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**Charlie Angus**  
Member of Parliament for Timmins - James Bay  
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Prime Minister Trudeau  
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Jan 15 2017

**RE: Mercury Contamination in Grassy Narrows**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you as you engage in a national tour of hearing concerns of “ordinary” Canadians. It is a good sign to see our Prime Minister engaging with Canadians and listening to their concerns. I am concerned, however, by your lack of engagement with the people living along the Wabigoon and English river systems who have suffered longstanding poisoning from mercury contamination. The community of Grassy Narrows has written to you three times over the past year to no response. Your government’s disinterest to this social environmental catastrophe is truly shocking as it has been reported that up to 90% of Indigenous people living in the downstream communities have suffered levels of mercury poisoning.

It would be impossible to imagine any community in this country where 90% of the population could be poisoned by mercury and not receive a massive national and provincial response. And yet as the poisoning occurred on a First Nation reserve, the situation has been allowed to go on for three generations.

I certainly recognize that neither you, nor the present government are responsible for the environmental crisis that has inflicted such damage over the last four decades. However, you have the power and authority to help make things right. Over the last number of years federal officials have stated they were monitoring mercury levels. This monitoring was clearly insufficient as we now learn from a Toronto Star investigation that massive levels of mercury contamination have been found on the plant property. I have to ask myself why it took a journalist and a team of volunteers to find what federal, provincial and industry officials claimed didn’t exist.

Given this new evidence and given the ongoing poisoning of the community you cannot continue to ignore the situation. If a Nation-to-Nation relationship is to have any meaning the federal government must avoid jurisdictional arguments and respond immediately to Grassy Narrows with leadership, commitment and an action plan.

It goes without saying that any non-Indigenous community would receive the full support of both levels of government were such an environmental catastrophe to occur. The people of Grassy Narrows deserve no less.

On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada, the Grassy Narrows clean up remains part of the unfinished business of a dark legacy in our country. On behalf of the community, I am asking you to meet with them and to commit to a full investigation and remediation in order to provide a hopeful future for the coming generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Charlie Angus  
MP Timmins-James Bay