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# JAMAICANS FOR JUSTICE

June 17, 2008

Mr. Richard McHargh  
Director, Regional Implementation  
National Works Agency  
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I am using this opportunity to follow up on commitments that you made regarding the commencement of river training work along the Johnson River in the vicinity of Springfield, St. Thomas.

Since our last conversation on May 22, 2008, just before hosting the Advocacy Planning Workshop (APW) with community leaders you advised me that work in the above mentioned area would commence within three weeks. This information was outlined in a memo, which served as a core discussion item in the workshop. Since then, community leaders have taken the initiative to follow-up on the matter with their local NWA office and representative. In so doing, Mr. Devon Maxwell, President of Spring Rain Youth Club, which serves the community, met with Mr. Anthony Brown, acting Parish Manager on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. At the meeting Mr. Brown informed him that he was not aware of any such commitment. As such, I was immediately contacted by the community leader, who asked me to speak with Mr. Brown, at which time I detailed the nature of our meetings and the commitments that you had made before Hon. Michael Henry to execute work in the amount Ja\$50m in the previously named area. To my surprise, Mr. Brown was unaware of this commitment, and could only vaguely recall a preliminary assessment of the area that involved the Member of Parliament.

We were pleased that Mr. Brown showed sensitivity to the issue, as he accompanied the community leader to the site and took photographs. He also advised me to contact you regarding the previously stated commitments and that he would be contacting head office to see if there were any such directives for river training work to be done in the Springfield community.

From the meetings held with community leaders, I am quite sure that you are aware of their enthusiasm to address this long-standing problem. From the last capacity building workshop held with community leaders, they expressed a desire to assist in advancing the Project by contributing their labour at a reduced rate. They have also committed to doing follow ups with your office and the local NWA office until the situation is resolved. This enthusiasm is certainly what is needed at the local level, and I am therefore anticipating that you will see this as an opportunity for addressing a major development problem facing the residents of Springfield.

I anticipate furthering this conversation with you and getting more specific information about the proposed work as described above. Please feel free to contact me via telephone at: 450-0580 or 949-0335 or via email at: [rachelhaye@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelhaye@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,

St. Rachel Ustanny, M.Sc., B.Sc. (Hons.)  
Advocacy Specialist & Community Educator  
Social and Economic Justice (SEJ) Project

Cc. Hon. Michael Henry, Minister of Transport and Works

Ms. Pat Walker, Assistant to the Minister of Transport and Works (Fax: 920-8941)

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