

Charlie Angus

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

Ottawa

900 Édifice La Promenade Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel/Tél: 613-992-2919
Fax/Télé: 613-995-0747

Constituency / Circonscription

202 - 60 ave Wilson Ave Timmins, Ontario P4N 2S7 Tel/Tél : 705-268-6464 Fax/Télé : 705-266-9125	201 - 30 rue Second St Kirkland Lake, Ontario P2N 1R1 Tel/Tél. : 705-567-2747 Fax/Télé. : 705-567-5232
---	--



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
441-S, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

April 27th 2015

RE: Kashechewan Dyke Risks

Minister Valcourt,

Thank you for your letter dated April 20th 2015 responding to my September 15 2014 dated letter on your department's findings of the inadequate state of the Kashechewan dyke and my Nov 24 2014 letter asking for a swift response to help the emergency evacuees in Kapuskasing from last year's flood. I note that your response to this emergency situation is not only half a calendar year late, but was written after the latest round of evacuations had begun for this year.

In your letter you state your willingness to begin a long term study on the river to "determine the need, if any to raise the levels of flood dyke surrounding the community."

I find this statement odd considering the order paper question response you signed and sent to me on September 14, 2014 where you admitted that the dyke "does not meet the minimum height requirement" necessary to assure public safety. This admission comes after your government invested \$14.8 million into stabilizing the dyke. I also refer you to the Hatch report that determined that the deterioration of the dyke wall has left the community at "intolerable risk."

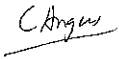
The obvious question is how could your government have spent nearly \$15 million on repairs and still be in a position where the dyke fails to meet basic standards for safety?

In 2006, there was an agreement between the community of Kashechewan and the Federal government to move the community to higher ground over a ten year period. Your government walked away on that agreement. Since then, your department has spent at least 50 million dollars on emergency flooding and evacuation services. On top of this spending, it has been publicly reported that your department spent 22 million dollars on last year's emergency evacuation and flood.

The government's annual run of band aid solutions is an unsustainable solution. More importantly it is a continual risk to public safety. The Kashechewan community has been evacuated in 2005, flooded and evacuated in 2006, evacuated in 2008, evacuated in 2012-2013, evacuated in 2013 and flooded and evacuated in 2014. Many residents are still stuck temporarily living in Kapuskasing from last spring's flood. And now we are into a full stage evacuation for the spring break up of 2015.

I am concerned that your promise to study the dyke wall is simply another stalling tactic and band-aid solution. Rather than continuing to throw money at these insufficient solutions I ask you to work with the community on restoring the plan for permanent relocation to safe ground.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Angus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay