

*Perth Office*  
59 Lorne Avenue East, Unit A  
Stratford, Ontario N5A 6S4  
Tel: 519-273-1400  
Fax: 519-273-9045

*Wellington Office*  
39 Elora Street South, Unit 1  
P.O. Box 464  
Harriston, Ontario N0G 1Z0  
Tel: 519-338-3589  
Fax: 519-338-5615



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*John Nater*

Member of Parliament  
Perth—Wellington

*Ottawa Office*  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel: 613-992-6124  
Fax: 613-998-7902

*Online*  
E-Mail: [John.Nater@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Nater@parl.gc.ca)  
Website: [johnnater.ca](http://johnnater.ca)

November 21, 2017

Bill White, CAO  
Town of Minto  
5941 Hwy 89  
Harriston ON N0G 1Z0

Dear Bill,

Enclosed, please find Minister McKenna's response to Mr. Nater's September 12, 2017 letter concerning the historic flooding in the Town of Minto on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rae

Communications and Stakeholder Manager  
Office of John Nater, M.P.  
Perth—Wellington

*Council  
correspondence*



OCT 26 2017

Mr. John Nater, M.P.  
Perth – Wellington  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Nater:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 2017, regarding the flooding in the Town of Minto experienced on June 23.

I appreciate your sharing your concerns, and those of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, regarding the impact of this event on the Town of Minto, as well as the future cost of flood mitigation and control.

Environment and Climate Change Canada strives to provide the best possible weather information and services, and is committed to making sure Canadians receive timely, accurate, and high quality weather forecasts across the country. The Department is continually working to improve its weather forecasts and warnings in order to keep Canadians informed about weather in their area.

One of the recognized impacts of climate change is an increased frequency of extreme weather events such as the damaging flash flood experienced by the Town of Minto in June. Flash flooding events resulting from intense thunderstorms invariably develop very quickly and often affect very localized areas.

The current state of the science of meteorology as it pertains to short-duration and high-intensity rainfall is not at a level where long lead times are achievable. However, Environment and Climate Change Canada is making constant improvements through significant investments in, and advancements to, higher resolution weather forecasts coupled with faster supercomputing capabilities and new weather radar systems. For more information on these initiatives, please visit [www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2017/02/the\\_government\\_ofcanadainveststomodernizeweather-forecastinginfr.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2017/02/the_government_ofcanadainveststomodernizeweather-forecastinginfr.html).

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To draw attention to the risks of events such as the one you mention in your letter, the Department issues weather alerts in which it describes the most likely weather and the risks of flash flooding. The weather watch and subsequent weather warning that were issued for the region on the evening of June 22 are enclosed for your information.

With respect to the concerns raised regarding future flood mitigation and control for smaller municipalities, please note that Public Safety Canada is the lead agency responsible for flood mitigation. That department is also responsible for the delivery of the National Disaster Mitigation Program. As such, I am sharing your comments with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, for consideration.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

Enclosures

c.c.: The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.  
Mr. Ben Lobb, M.P.

WWCN11 CWTO 230015  
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH  
FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO  
UPDATED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
AT 8:15 P.M. EDT THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2017.

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SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH FOR:

=NEW= WOODSTOCK - TILLSONBURG - OXFORD COUNTY =NEW= CALEDON =NEW= HURON - PERTH  
=NEW= WATERLOO - WELLINGTON =NEW= DUFFERIN - INNISFIL =NEW= SAUGEEN SHORES -  
KINCARDINE - SOUTHERN BRUCE COUNTY =NEW= HANOVER - DUNDALK - SOUTHERN GREY COUNTY  
=NEW= OWEN SOUND - BLUE MOUNTAINS - NORTHERN GREY COUNTY  
WINDSOR - ESSEX - CHATHAM-KENT  
SARNIA - LAMBTON  
ELGIN  
LONDON - MIDDLESEX.

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==DISCUSSION==

CONDITIONS ARE FAVOURABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS THAT MAY BE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING STRONG WIND GUSTS, LARGE HAIL AND HEAVY RAIN.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS ARE POSSIBLE THIS EVENING.

LARGE HAIL CAN DAMAGE PROPERTY AND CAUSE INJURY. STRONG WIND GUSTS CAN TOSS LOOSE OBJECTS, DAMAGE WEAK BUILDINGS, BREAK BRANCHES OFF TREES AND OVERTURN LARGE VEHICLES. REMEMBER, SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS CAN PRODUCE TORNADOES. HEAVY DOWNPOURS CAN CAUSE FLASH FLOODS AND WATER POOLING ON ROADS. LIGHTNING KILLS AND INJURES CANADIANS EVERY YEAR. REMEMBER, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS (EXCLAMATION MARK)

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCHES ARE ISSUED WHEN ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS ARE FAVOURABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THUNDERSTORMS THAT COULD PRODUCE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: LARGE HAIL, DAMAGING WINDS, TORRENTIAL RAINFALL.

THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDS THAT YOU TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY IF THREATENING WEATHER APPROACHES.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALERTS AND FORECASTS ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA. TO REPORT SEVERE WEATHER, SEND AN EMAIL TO EC.CPIO-TEMPETES-OSPC-STORMS.EC (AT) CANADA.CA OR TWEET REPORTS USING (HASH) ONSTORM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[HTTP://WWW.EMERGENCYMANAGEMENTONTARIO.CA/ENGLISH/BEPREPARED/BEPREPARED.HTML.](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/beprepared.html)

[HTTP://WEATHER.GC.CA](http://weather.gc.ca)

END/OSPC

WUCN11 CWTO 230414  
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING  
FOR SOUTHERN ONTARIO  
ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
AT 12:14 A.M. EDT FRIDAY 23 JUNE 2017.

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**SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR:**

=NEW= WINGHAM - BLYTH - NORTHERN HURON COUNTY =NEW= MOUNT FOREST - ARTHUR -  
NORTHERN WELLINGTON COUNTY =NEW= ORANGEVILLE - GRAND VALLEY - SOUTHERN DUFFERIN  
COUNTY =NEW= SHELBURNE - MANSFIELD - NORTHERN DUFFERIN COUNTY =NEW= SAUGEEN SHORES -  
KINCARDINE - SOUTHERN BRUCE COUNTY =NEW= HANOVER - DUNDALK - SOUTHERN GREY COUNTY.

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**==DISCUSSION==**

UPDATED OR ENDED BY 3:13 A.M. EDT.

AT 12:14 A.M. EDT, ENVIRONMENT CANADA METEOROLOGISTS ARE TRACKING A LINE OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING STRONG WIND GUSTS, PEA TO DIME SIZE HAIL AND TORRENTIAL RAIN.

A LINE OF THUNDERSTORMS TRACKING ACROSS LAKE HURON WILL CONTINUE MOVING OVER THE SAME AREA BETWEEN GODERICH AND KINCARDINE AND INLAND TO MOUNT FOREST AND SHELBURNE FOR NEXT FEW HOURS. LOCAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS OF 75 TO 100 MM ARE POSSIBLE. A WEATHER STATION IN MOUNT FOREST REPORTED 36 MM IN JUST UNDER AN HOUR.

HEAVY DOWNPOURS CAN CAUSE FLASH FLOODS AND WATER POOLING ON ROADS. IF VISIBILITY IS REDUCED WHILE DRIVING, TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS AND MAINTAIN A SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCE. LIGHTNING KILLS AND INJURES CANADIANS EVERY YEAR. REMEMBER, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS(EXCLAMATION MARK)

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS ARE ISSUED WHEN IMMINENT OR OCCURRING THUNDERSTORMS ARE LIKELY TO PRODUCE OR ARE PRODUCING ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: LARGE HAIL, DAMAGING WINDS, TORRENTIAL RAINFALL.

THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDS THAT YOU TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY IF THREATENING WEATHER APPROACHES.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO MONITOR ALERTS AND FORECASTS ISSUED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA. TO REPORT SEVERE WEATHER, SEND AN EMAIL TO EC.CPIO-TEMPETES-OSPC-STORMS.EC (AT) CANADA.CA OR TWEET REPORTS USING (HASH) ONSTORM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[HTTP://WWW.EMERGENCYMANAGEMENTONTARIO.CA/ENGLISH/BEPREPARED/BEPREPARED.HTML](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/beprepared.html).

[HTTP://WEATHER.GC.CA](http://weather.gc.ca)  
END/OSPC

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Fax: 613-998-7902

*Online*

E-Mail: [John.Nater@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Nater@parl.gc.ca)  
Website: [johnnater.ca](http://johnnater.ca)

September 12, 2017

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna:

I am writing you today on behalf of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), which is partially located in my riding of Perth—Wellington. I recently met with the MVCA to discuss the historic flooding the Town of Minto experienced on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Town of Minto, specifically the community of Harriston, received 176mm of rain in the course of one night on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The result was widespread flooding with the Maitland River spilling over its banks. The Town of Minto estimates that close to \$11 million dollars damages were a result of this sudden rainfall.

A major concern of the MVCA was the lack of warning from Environment Canada. Environment Canada predicted a rainfall of only 40mm for the time period in question. The representatives I met with explained that Environment Canada has been focusing fewer resources on weather forecasting. In fact, it was the MVCA's own automated rain gauges that alerted the staff to a potentially dire situation in the early hours of June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

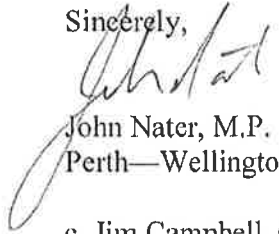
In addition, in light of the once-in-a-100-year event, MVCA is concerned about the lack of resources devoted to the National Disaster Mitigation Program. The Town of Minto estimates that a flood mitigation and control system would cost between \$12 and \$15 million. Rural municipalities simply do not have the tax base to fund such projects.

The MCVA is attempting to work within the current National Disaster Mitigation Program. However, there is a growing concern among rural conservation authorities that urban centres will receive a larger portion of the funding. The MCVA supports the establishment of a separate stream for rural municipalities.

I share their concerns about the National Disaster Mitigation Program. It is vital that our rural municipalities receive their fair share of funding under this program.

I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,



John Nater, M.P.  
Perth—Wellington

c. Jim Campbell, Chair of Maitland Valley Conservation Authority  
c. Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament for Huron Bruce