

From: MoSST.Industry@ic.gc.ca [mailto:MoSST.Industry@ic.gc.ca]
Sent: July 11, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Jules M. Blais
Subject: Experimental Lakes Area research facility

Dear Mr. Blais:

Thank you for your email regarding the Experimental Lakes Area research facility.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance and scientific value of the work that has been conducted at this facility, and the importance of investing in scientific research more generally. The total federal science and technology expenditures in 2011–12 surpassed \$11 billion, including \$2.9 billion for research and development in the higher education sector. Economic Action Plan 2013 reinforces our ongoing commitment to science, technology and innovation in Canada with new investments in research partnerships and genomics.

I was pleased that, on May 9, 2013, the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The MOU provides a framework within which an agreement can be negotiated that will enable IISD to proceed as the operator of the Experimental Lakes Area. IISD will also continue discussions with the landowner, the Province of Ontario. Both the federal government and IISD are committed to ensuring that these discussions are successful.

The federal government also provides significant funding to support research related to fresh water and the environment through the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. In particular, Budget 2011 provided \$35 million over five years to support excellence in climate and atmospheric research at Canadian post-secondary institutions. In fact, since coming to office, our government has provided more than \$135 million for climate change related research and more than \$100 million for fresh water related research. Additional background information can be found on the NSERC website at <http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/>

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the Government of Canada's commitment to strengthening Canada's research excellence and scientific success, and to working with our partners in harnessing the tremendous social and economic benefits arising from investments in research.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Gary Goodyear, P.C., M.P.