



CANADA

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Danny
Dear Premier:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2009 regarding the French government's plan to deposit a letter of intent with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf regarding a potential future submission for an extended continental shelf for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon:

The Government of Canada's position on this matter is clear. The maritime boundaries between Canada and France were definitively settled by the June 1992 arbitration decision. Canada does not recognize any claim by France to a continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean beyond the maritime area awarded to Saint-Pierre and Miquelon in the 1992 decision, and has consistently stated this position to France, including through diplomatic channels. I have also conveyed our position to President Sarkozy.

In the meantime, our respective Ministers of Natural Resources should continue to work to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding that will allow the Government of Canada to ratify the 2005 agreement with France on transboundary hydrocarbon fields.

I am forwarding a copy of our exchange of correspondence to the Honourable Josée Verner, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Natural Resources, for their information.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Danny Williams
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