



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

April 28, 2011

Dear Premier:

Thank you for your letter of April 18, 2011, concerning recent flooding in Saskatchewan. I appreciated having had the opportunity to discuss this situation with you recently.

Federal officials continue to monitor the flooding situation very closely. Further to our discussion on April 18, I would like to confirm that the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan will share on a 50/50 basis the costs of any permanent flood mitigation measures taken specifically for this year's flooding that are not otherwise eligible under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. I have asked senior officials to begin discussions on the implementation of this special contribution

The Government is also prepared to discuss a mitigation strategy that would apply to all provinces and territories, and which could enhance infrastructure to better withstand future floods. I understand that federal, provincial, and territorial Deputy Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management will discuss a national disaster mitigation strategy at their meeting this summer.

As for existing claims for assistance under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements for previous flooding, Public Safety Canada is working with provincial and territorial governments to expedite the processing of claims, including working with the Government of Saskatchewan to increase capacity to resolve the backlog.

The Honourable Brad Wall  
Premier of Saskatchewan  
Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B3

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As you are aware, federal departments and agencies are working closely with their provincial counterparts to address the situation, particularly as it has impacts on First Nations. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is working with the Government of Saskatchewan, Public Safety Canada, Health Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and other relevant agencies to ensure First Nations are able to deal with flooding this spring. Specifically, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is working with First Nations vulnerable to flooding to determine their needs, develop work plans, and fund preparedness measures.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has already provided approximately \$1.1 million in direct support for preparedness to First Nations communities. It also has an agreement with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority to provide assistance to deal with the flooding, and has provided the authority with \$1.1 million to support this agreement.

With respect to the other longer term policy issues raised in your letter, we will examine them and respond in due course.

I am forwarding a copy of our exchange of correspondence to the Honourable Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister for La Francophonie, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status of Indians and Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State (Western Economic Diversification), for their information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.