



September 28, 2007

Brian A. Hunt, FCA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario
69 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON
M4W 1B3

Dear Mr. Hunt,

I want to thank you and the Institute of Chartered Accounts of Ontario (ICAO) for the excellent work that you do in regulating Ontario's 32,000 chartered accountants.

We are proud of the work we did together over the course of this mandate. In particular, the McGuinty government passed the *Public Accounting Act, 2004*, which made public accounting licences more accessible, protected the public, businesses and investors with high regulatory standards, and allowed the ICAO, together with related bodies, to adopt a "parallel licensure" system. At the time, your organization called that legislation "a win for everybody," a characterization which we take to heart.

I want to take a moment to respond to several issues you have raised in the course of this campaign.

The question of legal liability reform is an important and complex issue. We want to ensure that businesses continue to have access to much needed audit services, which are critical to maintaining a properly informed and protected capital market. We want to strike the right balance between consumer protection (maintaining accessible audit services to prevent future losses), and compensating investors for actual losses. A future Liberal government will review, in consultation with the ICAO and others, existing legal liability provisions with a view to ensuring we have that balance.

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We are committed to a strong national accountability framework, and in particular to a national securities regulator. We look forward to working together towards these goals over the course of a second mandate.

We share your view that a Centre for Excellence in Financial Services would be a useful way to keep the job-creating sector of our economy strong. We specifically propose this in our Ontario Liberal Party platform and we look forward to working with you and others in moving this forward if we are re-elected.

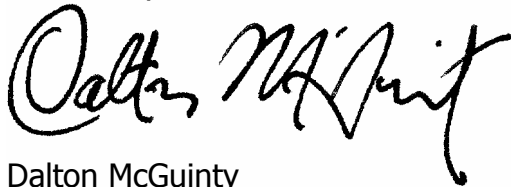
Finally, we agree that future inter-provincial trade agreements should explicitly safeguard high professional standards for public accounting. My first priority is to ensure continued prosperity for Ontarians.

Interprovincial trade is a very important driver of the Ontario economy. In 2006, Ontario's interprovincial exports were valued at \$100 billion. This represents roughly 20 per cent of Ontario's gross domestic product and is linked to many thousands of high paying jobs for Ontarians. So we have a duty to consider anything that might be beneficial to the people of Ontario and Ontario businesses.

Our priority when studying any potential trade agreement is to ensure it would increase good jobs here in Ontario. We will not sign onto an agreement which would lower or would allow for the lowering of environmental, labour, health and safety or professional standards for Ontario workers.

Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention, and on behalf of all Ontarians, thank you for the excellent work you do.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dalton" being larger and more prominent than the last name "McGuinty".

Dalton McGuinty
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Premier