING SPECTACLE IN RECENT YEARS WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ROUTINELY PILES UP MASSIVE SURPLUSES IN OTTAWA AND THEN TRIES TO THINK UP NEW WAYS TO SPEND THAT MONEY WITHOUT FIRST LOOKING AT THE MATTER OF THE FISCAL IMBALANCE.

IF I WAS TO OFFER ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO OUR NEW PRIME MINISTER AS HE TACKLES THIS COMPLEX ISSUE IT WOULD BE TO ENSURE THAT ANY PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE FISCAL IMBALANCE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR CITIES.

THEY ARE ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH; CENTRES OF INNOVATION AND THEIR IMPORTANT ROLE MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY SUCCESSFUL ADDRESSING OF THE COUNTRY'S FISCAL CHALLENGES.

THE REALITY OF CANADA IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY DICTATES THAT NEW THINKING IS REQUIRED AND THAT CITIES – INCLUDING THE TORONTO REGION, IN PARTICULAR – MUST NOT BE AN AFTERTHOUGHT IN SETTING THESE NATIONAL GOALS BUT MUST BE A CENTREPIECE IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS.

THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT, IN MANY WAYS, IS ABOVE POLITICS. THAT IS WHY I REPEAT A MESSAGE I HAVE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO PREMIER MCGUINITY:

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUE OF THE FISCAL IMBALANCE, I HAVE SUPPORTED YOU IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. I BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT YOU COST ONTARIO AN OPPORTUNITY TO SORT MORE THINGS OUT SOONER WHEN YOU TRIED TO MANIPULATE THIS ISSUE FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF MR MARTIN AND THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

I SAY TO MR MCGUINITY NOW: LET'S TRY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH MR HARPER AND WITH OUR MUNICIPAL LEADERS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE FISCAL IMBALANCE. LET'S DEPOLITICIZE THIS ISSUE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE VERY SAME TAXPAYERS WHO FUND ALL GOVERNMENTS.

IT'S TIME TO HAVE A CONSTRUCTIVE, THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO FIXING THE FISCAL IMBALANCE. THE FAMILY BICKERING BETWEEN LIBERALS DIDN'T WORK LAST TIME – AND TAXPAYERS WON'T FEEL ANY BETTER IF IT SIMPLY CHANGES INTO BICKERING BETWEEN LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES.

TO THAT I WOULD ADD ONE FINAL SUGGESTION: BEFORE WE RUSH TO IMPLEMENT NEW POWERS TO TAX FOR CITY GOVERNMENTS -- WHETHER IN TORONTO OR ELSEWHERE: WHY DON'T WE CARRY OUT A PROPER, EXPEDITIOUS EXAMINATION OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL FINANCE FIRST TO SEE HOW MUCH OF OUR CURRENT PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED USING EXISTING TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

THE NEW CITY OF TORONTO LEGISLATION IS WELCOME IN MANY RESPECTS, BUT WE SHOULD DELAY THE PROCLAMATION OF THE NEW TAXING POWERS UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE BOTH COMPLETED AN EXAMINATION OF THE FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL FISCAL IMBALANCE AS WELL AS ASKING THE CITY TO CONDUCT A FULL VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDIT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT – AS I WAS COMMITTED TO DOING HAD I BEEN ELECTED MAYOR IN 2003.

IT REALLY IS QUITE SIMPLE: INCREASE CLARITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PLANNING, AND DO MORE WITH EXISTING TAX DOLLARS BEFORE ASKING FOR – OR TAKING – MORE.

PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK CREATING AN ONTARIO WHOSE ECONOMIC CLIMATE IS A MAGNET FOR INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION.

THAT MEANS GETTING MORE ON THE BALL WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING ONTARIO AS A PLACE TO DO BUSINESS. INSTEAD OF ASKING WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD TO BE A PART OF THE INDIAN ECONOMY OR NOT, WE SHOULD BE TELLING OURSELVES WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO BE. THE SAME LESSON APPLIES TO OTHER RISING ECONOMIES AROUND THE WORLD.

IT MEANS ENSURING THAT THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN ONTARIO IS ATTRACTIVE TO PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MAKE NEW INVESTMENTS OR TO RETAIN OR EXPAND ON THE INVESTMENTS THEY ALREADY HAVE IN PLACE.

IT MEANS A REASONABLE AND COMPETITIVE TAXATION REGIME AND REGULATIONS WHICH PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST BUT DON'T DESTROY EFFICIENCY IN THE NAME OF BUREAUCRACY.

IT MEANS SOME STABILITY ON THE SUPPLY AND COST OF ELECTRICITY, AN AREA IN WHICH MR. MCGUINITY SEEMS PREPARED TO PLACE POLITICS AHEAD OF JOBS AND INVESTMENT – SOMETHING WE CAN ILL AFFORD TO DO

IT MEANS CHANGING THE CULTURE OF GOVERNMENT ITSELF, AND HOW IT RUNS ITS AFFAIRS, FROM A SATISFACTION WITH MEDIOCRITY AND A CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO UNTIL YOU ARE CAUGHT BY THE AUDITOR...

...TO A NEW CULTURE BASED ON STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE AND SETTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS POSSIBLE IN THE EFFICIENT USE OF SCARCE TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

WHILE I HAVE TRIED VERY HARD AS OPPOSITION LEADER NOT TO DECRY EVERYTHING THE PRESENT MCGUINITY GOVERNMENT DOES, I BELIEVE THEY ARE HEADED DOWN THE WRONG TRACK WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING AND MAINTAINING THAT ATTRACTIVE ECONOMIC CLIMATE WHICH ALLOWS US TO COMPETE FOR INVESTMENT DOLLARS AND THE JOBS THAT COME WITH THEM.

WHY DO WE NEED THAT INVESTMENT AND THOSE JOBS? WELL, THE OBVIOUS ANSWER IS INDEED OBVIOUS: OUR KIDS AND THE THOUSANDS OF NEW PEOPLE COMING TO ONTARIO IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS NEED TO WORK, TO HAVE THESE OPPORTUNITIES, TO PAY THEIR BILLS, SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

THE FAIR TAXATION OF THIS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS WHAT IS NEEDED TO FINANCE THE CRUCIAL PRO-ACTIVE SOCIAL ROLE OF GOVERNMENT.

TO ME, AS A PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE THAT IS NOT ABOUT TRYING TO ENGINEER WHAT PEOPLE DO OR THINK, IT IS ABOUT PROVIDING BASIC SERVICES TO ALL PEOPLE AND GIVING A BIT OF EXTRA HELP TO THOSE WHO NEED IT SO THAT EVERYONE HAS A FAIR CHANCE TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS AND BUILD ON THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY A FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY.

WE WILL ONLY HAVE THE MONEY TO DO THOSE THINGS IF WE HAVE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT AND JOB CREATION.

WE WILL ONLY HAVE THE MONEY TO DO THESE THINGS IF PROFITS GO UP, INVESTMENTS GO UP, INCOMES GO UP, AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE MAKING INCOMES GO UP – ALL OF WHICH INCREASES OUR TAX REVENUE BEFORE EVER HAVING TO RESORT TO AN INCREASE IN TAX RATES OR OTHER FEES.

THIS IS WHY I CONSIDER CREATING PROSPERITY TO BE THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS PROVINCE.

WITH THAT SAID, I WANT TO SPEND MY LAST FEW MINUTES ADDRESSING A RELATED TOPIC – ANOTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY WHICH ANY PREMIER MUST TAKE SERIOUSLY.

I SPENT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME LAST YEAR LISTENING TO PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAD BEEN IMPACTED BY THE CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENT CRIME.

I SPENT THE YEAR VISITING CHALLENGED NEIGHBOURHOODS, CONVENING ROUNDTABLES AND MEETING WITH ANYBODY WITH A GOOD IDEA TO SHARE, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHAT WE SHOULD DO TO STOP THE VIOLENT CRIME WHICH HAS TRAGICALLY ALTERED SO MANY LIVES.

WE PREPARED A SEVENTY PAGE REPORT WITH MORE THAN 20 DISTINCT RECOMMENDATIONS AND MOST OBSERVERS SEEMED TO THINK IT IS A THOUGHTFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT.

