



Cheryl Gallant

Member of Parliament
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Member of Standing Committee on National Defence
Member of Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology



July 8th, 2019

Dear Mayor and Council,

For the second time in three years, many communities and businesses in the Ottawa River and Great Lakes watersheds are experiencing flooding due to record-high water levels. Property owners, already out of pocket tens of thousands of dollars repairing their properties in 2017, now face the same situation in 2019. While provincial authorities are providing partial assistance to flood victims, there is a cap on losses.

As boundary waters, the Great Lakes and the Ottawa River fall under federal jurisdiction. The Federal Government should have realized before it signed Plan 2014 on December 8th, 2016, that raising the water levels in the Great Lakes Watershed could affect the Ottawa River flow. Three months later in 2017 the Ottawa River set high-water level records.

Regular flooding is intended by the current federal government as it implements "environmental flows", and the re-creation of wetlands for its government climate change policy. As a consequence of amendments made to the *Fisheries Act*, contained in Bill C-68, spring flooding will be intentional to restore fish habitat. Of the 7 members on the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board (ORRPB), 3 are appointed by the Federal Government. They should have been aware of the danger posed by these policies.

These changes are quite apart from the massive snowpack and likelihood of continued rains in the spring. Yet, rather than acting, the ORRPB continued the status quo, resulting in more flooding and more property damage along the Ottawa River.

The federal government must adopt a fairer course to ensure the protection of the public on both sides of the Ottawa River as well as the Great Lakes watershed, are the highest priority.

Please, join me in calling on the Prime Minister to do the right thing and provide federal compensation to all the victims of highwater caused by federal policies.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Encl



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Member of Parliament
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The Rt. Hon Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Parliament of Canada
80 Wellington St
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

July 3, 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

For the second time in three years, many communities and businesses in the Ottawa River and Great Lakes watersheds are experiencing flooding due to record-high water levels. As a result, individual property owners, out of pocket tens of thousands of dollars repairing their properties in 2017, now face the same situation in 2019.

The Federal Government signed Plan 2014 on December 8th, 2016. Among the measures included were raising the water levels in the Great Lakes watershed. Three months later in 2017 the Ottawa River also set high-water level records.

Furthering the problem of high water are amendments made to the *Fisheries Act*, contained in Bill C-68, *An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence*, encourage spring flooding to restore fish habitat. As "environmental flows" are implemented for the re-creation of wetlands, regular flooding is expected, and intended.

While provincial authorities are prepared to provide partial assistance to flood victims, with a cap on losses, those programs discriminate between residents of different provinces and the types of dwellings.

In light of the devastating flooding occurring, the property owners require the federal government reimburse them for their costs and make additional funds available for mitigation projects and other protective measures made necessary through acts and omissions of the Government of Canada.

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board and the International Joint Commission must immediately recalculate the volume of water and the flow rate at which it can be safely released and release that amount. Finally, the ORRPB must immediately correct its water management protocols to avoid damage to riparian owners.

Your prompt response, prior to July 31st, 2019 is requested.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke