

to be considered for the benefits of the programs that go to core need. The Minister is not looking at actual need but simply negotiating sums with the provinces.

This brings me to the most serious confusion. The Minister has been negotiating since the fall of 1984, certainly for well over a year since his discussion paper of early 1985. After a year to a year and a half of negotiations, he still does not have programs in place, except for the co-operatives that he seems to favour and that he would like to separate from the other social housing programs. He is holding back on all the cost-sharing programs with the provinces, apparently until the last province signs. It is interesting to note that the second to last province to sign is his own Progressive Conservative governed Province of Saskatchewan.

I have been making inquiries, as requested, on behalf of Mona Dawson of Rouleau, Saskatchewan. She has been asking for a RRAP grant because she wants to have indoor plumbing. Currently she has no plumbing in her house, so she is not asking to upgrade her plumbing but simply asking to have indoor plumbing. She believes that she meets the criteria and has not been told otherwise. However, she has been given many other excuses.

First, she received a letter on April 8, from Lyle Howat, program manager of the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, which is the delivery agent. He stated:

We wish to advise you that Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will be unable to approve your application for repairs to your home as the Federal Budget for this program has been fully committed.

How did he know on April 8, 1986 that the federal budget for this program had already been fully committed? Of course he did not know. He did not know what he was talking about. Later on we find out from a different source, that is, the federal Minister, that indeed she had applied first in 1985, but by that time the budget had been fully expended. He did not mention the reason it was expended was because it had been chopped. He goes on to state:

I understand Mrs. Dawson has submitted an application for consideration this year and that initial inspection of her property was completed on April 15.

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That is what he wrote on May 6 at which time there was still no indication of whether she would receive her money or when.

There was another letter from the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation written on the stationery of the Chairman of the Board and signed by Mr. Gordon Dirks, the Minister in charge. He states at greater length what the federal Minister has already stated. In fact, Mrs. Dawson is not receiving any money, not because she is ineligible, not because there is no program and not because there is no money. She is not receiving anything just because the program has not yet been put into operation. Therefore it was fascinating to receive a note from the Minister through the new inter-office E-Mail dated May 7 which states in part:

Supply

As the Minister responsible for CMHC, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I have authorized the release of the 1986 Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program budget—

He then goes on to mention some millions of dollars and the letter continues:

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will be in touch with local municipalities and delivery agents shortly—

That is one of the Minister's favourite words.

—to inform them of their homeowner RRAP applications. I am indeed pleased that the delivery of this very popular federal program can proceed.

On May 7 he said that it "can proceed", which is an ambiguous phrase. A person might mistakenly understand that it can proceed now. But of course that is not what he meant. He then states that he expects certain programs will be finalized shortly.

Then came the big day, May 27, 1986. I received another piece of E-Mail from the Minister which states:

As Minister Responsible for CMHC, this is to confirm that RRAP funds will be allocated to delivery agents and municipalities today. For further information, contact your local CMHC office.

That piece of correspondence is dated 17:01 Tuesday, May 27, 1986. On Wednesday morning I phoned Mrs. Dawson and urged her to phone her local CMHC office, which she did. Of course, as the Minister will know, she received nothing. She phoned CMHC, she phoned the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and she phoned Gordon Dirks' office, the Chairman of Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. None of them had heard of the Minister's statement or had been given any directive to release any funds.

The story continues to the point where today I was advised that the Minister's office had said, no, there are no funds yet. In other words "today" "on Tuesday" is as good as never. There are no funds yet because the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada, two Progressive Conservative Governments, have not yet agreed on the program.

To put it more practically, from the point of view of Mrs. Dawson, the Conservative Government of Saskatchewan and the Conservative Government of Canada have agreed that she will not get her money yet. She has been advised by contractors that it will take three or four months because of the backlog of work they have elsewhere to complete the plumbing. If they know it cannot be completed before freeze-up then they will not undertake it. The Minister knows what freeze-up is on the Prairies, as I do. They will not try to break the ground after freeze-up. What these two Conservative Governments have agreed is that Mona Dawson will probably have to wait until 1987 to have indoor plumbing installed. That is a very discouraging situation for Mona Dawson, and a very discouraging situation for thousands of other people who are in exactly the same type of situation, perhaps not so dramatic but just as real.

There is also the difficulty encountered by the people in northern Manitoba where housing to be built must have the materials brought in over winter-frozen roads. In previous years they were able to start in February or March by bringing