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for you info

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EPC

Minister
of National Defence



Ministre
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

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DCDS

OCT 08 1999

The Honourable Ujjal Dosanjh, M.L.A.
Attorney General
PO Box 9044
Station Province Government
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Mr. Dosanjh:

Thank you for your two letters of August 5, 1999, concerning the flooding experienced between March and July in British Columbia.

The Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements may be applied to the damage incurred by this flooding, under the provisions of the *Emergency Preparedness Act*, however, an Order of the Governor in Council must declare the provincial emergency to be of concern to the federal government and authorize the provision of financial assistance, if requested.

In this case, it is my intention to make the appropriate recommendation to the Governor in Council and, once approved, the resulting Order will authorize the federal government to provide financial assistance to help British Columbia meet the eligible costs of recovery. This assistance will be provided in accordance with the guidelines established under the Arrangements. I will advise you of the outcome of my recommendation as soon as a decision has been made.

With respect to your proposal that investments in long-term mitigative flood work be deemed eligible for cost-sharing under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, as noted in your letter, the federal government will be reviewing both the Arrangements as well as the issue of mitigation. In light of the priority to ensure that Canada is well prepared to deal with the possible challenges of the year 2000 (Y2K) however, I do not anticipate broader consultations on these issues until after the Y2K transition.

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Your proposal for an amendment to the Arrangements is most interesting and will be carefully considered during its comprehensive review. The Department of National Defence will not be making interim changes to the existing Arrangements criteria outside of this broader review.

In the meantime, may I, on behalf of the Government of Canada, express my concern for the people of British Columbia who have suffered loss as a result of the flooding, and extend my sympathy to them.

Once again, thank you for your letters. I hope the foregoing is of assistance.

Sincerely,



Arthur C. Fagleton

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