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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Mary Dawson
Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
Parliament of Canada
66 Slater Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

April 17th, 2014

Re: Prime Minister Chief of Staff Nigel Wright's payment to Conservative Senator Mike Duffy

Dear Commissioner,

With the Royal Canadian Mounted Police declining to continue their investigation into the payment made by the Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Chief of Staff Nigel Wright to Conservative senator Mike Duffy, I am requesting that you continue your investigation into the matter.

The question of whether it is ethical for staff in the Prime Minister's office to issue secret payments to make political problems disappear deserves a full and thorough investigation. Mr. Wright has stated that he "believes" his acts were fully legal and within the public interest.

***The Conflict of Interest Act* clearly states:**

In Section 4 that a public office holder is in a conflict of interest when he or she exercises an official power, duty or function that provides an opportunity to further his or her private interests or those of his or her relatives or friends or to improperly further another person's private interests.

I would also like to point out what is written in the *Accountable Government: a guide for Ministers and Ministers of State*, which, is administered by the Privy Council Office.

According to Annex A, "Public office holders shall not directly or indirectly use, or allow the use of, government property of any kind, including property leased to the government, for anything other than officially approved activities. In no circumstance should any political activities be performed at a government place of work; nor should any government equipment or material be used for such purposes."

Section 16 (1) of the Parliament of Canada Act states that:

"No member of the Senate shall receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, for services rendered...in relation to any bill, proceeding, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest or other matter before the Senate or the House of Commons."

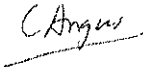
Section 16 (3) states that anyone who "gives, offers or agrees to offer" to an official in return for "cooperation, assistance, exercise of influence of act of omission," In connection to "any matter relating to the government" is guilty of an offense.

The nature of this secret deal and the allegations raised in the RCMP ITO require a full investigation. Your office is entrusted with administering the Conflict of Interest Code in order to "maintain and enhance the trust and confidence of the Canadian public" in the behaviour of public officials. This trust has been abused by both officials in the Prime Minister's office and by members of the Senate.

The question that is being asked is whether or not Ottawa has become so broken ethically that the Criminal Code has become the sole yardstick for judging the actions of public officials in the government of Stephen Harper.

I urge you to reassure the public that ethical standards can still be established and enforced by your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins—James Bay