

**FAX COVER SHEET**

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**Date:** December 4, 2009**No. of pages including this page:** 3Correspondence Services Unit  
99 Wellesley Street West  
4th Floor, Whitney Block  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1**To:** Chief Angus Toulouse  
Ontario Regional Chief  
Chiefs of Ontario**Address****Telephone Number:****Fax Number:** 807-626-9404**Subject:****Comments:** Original to follow by mail**From:** The Honourable Dalton McGuinty**Telephone Number:** 416-325-3777**Fax Number:** 416-325-3745

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The Premier  
of Ontario

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Le Premier ministre  
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



December 4, 2009

Chief Angus Toulouse  
Ontario Regional Chief  
Chiefs of Ontario  
Fort William First Nation Office Complex  
101-90 Anemki Drive  
RR4  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
P7J 1A5

Dear Chief Toulouse:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) agreement between the governments of Canada and Ontario, and for forwarding correspondence from the Honourable Jim Flaherty, federal Minister of Finance. I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns about this important issue.

Our government shares your concerns, and that is why we have worked closely with your organization — and will continue to do so. On December 2, I wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper urging him to carefully consider the interests and requests of Ontario First Nation leaders. A copy of my letter to the Prime Minister was forwarded to you for your information. In my letter, I asked the Prime Minister to support further work on the development of alternative approaches that would allow Ontario's current administrative practice for First Nations to continue under the HST.

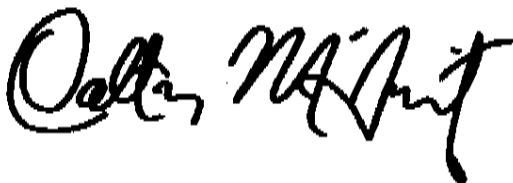
I also asked the Prime Minister for a meeting between federal and Ontario ministers and you and your colleagues to begin meaningful discussions on these issues. In preparation for such a meeting, I have requested that my officials share with federal Finance staff the alternative approaches that have been developed with the co-operation and support of Ontario First Nation leaders.

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Chief Toulouse, I hope you find this information helpful and that it reaffirms our government's commitment to Ontario's First Nation communities. I encourage you to keep in touch with my colleagues ministers Duguid, Duncan and Wilkinson regarding this issue. Thank you again for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dalton McGuinty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier

c: The Honourable Dwight Duncan  
Minister of Finance

The Honourable John Wilkinson  
Minister of Revenue

The Honourable Brad Duguid  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs