

From: PREMIER@leg.gov.mb.ca
To: dcrabb@mts.net
Date: Wed, 24 Aug 2011 09:47:13 -0500
Subject: RE: MACO FLOOD STATEMENT

August 24, 2011

Dave Crabb
dcrabb@mymts.net

Dear Mr. Crabb:

On behalf of Premier Selinger, I would like to thank you for forwarding the official flood statement from the Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners (MACO). Premier Selinger has had the opportunity to meet and talk with many families from all around Lake Manitoba, including a number of cottage owners, and also appreciated the opportunity to meet with representatives of your organization several weeks ago.

The Premier understands the urgent need to lower water levels in order to reduce the threat of flooding and prevent further damages. That's why the Manitoba government hired two leading engineering consulting firms, AECOM and KGS Group, to provide specialized engineering advice and urgently develop options to draw down the level of both Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. The KGS/AECOM engineering report is now complete, and on July 26, Premier Selinger announced the government's commitment to move forward with their recommendations, including:

- immediate construction of a new emergency channel out of Lake St. Martin, which will reduce the level of Lake St. Martin and accommodate more water coming out of Lake Manitoba; and
- maximum unrestricted water flows through the Fairford Water Control Structure to take place throughout the winter, providing for the fastest possible lowering of Lake Manitoba.

These measures are expected to reduce water levels on both lakes by two to three feet, reducing flood risk and providing greater protection for families and communities. KGS and AECOM further recommend that if the emergency channel can be completed by freeze-up, government could undertake construction of an additional bypass channel around the north of the Fairford Water Control Structure, and further expand of the Lake St. Martin emergency channel to reduce water levels even lower. Contractors and equipment have already started to be mobilized and every effort will be made to complete this ambitious project, at an estimated cost of \$100 million, as quickly as possible to provide much needed relief. Weather and construction conditions throughout the late summer and fall will impact how quickly this significant project can move forward, however, significant resources have been mobilized and every effort will be made to complete the work before freeze-up. The KGS/AECOM report is available at www.manitoba.ca/flooding.

As you are aware, for the first-time ever, the Province is offering financial assistance to cottage owners of up to \$90,000 or \$100,000 (with permanent flood protection) under the Lake Manitoba Financial Assistance Program. In addition, under the enhanced Action Plan for Lake Manitoba announced by Premier Selinger on July 4, cottage owners are also now eligible for up to \$34,400 to permanently flood proof their non-primary residences.

For Manitobans who have had property damaged by the 2011 flood, the province has also announced that it will cover municipal and school taxes for families for the period of time from when their property was damaged through to the end of the year. Municipalities have been asked to identify the flood-affected properties that will qualify for this tax relief. This tax relief program is also applicable to cottage properties.

Please also note that there is extensive information available on our website related to the 2011 flood, including lake and river forecast information, new investments in flood mitigation works and flood-proofing,

and resources for flood recovery and support. Please visit www.gov.mb.ca/flooding for more information and check back often for updates.

With respect to your concern about the declaration of a provincial state of emergency, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Linda McFadyen, Deputy Minister of Local Government, to provide clarification on this issue.

Sincerely,

Joel Carleton

Flood Intake Coordinator

From: Dave and Candy Crabb [<mailto:dcrabb@mymts.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:22 AM

To: Premier; McFadyen, Hugh (PC Caucus); Hal CJOB; winnipegnews@ctv.ca; paul.turenne@sunmedia.ca; letters@freepress.mb.ca; kam@bns ltd.ca; randy.helgason@sallstream.com; thirteen@mymts.net; ashernservice@hotmail.com; taylorstockfarm@hotmail.com; bigislan@mymts.net; thordarsonlangruth@live.ca; Bruce Owen; Charles Adler; Cottager Magazine; Heather Stefanson MLA; Entrepreneurship, Training & Trade, Minister; James Bezan MP Email; Jill Winzoski Selkirk Record; Peter Squire; Preserving Victoria Beach; Ralph Eichler MB PC MLA; Borotsik, Rick (PC Caucus)

Subject: MACO FLOOD STATEMENT

To Whom It May Concern,

The Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners Inc. (MACO) have assembled a brief statement regarding the current flood situation in Manitoba. The current flood situation in Manitoba is worsening, and residents are not seeing the level of support and assistance from the government that they should be receiving. The compensation package proposed is discriminating against property owners who have the right to fair compensation, and even denying property owners outright before they have even had a chance to respond as they are trying to save their properties.

Our statement is clear, and raises the three most important facets of the fight that we plan to maintain to protect Manitobans in cottage country. Thousands of residents are seeing their life-long investment in Manitoba destroyed. The government has to reconsider their actions as they are mainly responsible for destroying what Manitobans have built in Manitoba. These residents also are responsible for up to 70% of the taxes collected in many municipalities all over Manitoba.

Manitobans are being treated wrongly. Please see attachment for the MACO official Statement.

Regards,

Dave Crabb

President, MACO

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