



ROB CERJANEC

MPP, AJAX

The Honourable Stan Cho
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

October 23, 2025

Re: The Closure of Gateway Casino Sarnia at Hiawatha Horse Park

Dear Minister Cho,

I am writing regarding the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation's (OLG) decision to terminate its lease with Gateway Casino at Hiawatha Horse Park, resulting in the closure of casino operations by March 31, 2026.

This decision will mean the loss of approximately \$400,000 in revenue per year, 50 local jobs, and the end of a facility that has contributed to Sarnia's economy and municipal budget since its reopening in 2020. At a time when Ontario communities like Sarnia are facing economic uncertainty and ongoing trade challenges with the United States, this decision is a step in the wrong direction and does not Protect Ontario.

I understand that on September 30, 2025, Mayor Mike Bradley formally requested OLG release the business case supporting this closure. I echo that request and ask that you make the business case for the closure public. The people of Sarnia deserve transparency, not OLG and the province hiding behind the original agreement that was signed without any thought to continue it.

As you know, the horse racing industry plays an important role in Ontario's economy and supports thousands of jobs in rural communities. The addition of casino gaming at racetracks helps ensure the long-term sustainability of Ontario's horse racing industry.

The Government of Ontario should be providing stability and support for Sarnia, not turning its back on the community. I urge your ministry and OLG to publicly share the business case for this closure and to work collaboratively with the City of Sarnia. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Rob Cerjanec
Member of Provincial Parliament, Ajax

Cc: Mike Bradley, Mayor of Sarnia

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