

Subject: Ottawa River Action Plan

The Honourable Paul Dewar, MP (NDP)
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

cc The Honourable John Baird MP (PC)

Dear Mr. Dewar:

On behalf of the Champlain Park Community Association, I wish to thank you for the substantial, ongoing efforts that you are making to protect the Ottawa River. We are very pleased to know that you will support a budget proposal to increase funding to municipalities to help them improve the water quality of the Ottawa River.

In aid of this, we would appreciate it if you would highlight the following points to your fellow Members of Parliament.

- The City of Ottawa spills hundreds of millions of liters of sewage into its rivers annually through combined sewer overflow. This needs to stop. To quote John Baird “this is no longer an environmental issue. For many residents of the City of Ottawa, including those in our community, this is a moral issue”.
- We are pleased that the City has developed the Ottawa River Action Plan and that it is starting to produce results, cutting discharges by more than half compared to measurements of four years ago. Unfortunately, in 2011, the City still discharged 417 million liters into our beautiful rivers.
- To pay for the \$150 million construction of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) storage facilities (which is intended to lower the amount of contaminants released into the river, improve water quality and reduce the number of beach closures), the City is seeking one-third funding contributions from the federal and provincial governments. While the city has allocated money and the province has indicated that it will contribute its share, the federal government has not yet done so.
- Therefore, we are asking you to do all you can to ensure that the federal government, in Budget 2012, commits its share of this much needed funding.

We appreciate your continued support to improve Ottawa’s environment for the current and future enjoyment of its residents and visitors.

Again, thank you for supporting this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Heather Pearl
Co-chair Champlain Park Community Association (CPCA)

From: Paul Dewar

To: Heather Pearl

Sent: 30/03/2012 11:40:09 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: RE: Ottawa River Action Plan

Dear Ms. Pearl,

Thank you for taking the time to write on behalf of the Champlain Park Community Association regarding protection of the Ottawa River.

I have called on the federal government repeatedly to take action to improve the water quality of the Ottawa River.

As you've probably already heard, Budget 2012 did not commit any new funding for municipalities. My colleagues and I are very much against this, and we will not be supporting the Budget as proposed unless it's amended to focus on the priorities of Canadians. Time and again, Canadians have told this government they want to see greater investment by the federal government in protecting our environment, which includes providing municipalities with the necessary funding to upgrade infrastructure to improve water quality.

The federal government has consistently downloaded many services to cities without providing them with the necessary funding to cope. This is unacceptable and misguided.

My colleagues and I will continue to hold the Conservative government to account to support municipalities in their efforts to improve water quality.

Sincerely,

Paul Dewar, MP
Ottawa Centre