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16 October 2023

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
Parliament of Canada
66 Slater Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
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HAND DELIVERED

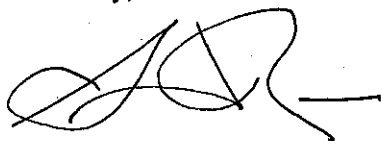
Dear Commissioner,

In your October 6 letter to me, you stated, *inter alia*:

[A]s you suggested, you should also exclude yourself from any discussion, debate or vote on these two bills that might take place during the Conservative Caucus meetings. While your caucus colleagues are evidently aware of your role and ownership interest in Giant Tiger, you will need to formally inform the Conservative Caucus Vice-Chair (or the individual who would chair the meeting in your absence) of your private interest regarding these two bills and provide a copy of the correspondence to this Office. It will then be made public in accordance with the Code.

I had already informed the relevant individual (Cheryl Gallant, MP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke) verbally. This was done in late September. However, out of an abundance of caution, I have written her a letter, and am enclosing it with the present correspondence. I believe that this action brings me into full compliance with your instruction.

Sincerely,



Scott Reid

Attachments: 2023.10.16 - SJR - C-56, C-352 Recusal to Cheryl Gallant (National Caucus)

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16 October 2023

Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke
604 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

**Copy of original letter
for your ease of reference**

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Cheryl,

As you will already know, from a conversation we had, shortly after the Liberal government introduced Bill C-56 in late September, I have been awaiting a ruling from the Ethics Commissioner on a series of questions, including this one (which I had posed to him in an email sent to his office on Sept. 19th):

I would be grateful if you could provide me with advice as to which House of Commons activities I ought to be recusing myself from. This could include votes on particular bills or motions in the House of Commons, and it might include instructions as to how I should conduct myself, in the event that such matters find their way to the floor of the Conservative Caucus, which I chair.

Should I, for example, recuse myself from the position of Caucus chair when and if this subject matter comes to the floor of a Caucus meeting?

On Oct. 6th, the Commissioner responded with an email in which he stated,

[Y]ou will need to formally inform the Conservative Caucus Vice-Chair (or the individual who would chair the meeting in your absence) of your private interest regarding these two bills and provide a copy of the correspondence to this Office. It will then be made public in accordance with the Code.

The present letter is my fulfilment of this instruction from the Commissioner. For his benefit (as he will be reading a copy of the present letter), I can state that:

1. The Conservative Caucus has no Vice-Chair;
2. The practice in the Conservative Caucus is that, whenever the Chair must vacate the chair, the Dean assumes the Chair;

3. You are the Dean of the Conservative Caucus;
4. You have now been informed in writing, as per his instruction to me;
5. You had already been informed verbally, back in September, one day after I wrote to the Commissioner.
6. At that time, I verbally asked you to be prepared to take the chair in the event that Bill C-56 were to come up for discussion at Caucus, and I further stated that should such a discussion take place in Caucus, I would leave the room until such time as the discussion was completed, at which time a staff member would indicate to me that I could re-enter the room and resume the chair; and
7. Even though the Commissioner has not indicated that he expects me to do so, it is still my intent that, should either Bill C-56 or Bill C-352 come before Caucus, I will leave the room for the duration of the debate.

Let me know if you have any questions about this.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SR' followed by a horizontal line.

Scott Reid

**Copy of original letter
for your ease of reference**

cc: Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner