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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Hon. Marlene Jennings

Member of Parliament for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce – Lachine
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Ottawa, March 25, 2009

Safe Drinking Water Foundation
#1-912 Idylwyld Drive North
Saskatoon SK S7L 0Z6

Members,

I acknowledge receipt and thank you for your correspondence dated March 16, 2009, in which you express your views and concerns regarding water problems in Canada and world-wide. I have duly taken note of your correspondence and please be assured that your views and comments have been carefully considered.

The Liberal Opposition understands and supports your call for a regulatory framework as soon as possible. We believe, however, that regulations should be part of a broader strategy to improve on-reserve drinking water that also addresses issues such as operator training and infrastructure issues.

Water is vital to any form of life on earth and constitutes an inestimable resource for humankind. Indeed, it is precisely because Liberals are acutely aware of humankind's need for water that my colleague Francis Scarpaleggia has been appointed Liberal Critic on Water. I urge you to contact him directly (e-mail scarpf@parl.gc.ca.) and have myself forwarded to him, the correspondence you sent me.

We believe water to be a rapidly emerging environmental, social and economic issue, both in Canada and around the world. The federal government must reinvigorate its role in the area of water policy while respecting the constitutional responsibilities of the provinces.

Water and health are linked in many ways and it is important to address the increasing need for adequate and safe water to protect both people and the planet. Concrete efforts are necessary to provide clean drinking water and improved health, as well as to increase worldwide awareness of the problems and the solutions.



Once again, I thank you for having shared your views on this issue. Rest be assured that you can count on my energy, my support and availability during this 40th Parliament. As the Official Opposition, Liberals will be responsible and principled. We will work hard and pursue our efforts in defending the liberal values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jennings', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

The Hon. Marlene Jennings, P.C., M.P.
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine