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## CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

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December 14, 2009

The Honourable James Flaherty, M.P.  
Minister of Finance  
Finance Canada  
Minister's Office - House of Commons  
Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

**VIA FACSIMILE: (613) 992-8320**

Dear Minister Flaherty:

I am writing seeking a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss the concerns of the First Nations in Ontario with the proposed Canada-Ontario Harmonized Sales Tax.

Minister Dwight Duncan wrote to you October 29, 2009 seeking a joint meeting in order to discuss the Harmonized Sales Tax and the First Nations provincial retail sales tax exemption. Unfortunately, you declined meeting with us by letter dated November 4, 2009. To the First Nations in Ontario this was viewed as unwillingness on your part to hear our concerns and as a federal cabinet Minister and a Member of Parliament from Ontario, we expect much more.

Last week at the Assembly of First Nations Special Chiefs Assembly, your cabinet colleague, Minister Chuck Strahl made the following statement:

*"So whether it is H1N1, our position in Copenhagen, the Olympics and even in the creation of the last budget and in the next one, we need to have your involvement and your input and none of us, I must tell you, none of us get everything that we want, but what we deserve and what you deserve is to be heard, have a place at the table and know that you are being listened to carefully and with honor..."*

At the Chiefs of Ontario Assembly on December 1<sup>st</sup> and at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly resolutions were passed regarding the proposed Canada-Ontario Harmonized Sales Tax that require your attention. I believe there is still an opportunity to address the concerns of the First Nations in Ontario with respect to the proposed HST.

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If you share your colleague's perspective about respect and honour, please have your office contact Penny Jacko-Copenace at 416-452-2474 in order to arrange a time to meet at the earliest possible opportunity. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

**CHIEFS OF ONTARIO**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Toulouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angus Toulouse  
Ontario Regional Chief

cc: Political Confederacy  
Premier Dalton McGuinty  
Minister Chuck Strahl