



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAY 15 2007

Ms. Sue Peterson
Volunteer Administrator
Safe Drinking Water Foundation
912 Idylwyld Drive North
SASKATOON SK S7L 0Z6

Dear Ms. Peterson:

My colleague, the Honourable David Emerson, has brought to my attention your letter of March 15, 2007, regarding safe drinking water in Canada. I would like to respond to the issues you raised specifically about drinking water in First Nation communities.

Helping First Nations in the provision of safe, reliable drinking water is one of my key objectives. That is why, on March 21, 2006, I announced a plan of action to address drinking water concerns in First Nation communities. This plan includes:

- Implementation of the *Protocol for Safe Drinking Water in First Nations Communities*. This protocol contains standards for design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of drinking water systems in First Nation communities, and is intended for use by First Nations staff responsible for water systems.
- Mandatory training for all water treatment plant operators and a regime to ensure that all water systems have the oversight of certified operators.
- Implementation of specific remedial plans for First Nation communities with serious water issues, starting with the 21 communities most at risk.
- The creation of a panel of experts to advise on appropriate regulatory frameworks. The panel conducted hearings across Canada last summer and proposed options for a potential regulatory framework.
- A clear commitment to report on progress on a regular basis.

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Please rest assured that this government will continue to work with First Nations in the provision of safe and reliable drinking water. Your concerns about water quality and your efforts to educate and help the Canadian population, including First Nations, is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jim Prentice', with a large circular flourish at the top and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, PC, QC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable David Emerson, PC, MP