

**Lowertown Community Association
Association Communautaire de la basseville**

January 18, 2012

Hon Mauril Belanger
Member of Parliament
09, Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr Mauril Belanger,

We are writing you today on behalf of the Lowertown Community Association to seek your assistance in protecting our rivers. We are fortunate to have such wonderful resources here in Ottawa, and indeed in Lowertown we benefit and enjoy both daily.

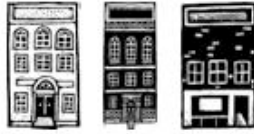
As you know, the City of Ottawa spills millions of litres of sewage into its rivers annually. Indeed, local Member of Parliament (MP) John Baird was correct to say: "It's no longer an environmental issue. For many residents of the city of Ottawa, including myself, it's a moral issue."

Thankfully, the city developed the Ottawa River Action Plan and it is delivering results, cutting discharges by more than half compared to measurements of four years ago. Unfortunately, in 2011 the city still discharged 417-million litres of combined sewage and rainwater into the river.

To pay for the \$150 million construction of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) storage facilities—intended to lower the amount of contaminants released to the river, improve water quality, and reduce the number of beach closures—the city now seeks one-third funding contributions from the federal and provincial governments. The province has indicated it will contribute, but the federal government has not yet done so.

Therefore we are writing to you today to ask if you support \$50 million in federal funding for CSO storage facilities?

Please do all you can to ensure that the federal government, in Budget 2012, commits to its third of the funding. Please communicate this support to all other Ottawa area MPs as well.



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We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter, and thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Marc Aubin
President
Lowertown Community Association

Liz Bernstein
Vice-President