

**Halifax  
Regional  
Municipality**



**Peter J. Kelly**  
Mayor

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September 8, 2008

Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

*I had the privilege to meet four determined men who are traveling on an incredible journey across Canada via hand cycles to communicate an important message about breakthrough Canadian spinal cord research.*

*A Canadian Research Team at McMaster University has successfully regenerated nerves in the chronically injured spinal cords of rats. In doing so, they restored the nerve signals from the brain to the legs, enabling the rats to walk again. This extraordinary medical discovery was recently recognized by the international scientific community and it is time to take it to the next level.*

*These cyclists are united in their commitment and fortitude to raise awareness and funds for human trials on spinal cord regeneration in the hope of walking again.*

*The impact of this medical breakthrough could change the lives of so many individuals and their families having far-reaching implications for the development of treatments in disabling conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, stroke, concussive head injury and major wounds.*

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*Their quest is to raise 30 cents from each Canadian. Funds generated will be used to further research this significant medical breakthrough.*

*Again, I convey my endorsement of the Wheel to Walk Canada Team and urge you to support, through federal funding, the work of the Canadian Research Team.*

*Respectfully, I remain*



*Peter J. Kelly*  
Mayor

cc: Rodney MacDonald, Premier, Nova Scotia  
Chris A. d'Entremont, Minister of Health, Nova Scotia  
✓ Wheel to Walk Canada  
Members, Halifax Regional Council  
HRM Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities