

House of Commons

Room 265, Wellington Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

**Chambre des communes**

Piece 265, Édifice Wellington
Ottawa (ON) K1A 0A6
Tel.: (613) 992-2919
Fax: (613) 995-0747

Timmins

202-60 Wilson Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 2S7
Tel.: (705) 268-6464
Fax: (705) 268-6460

Charlie Angus

Member of Parliament for Timmins - James Bay
Député de Timmins - baie James

Kirkland Lake

103A-30 Second Street
Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 3H7
Tel.: (705) 567-2747
Fax: (705) 567-5232

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council
80 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON, K1P 5K9

Re: Abuse of Senate Resources by Senator Lynn Beyak

January 5th, 2018

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

At the outset, let me wish you all the best to you and your family in the coming year. I am writing you regarding my deep concern about Senator Lynn Beyak's ongoing efforts to use her role as a member of the Senate of Canada to denigrate the Indigenous peoples living in Canada. I am sure you shared my shock and dismay to see the letters she has been posting on her public website, a channel afforded to her as a perquisite of office. These are not letters from constituents or an open dialogue on ideas, these letters are promoting an insidious negation of the lives, culture, rights and place of Indigenous people living in Canada.

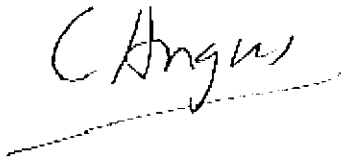
The fact that the Leader of the Opposition has removed her from the Conservative caucus is a small first step, but it does not address the larger and egregious abuse of public office. Imagine if a public official were using their office to attack minority groups or to deny the horrors of the Holocaust. Action would be swift. Similar swift resolve is needed in dealing with a campaign of obvious race-baiting.

However, given Canada's constitutional shortcomings regarding the Senate, there is no credible system of checks and balances to limit her ability to utilize the enormous resources of the Senate to engage in this spurious campaign of hateful misinformation. There was no credible vetting process to determine if this person was even fit to sit in the Senate in the first place. If the Senate is to play any role as a credible political force in the 21st century, these glaring shortcomings must be addressed.

In terms of what can be done now in the absence of any clear tools of accountability I would remind you that as Prime Minister your words carry an enormous moral weight. I am requesting that you reach out to the independent and Liberal members of the Senate as well as to Mr. Scheer to engage his Conservative Senate caucus in order that they will use the tools of the Senate to address Ms. Beyak's fundamental unfitness to serve as a representative of the Canadian people. If reconciliation is to be made real, government institutions must not be undermined by those spreading an agenda of such clear malice and falsehood.

I look forward to hearing from you in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C Angus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay

cc. Senator Murray Sinclair
Senator Daniel Christmas
Senator Mary Jane McCallum