

NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL ON
DEVILS LAKE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an editorial by the Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna, on the crisis surrounding Devils Lake.

[From the New York Times, May 12, 2005]

HELL FROM HIGH WATER

(By Frank McKenna)

WASHINGTON.—A crisis looms on the United States border with Canada, and it could easily be averted with some research and a little patience.

The problem stems from a body of water in North Dakota known as Devils Lake. The lake has no natural drainage, and because North Dakota has drained surrounding wetlands, it has risen 26 feet since 1993, flooding nearby communities. In Canada, we are sympathetic to the plight of the lake's neighbors, but not to the solution their state has proposed.

In June, North Dakota plans to open an outlet that will let Devils Lake water travel into the Sheyenne River and on into the Red River, which flows north into Canada. From there the water will eventually stream into Lake Winnipeg and the Hudson Bay watershed.

Devils Lake, a remnant of a shallow glacial sea, is a closed ecological system that has been geographically separate from the surrounding Hudson Bay basin for more than a thousand years. Its salty waters have high concentrations of nitrogen, sulfates and phosphates—minerals that could cause severe digestive distress if consumed and could be lethal to aquatic life. Because of these contaminants, North Dakota does not allow Devils Lake waters to be used for irrigation.

Once the canal is opened, the pollutants will enter the water supply of downstream communities in North Dakota, Minnesota and Manitoba. Moreover, species of fish, plants, parasites and viruses previously confined in Devils Lake, in some cases for millenniums, will spill out into the Sheyenne and Red Rivers. There they could kill the native plants and fish of the larger ecosystem. The consequences for Lake Winnipeg, the largest freshwater fishery in North America, are particularly worrisome.

Despite concerns on both sides of the border about maintaining safe water sources, North Dakota has decided to pump out Devils Lake water without undertaking any environmental assessment or establishing ecological safeguards.

There is a solution to this impending crisis. Nearly 100 years ago, Canada and the United States established the Boundary Waters Treaty. Under that treaty the two governments set up an International Joint Commission to address differences of opinion involving boundary waters. So far, of the 53 issues the two countries have jointly referred to the commission, 51 have been resolved by mutual agreement.

For over a year, Canada has been requesting that North Dakota put off pumping water while the United States and Canada refer the issue to the commission for a time-limited, independent, scientific review. Both the Canadian and Manitoban governments have stated that they will support the commission's finding, whatever it may be. The governors of Minnesota and Missouri, as well as many other officials, have expressed sup-

port for the Canadian request in letters to the United States secretary of state.

At their March meeting in Waco, Texas, President Bush, Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada and President Vicente Fox of Mexico pledged to enhance water quality "by working bilaterally, trilaterally and through existing regional bodies." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should demonstrate the strength of that commitment by joining Canada in referring the Devils Lake project to the joint commission.

If instead the Devils Lake project goes forward without a review, it will damage not only the region's environment and economy, but also North America's most important bilateral water management arrangement. There is a better solution.

IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH
WEEK

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Women's Health Week. It is only within the past decade that scientists have begun to uncover significant biological and physiological differences between men and women. Before that time, women were regularly left out of clinical trials and it was simply assumed that women's bodies would respond to medication in the same way as men's bodies.

Thanks to the efforts of women in the House and Senate, and dedicated organizations such as the Society for Women's Health Research, to mandate that women be included in clinical trials, we are now gaining greater knowledge of the unique differences between the genders—from the composition of bone matter and the experience of pain, to the metabolism of certain drugs and the rate of brain activity—and what we need to do to ensure optimal health care for everyone.

As an ovarian cancer survivor, I understand that research on women's health can both improve and save lives. As a result of such research, death rates have decreased for women with tumors of the cervix, breast, uterus, and ovary due to advances in detection and treatment, such as the development of a cervical cancer vaccine. Quality of life has also improved for cancer patients through the development of less invasive surgical techniques, organ-sparing treatments, and better control of pain and nausea related to chemotherapy.

Women's health research can also lead to less expensive treatments and cost-saving prevention strategies. For example, the total economic value to Americans from reductions in mortality from cardiovascular disease, which strikes 50,000 more women than men each year, averaged \$1.5 trillion annually between 1970 and 1990.

While progress has been made in recent years, there is still much more that Congress can do to improve women's health. The Office of Research on Women's Health, ORWH, in the Office of the Director at NIH must be fully funded so that it can continue supporting the expansion and funding of peer-reviewed Specialized Centers of Research on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women's Health, SCOR, and the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health, BIRCWH, programs.

In addition, I urge Congress to pass the Women's Health Office Act (S. 569/H.R. 949), which will permanently authorize the existing offices of women's health in five federal agencies: the Department of Health and Human Services; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; the Health Resources and Services Administration; and the Food and Drug Administration. This will allow these offices to continue to carry out their important work without facing underfunding, understaffing, or elimination in the future.

Finally, Congress should further encourage NIH to update and modify its guidelines to actively promote sex differences research at all levels, including basic research in cell and tissue culture, development and study of appropriate animal models, and in early stage clinical research.

I would like to commend the Society for Women's Health Research for its tireless efforts to improve the health of both women and men. I hope that during Women's Health Week, all Members will take a moment to consider the importance of passing these measures and continuing our commitment to women's health.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST
WISHES TO COLONEL ALAN R.
LYNN

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a great Army officer and soldier, Colonel Alan R. Lynn, and to thank him for his contributions to the Army and the country. On Thursday, June 2, 2005, Colonel Lynn will relinquish command of the Army's 3rd Signal Brigade which is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, for reassignment to the Army Staff in Washington, DC.

Colonel Lynn began his military career in 1979 following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania at California, Pennsylvania. Commissioned as an Air Defense Artillery officer from ROTC he completed several successful assignments in the Air Defense Artillery before he transferred to the U.S. Army Signal Corps. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm he served as the 1st Brigade Signal Officer with the fabled 101st Airborne Division. In 1997, he commanded the 13th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division both at Fort Hood, Texas and in Bosnia with Task Force Eagle. Colonel Lynn took command of the 3rd Signal Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, on June 13, 2002. He deployed the Brigade to 66 separate locations throughout Iraq in January, 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom creating the largest tactical communications network in Army history. For over a decade Alan has been tested in conflict and hardened in battle to become one of the Army's finest and most experienced Signal Corps commanders.

Alan is a consummate professional whose performance personifies those traits of courage, competency, and commitment that our Nation has come to expect from its Army officers. It is with sadness that we wish him God-speed and good luck as he leaves Fort Hood for his new assignment.