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Hon. John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources & Forestry
6th Floor, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W
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Minister Yakabuski,

The provincial government has a responsibility to preserve and protect our environment for the next generation, and that means taking decisive action to combat climate change. But with severe weather occurrences on the rise, Ontarians are already being put at real risk.

In the aftermath of several heavy rainstorms this past year, flash flooding has caused serious damage to homes in my riding of Davenport, particularly in the Fairbank and Silverthorn neighbourhoods, and surrounding areas.

With the recent announcement of the appointment of a special advisor on flooding, I want to highlight these flooding incidents in my community and ask what steps the government is taking to meet the growing challenge of extreme weather events and their impact, including support for municipalities in their efforts to adapt.

Thus far, the government's lack of action on this file has only increased a sense of worry among those in flood-vulnerable parts of my community. Instead of taking meaningful action, we saw a 50% cut to the 2019 budget for flood management programs of Ontario's Conservation Authorities, including those that help monitor the Humber River. These vital programs support flood warnings, flood response and floodplain management initiatives and they are needed now more than ever.

The work of the Special Advisor will only be effective if paired with a rollback of the cuts to flood management programs and a strengthening of supports for homeowners so they are not left on the hook for thousands of unexpected repair costs. In the last parliament, my colleague, Essex MPP Taras Natashyak, introduced the *Flood Avoidance, Insurance and Recovery Statute Law Amendment Act*, to do just that.

Mr. Natyshak's bill would have made amendments to the *Insurance Act*, *Building Code Act* and *Municipal Affairs Act* to ensure that property owners are not penalized with non-renewal when submitting water damage claims related to an event in an area where a state of emergency has been declared. In addition, it would require the Ontario Disaster Recovery Program to expand

sewer back-up coverage to all claimants within the geographic area where a flood-related state of emergency is declared.

Davenport residents, and all Ontarians, deserve to know that the provincial government has their back when disaster strikes. Enhanced support is needed now for our communities to recover from flooding and to implement mitigation strategies in this time of a drastically changing climate.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues further, and to have the Special Advisor visit my riding to learn more about urban flooding impacts. Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Marit Stiles
MPP for Davenport

cc.: Councillor Ana Bailao, Ward 9 (Davenport)