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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

### **MINISTER TOURS P.G. AND APPROVES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

VICTORIA – Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General John Les toured flooded areas of Prince George today and approved financial assistance for uninsurable property damages in the city under the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program.

“The most important thing in this type of situation is that the people who live and work in Prince George are safe,” said Les. “However, the ice jam has put homes, businesses and private infrastructure at risk while leaving many out of work. I’m here along with my colleagues, area MLAs, to meet with residents, industry and local officials, hear their concerns and on behalf of government continue to work with them on these issues.”

“Many families in this community are directly and indirectly impacted by this flooding,” said MLA Shirley Bond. “The disaster financial assistance announced by Minister Les is welcome news for this city.”

A massive ice jam on the Nechako River in the Prince George area is impeding the river’s natural flow, causing the water to spill its banks in places and rise up through the ground in other areas. As a result, homes and businesses in some low-lying areas of the city are evacuated or on evacuation alert.

“Until the ice jam breaks up and flows return to normal, the potential for further flooding remains,” Les added. “Once the waters recede, the community can begin the task of cleaning up and getting back to normal. Disaster Financial Assistance will be available to those who are eligible.”

The DFA program helps eligible homeowners, residential tenants, farms, small businesses and charitable organizations when property is damaged by uninsurable disasters, including certain floods and mudslides. The program covers up to 80 per cent of an accepted claim over \$1,000, to a maximum of \$300,000. In 2005, the government raised the disaster funding assistance limit for eligible claimants from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

Before applying for Disaster Financial Assistance, individuals should check with their insurer to find out if their insurance will cover the damages.

Applicants for Disaster Financial Assistance have 90 days to file an application after the assistance is authorized. DFA application forms and more information about the program are available at [www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca) or by calling toll-free 1-888-257-4777.

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