

Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

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SEP 26 2007

Dr. Hans Peterson  
Voluntary Executive Director  
Safe Drinking Water Foundation  
912 Idylwyld Drive North  
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6

Dear Dr. Peterson:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 25, 2007 regarding your views on actions needed to secure safe drinking water for Canadians. Please excuse the delay in replying.

Canada's New Government has a comprehensive, results-oriented ecoAction plan to clean our air, help address climate change and create a healthier environment. As part of the Plan, through Budget 2007, we introduced a National Water Strategy by taking action to improve the water we drink, clean polluted waters, help maintain water levels in the Great Lakes, protect our ecosystems and ensure sustainability of our fish resources.

Budget 2007 allocated \$93 million over two years towards a National Water Strategy:

- \$11 million over two years to accelerate the clean-up of contaminated sediments in eight areas of the Great Lakes Basin identified under the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;
- \$5 million over two years for the International Joint Commission to carry out a study with the U.S. on the flow of water out of Lake Superior;
- \$12 million over two years to support the clean-up of Lake Simcoe;
- \$7 million over two years to support the clean-up of Lake Winnipeg;
- \$19 million over two years to help clean and protect our oceans and support greater water pollution prevention, surveillance and enforcement along Canada's coasts; and,
- \$39 million over two years to increase fisheries science research programs to strengthen fisheries management and resource conservation.

Canada

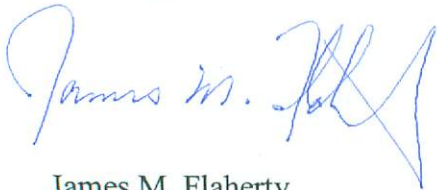
In addition, Budget 2007 allocated \$324 million to the Canadian Coast Guard for the procurement, operation and maintenance of an additional six new large vessels, four midshore patrol vessels and two offshore fishery science vessels – to support conservation and protection of fisheries.

As well, the new long-term plan for infrastructure funded from Budget 2006 and Budget 2007 will provide a total of \$33 billion over the next seven years to help support investments by provinces, territories and municipalities, some of which will be used for water and wastewater treatment projects.

I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to my colleagues, the Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Baird, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, and the Minister of Health, the Honourable Tony Clement, as the issues you raise fall under the purview of their portfolios.

Thank you for communicating your concerns.

Sincerely,



James M. Flaherty

c.c.: The Honourable John Baird, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Chuck Strahl, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.