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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Wayne G. Wouters Clerk of the Privy Council

Privy Council Office

85 Sparks Street Room 1000

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A3

March 28th, 2014

Re: Conservative Party use of Parliamentary Resources

Dear Mr. Wouters,

The Aga Khan, hereditary spiritual leader of the Ismailia community, spoke in Parliament on Thursday February 27th 2014 and in Toronto on Friday February 28th 2014 at an invitation only event. On Feb 21st 2014 Employment Minister Jason Kenney sent an email from his parliamentary account inviting Canadian Ismailis to the website if they wanted to watch the Aga Khan's speeches. The party followed up with an email blast to the individuals whose information was collected from these events..

I believe that the activities of Minister Kenney and Prime Minister Stephen Harper surrounding the Aga Khan's events violated the guide for Ministers and Ministers of State through the overlapping use of parliamentary and partisan resources and I am requesting investigations into the matter.

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."

Both of these events could be viewed online through a Conservative Party website on the Prime Minister's website stephenharper.ca. However, one could only view the event after an individual entered their name, email address, and postal code. They were told that in return they would receive exclusive behind the scenes photos and watch the Aga Khan's speeches.

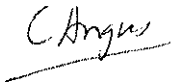
Political Parties often input this type of data into their own databases for future use in fundraising, voter identification, and party communication. In this instance, the Conservative party was using official government of Canada events to collect this private information of Canadians. Ironically, the Aga Khan's core message at this event was the importance of pluralism.

I am requesting an investigation into Jason Kenney's office for using parliamentary resources to promote an event through a Conservative Party website and the possible purpose of collecting data for partisan uses.

Furthermore, I am requesting an investigation into Stephen Harper's office for using Conservative Party resources through his website to promote parliamentary events with the possible purpose of collecting data for partisan use.

Not only does it appear that the Prime Minister is in contravention of the guide that is put out by his office, but, he appears to be in a conflict of interest as it is his ministry which enforces this guide. I look forward to hearing from your office on an investigation into this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Angus". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the printed name below.

Charlie Angus
MP TIMMINS-JAMES BAY