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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying of Canada
Commissioner Karen Sheppard
255 Albert Street
10th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R5

August 13th 2014

RE: Conservative MP Mark Adler's fundraising from Lobbyists

Dear Ms. Sheppard,

I am writing in regards to a fundraiser that was held by MP Mark Adler. A number of lobbyists met Mr. Adler in his capacity as a member of the Standing Committee on Finance. The lobbyists then purchased tickets to a fundraiser held by Mr. Adler. Media reports allege that Mr. Adler even invited some of these lobbyists to purchase tickets during his meetings.

The Prime Minister's office has acknowledged that these donations were inappropriate and has ordered them to be paid back. The question is whether such activities were also in violation of the Lobbying Code of Conduct, the Lobbying Act's reporting mechanism or constituted possible illegal political donations.

Each of the alleged donations from these lobbyists to Mr. Mark Adler's fundraising cocktail reception held at the Albany Club in downtown Toronto on February 20, 2013 can be found in the York Centre Conservative Riding Association's annual return. The lobbyists apparently received a tax receipt of \$291 for the donation portion of a \$400 ticket.

There is an obligation for both Public Office Holders and professional lobbyists to abide by the clear rules that are in place to protect the public interest from undue influence. It appears that these activities would place Mr. Adler in a conflict of interest thereby violating section 8 of the Lobbying Code.

Furthermore, if these lobbyists did not advise Mr. Adler that they had received informed consent from each client before "proceeding with the undertaking" or did not receive that informed consent, then they may be in violation of section 7 of the code. Lastly, depending on the nature of these alleged donations it is possible that they could be in violation of the Lobbying Act's reporting mechanism or they could be illegal political donations.

I ask you to investigate these individual cases to determine whether or not they breached the Code and the Act or were other contraventions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

C Angus

Charlie Angus
MP Timmins-James Bay