I'M PROUD OF THE WORK WE PUT IN TO THIS REPORT – I DON'T PRETEND IT HAS ALL THE ANSWERS, OR EVEN THAT IT HAS ALL THE RIGHT ANSWERS, BUT IT DID PRESENT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF GOOD IDEAS THAT ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS DEBATE.

I WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT I BELIEVE THIS TO BE ANOTHER ONE THOSE ISSUES ON WHICH DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES AND THEIR LEADERS SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER, SHOWING A UNITED FRONT TO THE COMMUNITY WE ALL SERVE, USING THE BEST IDEAS --WHEREVER THEY MIGHT ORIGINATE.

I HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN PRIVATELY TO PREMIER MCGUINITY ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS OFFERING TO WORK WITH HIM AND WITH MR HAMPTON – THE LAST LETTER WAS DATED DECEMBER 29TH.

I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE A REPLY OF ANY KIND... WHICH, TO ME, IS REGRETTABLE. FROM THE WAY THEY TREAT OUR SUGGESTIONS, TO THE WAY THE BEHAVE IN THE LEGISLATURE, IT IS UNFORTUNATE – BUT QUITE CLEAR – THAT MR MCGUINITY AND HIS CAUCUS ARE WEDDED TO THE OLD PARTISAN WAY OF DOING THINGS.

LEAVING THAT CONCERN ASIDE, TO ME, THE MOST IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATION IN OUR REPORT WAS THE ONE WHICH CALLED ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO URGENTLY ADDRESS THE LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES WE SEE IN MANY OF OUR CHALLENGED NEIGHBOURHOODS.

IF MOM IS RAISING THE FAMILY ON HER OWN --WORKING TWO JOBS -- ONE AT NIGHT – SHE CAN'T BE THERE WITH THE KIDS AFTER SCHOOL. IF DAD DIDN'T FINISH HIGH SCHOOL, WHO IS THERE TO HELP WITH THE HOMEWORK?

IF A TEENAGE BOY OR GIRL IN ONE OF THESE NEIGHBOURHOODS NEEDS A SUMMER JOB, WHAT NETWORK DO THEY TAP INTO TO GET ONE?

WHERE DO THE KIDS IN THESE NEIGHBOURHOODS FIND MENTORS?
WHAT SUPPORT STRUCTURE CAN THE PARENTS TURN TO WHEN THEY SEE THEIR KIDS DRIFTING INTO TROUBLE?

AS A FORMER BUSINESS LEADER, I SUGGEST TO YOU THAT QUITE OFTEN WE WOULD LOOK TO GOVERNMENT TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. AND, INDEED, GOVERNMENT HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN PROVIDING SOME OF THE ANSWERS. BUT GOVERNMENT CANNOT -- AND SHOULD NOT -- HAVE TO DO IT ALONE.

NEITHER SHOULD WE EXPECT WORTHY AND CAPABLE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE UNITED WAY TO SHOULDER THE FULL LOAD.

THE REST OF US HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY AS WELL.

OUR REPORT SUGGESTED A SUSTAINED AND CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR ALONG SIDE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS TO CREATE THOSE SUMMER JOBS ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS AT RISK TO HELP WITH SOME OF THE MENTORING RESPONSIBILITIES – AND TO GET THEM THAT ALL IMPORTANT FIRST JOB EXPERIENCE.

WHILE IN INDIA, I READ OF AN INTERESTING PROPOSAL TO ASK CORPORATIONS TO PARTNER WITH A VILLAGE – IN THAT CASE A REFERENCE TO THE OFTEN DISPOSSESSED RURAL VILLAGES WHICH STILL CONTAIN 80 PER CENT OF INDIA'S POPULATION.

IT WASN'T AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION, SOME FUNDING WOULD GO TO ENHANCE PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE, BUT MORESO THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IT WOULD TAP INTO PEOPLE POWER.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND INNOVATIVE AND PEOPLE POWERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE SOCIAL CHALLENGES WHICH EXIST IN THOSE VILLAGES.

