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File # D 05-163

September 22, 2005

The Hon. Anne McLellan, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

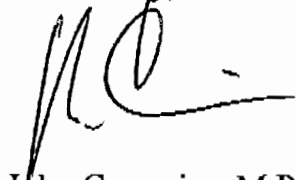
After the recent disaster in Louisiana and Mississippi, many of my constituents have expressed concerns about our federal government's capability to deal with a natural disaster on the West Coast. We have been told to that a damaging earthquake is inevitable here; it is just a matter of time. I would like to be able to assure my constituents of the federal government's readiness to deal with such a disaster and am writing with specific questions for your response.

1. Does our military have a plan in place to assist?
2. What helicopter lift capability does the Canadian government have to conduct search and rescue operations and the transportation of relief supplies and emergency personnel?
3. What provision has been made to ensure the availability of the Coast Guard hovercraft?
4. What would the federal government response be in the event of damaged bridges and disrupted transportation corridors leading into the Lower Mainland?

5. What is the capability of the Canadian government to provide emergency rations of food, water, shelter, medical supplies?
6. Have provisions been made for a survivor registration system?
7. Is there a plan to identify medical facilities that can deal with disaster survivors?
8. Is the federal government concerned that failure to dredge the side channels of the Fraser River could exacerbate flooding following an earthquake?

These are important questions that have been raised by my constituents. We believe that they deserve a considered and timely response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Cummins', written over a horizontal line.

John Cummins, M.P.
Delta - Richmond East

JMC/kss