

**Attorney General  
and Minister Responsible  
for Native Affairs**

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Ref No. M98-00363

Ms. Mary Lou LaPratte  
R.R. #2, P.O. Box 25  
Forest, Ontario  
N0N 1J0

MAR 04 1998

*PARSED / FAILURE  
TO ACT : CASG.*

Dear Ms. LaPratte:

*GOV'T KNEW  
(OUGHT TO HAVE  
KNOWN)*

*PMIC*

Thank you for your letter of December 30, 1997 to Premier Harris concerning your personal circumstances in light of the situation at West Ipperwash Beach. The Premier has asked me to reply on his behalf.

\* As I stated in a previous letter to you of March 10, 1997, concerning these matters, I recognize that you, your family and your neighbours have endured a long and difficult period of uncertainty regarding the future of your community.

Unfortunately, I cannot comment on events relating to the occupation of Ipperwash Provincial Park, as criminal charges in connection with these events, as well as a number of civil lawsuits, remain before the courts.

The Ontario government shares your frustration that the Ipperwash situation remains unresolved. We believe the park occupation was a direct result of the federal government's failure to act in a timely and expeditious manner in meeting its commitment to restore Camp Ipperwash to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. We have urged the federal government to take swift action to resolve the outstanding issues with the First Nation and return the Camp Ipperwash lands as quickly as possible.

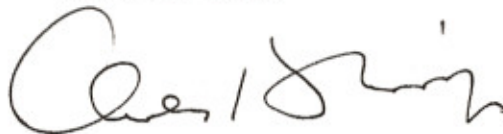
Negotiations between the federal government and the First Nation on the return of the Camp Ipperwash lands have recently progressed, and have included discussions to consider the impact of these issues on local non-Aboriginal communities. Our government is hopeful that the parties can reach an agreement in principle soon. We believe that such an agreement would be a major step toward resolving the Ipperwash situation and restoring balanced, harmonious relations in your community.

As you may know, Ontario is not a party to the West Ipperwash Beach litigation. Currently, the parties are awaiting a date for a hearing before the Supreme Court of Canada. I can appreciate your frustration in the length of time involved in addressing the West Ipperwash Beach issue through the courts. However, I cannot comment further on the matter while it remains the subject of litigation.

You may wish to address your concerns regarding the Camp Ipperwash lands and West Ipperwash Beach litigation to the Honourable Jane Stewart, federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Ms. Stewart's address is 10 Wellington Street, 21<sup>st</sup> floor, Hull, Quebec K1A 0H4.

Thank you again for conveying your interest in this matter to the Premier.

Yours very truly,



Charles Harnick  
Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Native Affairs

cc: Premier M. Harris  
The Honourable Jane Stewart  
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development