

September 7, 2006

Mr. Warren McCall  
Chair, Standing Committee on the Economy  
203 Legislative Building  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. McCall,

It's been almost three weeks since we wrote you, calling for the Standing Committee on the Economy to conduct a review of the government's current "let it burn" policy, and the government's response to the Noel fire this summer. To date, we have received no reply. This lack of action alarming.

As outlined in our previous letter, the community of Stony Rapids felt abandoned by their government in a time of crisis. It is imperative we conduct an inquiry to address concerns about how the fire was handled and how current policies are endangering the lives and property of northerners.

In an August letter to the Minister of the Environment, Stony Rapids Mayor Curtis Fiss said:

“We ask that an inquiry into this near catastrophe be conducted. We would like answers to our questions and discussions concerning how this type of mismanagement could be avoided in the future.”

The Noel fire came within several hundred metres of Stony Rapids, and came close to destroying the new hospital. The community worked very hard to divert the fire, and thankfully, no one was injured.

These people deserve straight answers. We urge you to seriously consider our request to visit Stony Rapids this fall to hear directly from these people, and develop a better appreciation of exactly what transpired.

This issue cannot be ignored. I urge you to respond immediately to our request for a review.

Sincerely,

Denis Allchurch  
MLA Rosthern-Shellbrook  
Sask. Party Northern Affairs Critic

Glen Hart  
MLA Last Mountain-Touchwood  
Sask. Party Environment Critic

CC Members of the Standing Committee on the Economy  
Hon. John Nilson, Minister of the Environment  
Hon. Joan Beatty, Minister of Northern Affairs  
Chief Alphonse Bird, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations