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Brampton Council urges support for Haiti

BRAMPTON: Brampton City Council expresses its sympathy and concern for the residents of Haiti. Late last evening news came in that a devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake, the strongest ever in 200 years, has hit Haiti. The earthquake struck near the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Due to the total breakdown of communication lines, little information is currently available about the extent of the damage that is expected to be catastrophic. An estimated three million people may have been affected by the quake and it will take a day or two for a clear picture of the total damage to emerge. Thousands of structures, from schools and shacks to the National Palace and the UN Peacekeeping Headquarters, are reportedly crushed and untold numbers are trapped.

Council is urging residents to come forward in this hour of need and support agencies such as the Red Cross (www.redcross.ca) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (www.msf.ca) that are assisting with the relief measures.

“As a caring municipality, Council extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims of this catastrophic event in Haiti,” says Mayor Susan Fennell. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to the survivors.”

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple ‘A’ credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City’s 2009 operating budget is \$400.8 million and approved funding for its overall capital program stands at \$700 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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