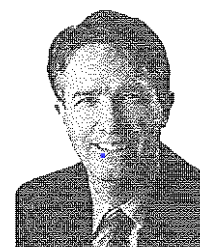


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**Province of
British Columbia**
Legislative Assembly



Laurie Throness, M.L.A.
Chilliwack-Hope

December 3, 2013

Hon. Michael de Jong, Q.C.
Minister of Finance
Room 153
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

MINISTER OF FINANCE

REFERRAL NUMBER: 333349.

REFER TO: MIN ☐ DM ☐ MA ☐ AC ☐

RECEIVED: DEC 10 2013

DRAFT ☐ REPLY ☐ INFO ☐ FILE ☐

REMARKS: _____

Dear Minister:


In the wake of the disastrous flood in Calgary last year, we are ever-more mindful of the threat of flooding presented by the Fraser River. We are also more conscious of climate change in which weather patterns appear to be less predictable, increasing the possibility that an anomalous weather event could occur in the near future. We would point out that the last 'close call' in Chilliwack was not very long ago, in 2007, when urgent mitigative flood works had to be undertaken. We do not want to come this close again.

Moreover, in recent weeks it has become apparent that gravel might not be removed from the Fraser for the third year in a row, although it is Ministry policy that gravel be removed in the same proportion as it is added by the river in order to maintain the same flood profile. This is because the science of removing gravel for flood protection is unclear to some, particularly influential academics. While we are not experts in this area, the logical outcome of inaction must be the broadening of the river throughout the Gravel Reach as its bottom slowly rises. This in turn places additional pressure on dykes and increases the threat to the Fraser Valley and the billions in investment, economic output, and human infrastructure that it represents, not to mention the acres of prime agricultural land lost to the River every year.

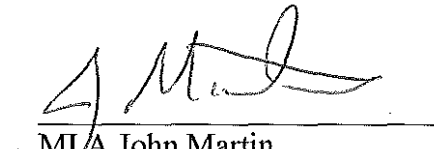
Therefore we are requesting that, in the upcoming budget, money be set aside for greater dyke and riprap protection for the Fraser Valley, with amounts set after consulting with affected municipalities. Hopefully works could be undertaken in conjunction with a renewed Federal Infrastructure Program, but if this program is not ready by budget time, we would request that funding be provided regardless so that work could begin this spring.

We feel that the risk is high enough, and the consequences of inaction great enough, to require an early response in the upcoming budget. Thank you for your attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,



MLA Laurie Throness
Chilliwack-Hope



MLA John Martin
Chilliwack

cc: MLA: Hon. Suzanne Anton, Minister Responsible for Emergency Preparedness BC