

*Charlie Angus*

Member of Parliament / député  
Timmins-James Bay / Timmins-baie James

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

The Hon. Bernard Valcourt  
441S Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

June 2, 2014

**Request of Immediate Action in Regards to Water Contamination of the Marten Falls First Nations**

Minister Valcourt,

I am writing to you about the community of Marten Falls situated in the famous Ring of Fire region of Northern Ontario. While the government has been focused on the rich ore that will be processed in this region, there has been very little concern for the basic health and safety of the people who are living on this land. I draw your attention to the ongoing water emergency facing Marten Falls due to the broken water treatment system. I urge you to take immediate action to remedy the situation.

In 2005, Health Canada issued a water advisory for Marten Falls, citing a high amount of turbidity in water due to an inadequate filtering system. The advisory has never been lifted with only temporary solutions provided to remedy the situation.

The system originally broke down from the permanent damage of lightning. We are coming up to ten years of temporary fixes whereby your government is flying bottled water into the community for drinking water while a filter processes water for the other community uses.

The most recent emergency facing the community concerns the filter in their water system breaking. Chief Eli was informed by the OCWA that they sent an invoice to the AANDC for repairs to the system, but the charge is still outstanding. Without the AANDC's payment of that repair, the First Nation cannot pay the specialist required to fix their system. It is essential that the government agencies work hand-in-hand with the tribe to repair this filter.

Due to the breakage, the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) has advised the system be completely shut down to avoid further possible damage to the remainder of the system. This community does not have the funds to replace the filter. I am sure that you would agree that it is unacceptable that citizens in Ontario are left in such a precarious state when concerns about the basic safety of water are raised.

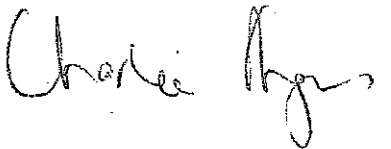
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This is an emergency situation and a matter of public health. This community has been without accessible clean water for nearly a decade. I am calling on you to immediately coordinate emergency efforts to alleviate the water problems of the Marten Falls First Nation.

Furthermore, once the current situation has been remedied it is time for a permanent solution to their water filtration problems, not endless Band-Aid fixes.

I look forward to your prompt response to this urgent situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Angus".

Charlie Angus, MP  
Timmins-James Bay

cc: Chief Elias Moonias, Marten Falls First Nation