

DAMAGE

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I am well aware that the Crown has a "fiduciary responsibility" toward Canada's First Nations. However, the question has to be asked, at what point does this fiduciary responsibility become a weapon used by First Nations to bring non-Aboriginals, i.e. the West Ipperwash Beach homeowners, into financial ruin? I would appreciate it if you could clarify for me the extent and limitations of Canada's fiduciary obligations toward First Nations. More specifically, how much money has the Government of Canada paid to the Kettle & Stony Point First Nation to defray the costs of its land claim and law suit litigation, and how much more is the federal government willing to spend in this area?

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I would like to inform you that, due to health reasons, a number of West Ipperwash Beach homeowners have left their homes, to move into apartments in Sarnia and other communities. They simply cannot take the stress any longer. While many have tried, it is virtually impossible to sell these homes even though they have depreciated considerably in value. As a result of the continuing litigation - which has cost the homeowners around \$250,000 so far - many of these people are in severe financial straits, a problem which is compounded by the near impossibility of securing a loan from financial institutions.

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In closing, I am convinced that the federal government has a moral responsibility to offer financial assistance to the West Ipperwash Beach homeowners, who only want to be left in peace. As you can see by the enclosed article, which appeared in a recent edition of the *Lakeshore Advance*, the Ipperwash residents feel abandoned by their governments, by the police and by the justice system, and with nothing left to lose, they refuse to submit quietly any longer to the widespread lawlessness in the area.

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I am convinced that the residents of West Ipperwash Beach urgently require a positive signal from the Government of Canada, a signal consisting not only of words, but also a financial compensation package that will serve to acknowledge the very difficult set of circumstances that has been thrust upon these law-abiding citizens.

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I look forward to your reply on these matters, at which time I would be happy to share your response with my constituents.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kean (Leg. Ass't.)

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per

Rose-Marie Ur, M.P.
Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

Encl.

(Dictated by Mrs. Ur and signed in her absence)