

Deputy Prime Minister



Vice-premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

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[Redacted]

Forest, Ontario N0N 1J0

Dear Mr. & Mrs [Redacted]

I am writing further to my letter to you of February 26, 1998, replying to your letter to me of February 5, 1998, regarding Camp Ipperwash. I contacted the Honourable Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development about your letter.

As a result, recently Minister Stewart informed me as follows:

"... (you enclosed) ... a letter from ... Mr. [Redacted] of Forest, Ontario, in which they expressed strong concerns regarding issues related to Camp Ipperwash.

I would like to mention that a special round table forum has been established to address local issues such as those raised by [Redacted]. The round table includes representatives from the First Nation and the surrounding community and is chaired by Mr. Robert Reid, the Special Federal Representative for Camp Ipperwash. I am hopeful that the round table approach will contribute to the resolution of these matters.

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With respect to [REDACTED] belief that the federal government is providing free housing to the camp occupants, this is inaccurate. As you may know, the Government of Canada is committed to returning these former reserve lands to the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. In the meantime, Canada is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure at the camp until the current negotiations resolve the question of how the existing buildings will be utilized in the future by the First Nation.

I appreciate [REDACTED] comments regarding public safety in the area. It is important to note, however, that the Government of Ontario has policing jurisdiction throughout the Province of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police will investigate and enforce any infractions of the law that are reported to them.

I can assure you that the federal government is committed to obtaining a peaceful resolution of the Camp Ipperwash situation through negotiations that will satisfy all the concerned parties. "

I trust you find the Minister's comments of interest. In the meantime, as I indicated in my previous letter, I am awaiting comments from the Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister of National Defence, and will write again when I have heard from him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herb Gray".

THE HON. HERB GRAY, M.P.