

## **Message from HCCI Co-Chairs.**

On behalf of HCCI's board of governors, we extend greetings, welcome and appreciation for taking part in today's Report to the Community.

It has been a year of challenge and opportunity for HCCI, "Challenge" as our dedicated but small staff and governing board work hard to continue the ongoing objective of making Hamilton the most welcoming city in Ontario. Concrete manifestations of this objective include HCCI's work with Hamilton Police Services, The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, North End Community Health Centre and our successful Community Mobilization Team training program, which sees members of the diverse community get the tools they need to actively engage in community life. Just as the year has been exciting, it has also been taxing for HCCI's staff, and the experience has demonstrated clearly why the organization needs to pursue sustainable, stable funding from stakeholders in order to maintain momentum and expand to meet the growing need.

There are a host of opportunities for HCCI in the year to come, and these have been investigated and prioritized in our new strategic plan, which will be discussed and explained this morning.

We appreciate your interest and willingness to take part in these critical discussions and the ongoing work of Hamilton's Centre for Civic Inclusion.

Howard Elliott and Evelyn Myrie  
Co-chairs, HCCI Board of Governors