WHY COULDN'T WE ASK MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN TORONTO TO DO SOMETHING SIMILAR? BY PARTNERING WITH A CHALLENGED NEIGHBOURHOOD AND TAKING SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MENTORING, THE TUTORING, THE INTERNSHIPS AND SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES WE COULD REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENTLY WORKING IN THOSE COMPANIES, BIG AND SMALL, HAVE THE SAME DESIRE TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE AS THEIR FRIENDS WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO GO TO SRI LANKA OR TO AFRICA.

GIVEN THE CHANCE -- AND ENCOURAGED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS -- I BELIEVE THEY WOULD SIGN UP IN DROVES TO SPEND A FEW HOURS A WEEK MENTORING KIDS WHO HAVE ALL THE RIGHT STUFF AND JUST NEED THAT EXTRA BIT OF ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

SOME, THOUGH NOT ALL, OF THESE KIDS COME FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND WE HAVE TO MAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUT TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT COMMUNITY AS WELL. THEY ARE ACCOMPLISHED, COMMITTED PEOPLE WHO WANT TO TAKE SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE ISSUES.

I HAVE MET WITH THEM AND URGED THEM TO TAKE A POSITIVE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO THIS CHALLENGE, AND I KNOW THEY WILL, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE TO TREAT THEM AS PARTNERS AND AS A CRUCIAL PART OF THE SOLUTION IF WE ARE GOING TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS.

WE SUGGESTED IN OUR REPORT THAT IF EACH MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, ON AVERAGE CREATED ONE INTERNSHIP AND ONE SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH KID AT RISK FROM CHALLENGED NEIGHBOURHOODS WE COULD REALLY BEGIN TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

I CONTINUE TO WORK TO ENCOURAGE THAT KIND OF INITIATIVE, AND I INVITE YOUR IDEAS AND SUPPORT.

IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC MISTAKE FOR ANY OF US TO JUST SIT BACK BELIEVING THIS PROBLEM WILL EVENTUALLY GO AWAY.

IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC MISTAKE FOR ANY OF US TO MAKE, REGARDLESS OF OUR SKIN COLOUR, JUST AS IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT SOME GOVERNMENT SOMEWHERE HAS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.

WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES THAT THE PROSPERITY THAT WE HAVE – THE PROSPERITY THAT WE EARN – THE PROSPERITY THAT WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD...IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST BLESSINGS IN CALLING ONTARIO HOME. THIS BECOMES MORE OBVIOUS THAN EVER TO ME – AFTER VISITING COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD THAT ARE SHOWING SO MUCH INITIATIVE CREATING NEW CULTURES OF PROSPERITY ALL THEIR OWN.

OUR PROSPERITY WILL RING HOLLOW, HOWEVER, AS LONG AS WE ALLOW MORE AND MORE YOUNG PEOPLE AMONG US TO GROW UP IN THE MIDST OF A DEEPENING CRISIS – WITHOUT ACTING TO HELP THEM.

HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS WE HAVE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

I GAVE UP MY CAREER IN BUSINESS AND ENTERED PUBLIC LIFE AS A PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE BECAUSE THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PARTY I NOW LEAD ALLOWS ME TO BE A PASSIONATE FREE ENTERPRISER, TO HELP FOSTER THE CREATION OF SO MUCH GOOD AND SO MUCH PROSPERITY THANKS TO THE GREAT ABILITIES OF RISK TAKERS ---

-- BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, TO RECOGNIZE THE PARAMOUNT NEED TO PUT THAT PROSPERITY AND THAT CREATIVITY TO WORK TO ENSURE THAT THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL. THAT A HAND UP IS ALWAYS OFFERED TO THOSE WHO MIGHT NEED IT.

I INVITE YOU TO FIND A WAY TO HELP, TO WORK WITH PEOPLE LIKE ME AND SO MANY OTHERS TO NOT ONLY BUILD NEW PROSPERITY BUT TO MAKE SURE WE USE IT EFFECTIVELY AND REACH FOR THAT HIGHER PURPOSE WHICH CAN FLOW FROM OUR PROSPERITY.

THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD WOULD EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM
THOSE OF US WHO ARE MINDING THINGS HERE AT HOME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.