

PM Trudeau's Non-Apology for Repeated Ethics Violations

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Just last week, Mario Dion, Canada's Parliamentary Ethics Commissioner, issued a report with damning conclusions regarding PM Trudeau's violation of Ethics Rules. This is his second ethics conviction. The first happened in December 2016 when Mr. Trudeau and his family stayed at the Aga Khan's home on Bell Island in the Bahamas for their Christmas vacation. Trudeau had publicly confirmed that they travelled by the Aga Khan's private helicopter. The Ethics Commission found him guilty of violating the Conflict of Interest Act.

This time, charges involved the Prime Minister's repeated interference with Justice Minister, Jody Wilson-Raybould's decision regarding the prosecution or non-prosecution of SNC-Lavalin's foreign bribery charges. The PM, in a show of arrogant disdain for the serious conclusions of the Ethics Commissioner, refused to even apologize for the breach, while trying to appear honest and humble. It didn't work.

PM Trudeau admitted that "some things happened that shouldn't have happened" but clung to the tired excuse that what he did was motivated by his concern for Canadian jobs. That flimsy effort to avoid the heat and to avoid the consequences of his actions should have every Canadian riled up. In a country that claims to respect the "rule of law", the PM cannot claim an exception.

"The evidence showed there were many ways in which Mr. Trudeau, either directly or through the actions of those under his direction, sought to influence the attorney general," Dion said in his report.¹

Our Canadian Constitution clearly outlines the importance of the "rule of Law" in its preamble. Yet the person who should set the highest personal standard on law and order, the Prime Minister of Canada, acts as if he ought not to be encumbered by the restraints of the law. Even when former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould warned him that he was on dangerous ground, he chose to ignore her warnings . . . they interfered with his plans.

Canadians should know that the charge of bribery against SNC-Lavalin is not the first time the company has flagrantly violated the law and been given a pass. In fact, other charges may be much more serious in regard to their influence in Canadian politics in general and with the Liberal Party in particular.

In this CBC article, Key Figure in Illegal Election Financing Scheme Quietly Pleads Guilty² Jan 19, 2019, we learn that over a period from 2004 to 2011, SNC-Lavalin employees were encouraged "by certain former executives" to donate to chosen political parties and were then reimbursed by the company. This is highly illegal, yet nobody went to jail. A total of \$109,615.00 was given to the Liberal Party, Liberal leadership contestants and Liberal candidates and EDAs and the money was fraudulently expensed to SNC-Lavalin. It is strictly forbidden for a corporation to donate to a federal political party, candidate or other political participant, yet the Liberals benefited and nobody went to jail. The Conservatives also received a much smaller amount, \$8,187.

This is election tampering in its worst form, yet only one former executive was fined \$2,000 and other charges against him and others were dropped.

The Liberals and their leftist friends in the NDP like to talk about “getting big money out of politics” but this and other schemes show that what they really want is to put your money into their partisan campaigns. Wild spending now by the Liberals is just another effort to buy votes with your hard-earned tax dollars. After the 2015 election, taxpayers were forced to pay tens of millions of dollars into the party coffers of the Liberals, Conservatives and NDP. The abuse of the system by the big parties—though not technically illegal—is certainly unethical. Members of CHP Canada and other smaller parties are forced, against their will, to contribute through their taxes to the big parties with whose policies they disagree.

So the big parties who dominate the House of Commons have written rules that benefit them; we may not like them but we follow them. Our current PM, however, has decided to ignore the rules and then to lie, cover up and make excuses. This is totally unacceptable. He should apologize and resign. It is doubtful whether he has the moral courage to do the right thing and his arrogance will not allow him to respond to public calls for his resignation. But his MPs—if they care about the survival of their party—should call for him to step down. We will urge them to do so but again, it seems unlikely. After all, they have supported him all through this sordid mess and share some responsibility for the sorry pass he has come to. Obviously, we need a return of honesty and integrity in Canadian politics.

According to an 2017 Edelman poll,³ 57% of Canadians don't trust their government and 80% of Canadians believe the elites are out of touch. This is a sad state of affairs but it would be even worse if Canadians who read this fail to respond.

We call on our members, supporters and friends to not treat this lightly. Phone or email Liberal MPs and tell them that it's time they urged their unrepentant leader to resign. If they tolerate corrupt leadership within their party, they share in the blame.

For a government that respects our country and our culture, join CHP Canada.⁴ Let's make this the election that will give Canadians a government that honours and upholds our laws.

Footnotes

¹ ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca/EN/ReportsAndPublications/Pages/TrudeauIIReport.aspx

² www.cbc.ca/news/politics/election-financing-snc-lavalin-charbonneau-1.4984823

³ www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-february-16-2017-1.3984460/majority-of-canadians-distrust-government-poll-suggests-1.3984577

⁴ www.chp.ca/get-involved