

Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association



GMB 411, RR 1
Zurich ON, N0M 2T0

2007 June 20

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

The Board members of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association, from the Municipality of Bluewater in south-western Ontario, wish to draw the enclosed "Water Quality Report" to your attention. We request that the appropriate Ministers of your government read our report and respond to us.

Our organization is an umbrella group made up of 54 associations of permanent and seasonal residents along Lake Huron. In recent years, our members have become very concerned about the pollution of the surface water, both in the near-shore waters of Lake Huron and in the many short streams that flow into the Lake in our area. Our deeply felt concerns have frequently focused on the number of days that the beaches on Lake Huron are unsafe for swimming. Last summer, there was a manure spill into one of the streams which resulted in a significant fish kill, and made the visible level of pollutants flowing into the lake very obvious. This event served as a catalyst for the alarm of local residents and tourists, and caused our organization to intensify our work on the enclosed report. We have consulted many people in the process of refining this paper. We believe it merits your attention and action on the part of government.

We recognize that your government is facing many environmental concerns. We also recognize that the causes of surface water pollution vary from region to region. But we strongly believe that the time has come when much more effective effort must be placed in correcting the problems.

At least three federal government departments will be involved in solving the problems: Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans. We believe that the federal Environmental Protection Act is a strong piece of legislation but that the Province of Ontario does not see fit to put that strength into action. We find it

confusing that the interplay between federal and provincial legislation results in a lack of accountability for solving the problems. We also believe that the federal government should assist Ontario in directly addressing the problems.

The time for action is now. Please ask your Ministers to report back to us. We await your government's response.

Thank you.

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Enclosure: Water Quality Report (www.bsra.ca/wq_report_ref_doc/20070527_BSRA_W_Q_Spill_Report.pdf)

c: The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment
The Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Paul Steckle, Member of Parliament, Huron--Bruce, Ontario
The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Member of Parliament, Saint-Laurent--
Cartierville, Quebec
The Honourable Jack Layton, Member of Parliament, Toronto—Danforth
Gilles Duceppe, Member of Parliament, Laurier—Sainte-Marie
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada