



MAR 19 2012

Ms. Camille Mageau
Secretary
Canadian Section
International Joint Commission
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6

Dear Ms. Mageau:

The governments of Canada and the United States, on behalf of the Province of Quebec and the State of Vermont, are writing to the International Joint Commission (IJC) concerning flooding in Lake Champlain and its tributaries and the Richelieu River. In the spring of 2011, devastating floods in the area caused serious material damages, and resulted in environmental and agricultural impacts on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

The governments of Canada and the United States are investigating a reference to the IJC to study flooding in the area and request that the IJC first develop a plan of study, a timetable, and a proposed budget necessary to complete this work. The plan of study should include:

- an evaluation of the causes and impacts of flooding in the Lake Champlain watershed, with emphasis on the events of 2011;
- an evaluation, including a cost and benefit analysis of flood mitigation solutions for Lake Champlain and its tributaries and the Richelieu River, considering both structural and non-structural solutions;
- analysis and recommendations for adapting to the variability of water supplies to the Lake Champlain and Richelieu River watershed, building upon relevant studies (this includes, but is not limited to, work produced by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the University of Vermont, and the Ouranos Consortium on regional climatology and adaptation to climate change);
- an analysis of existing, country-wide flood plain regulation best management practices, to include recommendations for community-based regulation;

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- an evaluation of the need for real-time flood inundation mapping to help predict flooding potential and prepare local communities and emergency responders for future floods.

The governments of Canada, the United States, Quebec, and Vermont, welcome the opportunity to collaborate and assist the IJC in its work. A similar letter is being sent to the Secretary of the IJC's United States Section by the U.S. Department of State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Baird".

John Baird, P.C., M.P.