



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

OFFICE OF THE CLERK BUREAU DU GREFFIER

October 20, 2023

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
Parliament of Canada
66 Slater Street, 22nd floor
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Please find attached documentation concerning the disclosure of a private interest by Mr. Scott Reid, M.P. for Lanark – Frontenac – Kingston.

Sincerely,

Eric Janse
Acting Clerk of the House of Commons



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

OFFICE OF
THE CLERK

BUREAU DU
GREFFIER

October 20, 2023

Mr. Scott Reid, M.P.
Lanark – Frontenac – Kingston
411 Confederation
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Reid:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2023, in which you shared documentation pertaining to your disclosure of a private interest pursuant to section 12(1) of the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons.

Pursuant to section 12(3) of the Code, the following entry was added to the Journals of October 16, 2023:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Pursuant to section 12(1) of the Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons, the member for Lanark – Frontenac - Kingston sent to the acting clerk a disclosure of a private interest and, pursuant to section 12(3) of the code, the acting clerk referred the disclosure to the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner.

Based on past practice, there is no requirement for the actual documents to be entered into the Journals but they will be kept in my office and also shared with the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Eric Janse
Acting Clerk of the House of Commons

Reu au bureau 16 octobre 2023
18h41
Staurer
Constituency

Ottawa

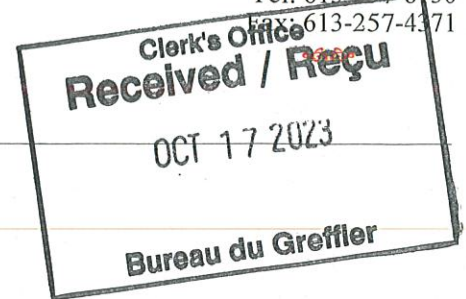
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Scott.Reid@parl.gc.ca



House of Commons
Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston

224 Bridge Street
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Tel: 613-257-8130
Fax: 613-257-4371



DELIVERED BY HAND

October 16, 2023

Eric Janse
Clerk, House of Commons

Dear Mr. Janse,

Please find enclosed four documents, submitted pursuant to Subsection 12(1) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*. These are:

- A letter that I wrote to the Commissioner on Sept. 19th, in which I laid out the general nature of my private interest in my family's business.
- An email thread containing subsequent correspondence with the Commissioner and his staff, leading up to, and including his response email on Oct. 6th, in which he advised me that I should, indeed, recuse myself not merely from debates in the House of Commons, but also that:

you should also exclude yourself from any discussion, debate or vote on these two bills that might take place during the Conservative Caucus meetings.

- A further letter that I sent this morning, in order to comply with the Commissioner's further instruction that

...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 [Bill C-56 and Bill C-352] and provide a copy of the correspondence to this Office. It will then be made public in accordance with the Code."

- The cover letter to the Commissioner, delivered to his office earlier today, in which I confirmed to him that I have complied with this further instruction.

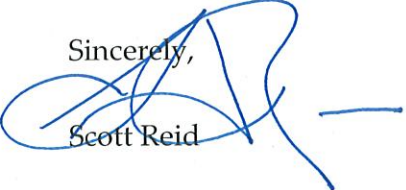
Also included in the present package, in addition to these four documents, is the text of the remarks I delivered to the House, prior to seeking the unanimous consent of the House to table the four documents.

For reasons that escape me, the parliamentary secretary to the Government House Leader, Mr. Lamoureux, denied unanimous consent for the four documents to be tabled, which means that it is now necessary to file them with you, along with this covering letter.

Unless I am mistaken, the denial of consent by the Liberals means that these documents will not be entered into the Journals of the House. In the hopeful event that I am in error, I would request that, in addition to passing them along to the Ethics Commissioner, you also place a copy in the Journals.

Sincerely,

Scott Reid





Scott Reid <[REDACTED]>

RE: Re Bill C-56 (& Bill C-352): Compliance with Section 12 of the Code

1 message

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca>
To: Scott Reid ([REDACTED])
Cc: [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca>

Thu, Oct 5, 2023 at 5:04 PM

Dear Mr. Reid,

My pleasure. Thank you as well for your follow up on this matter.

It is true that you had also referred to Bill C-352 in your email of September 19, 2023 and I greatly appreciate you confirming that your approach will be the same than for Bill C-56.

A response has been prepared for the Commissioner and we are hopeful that it will be sent tomorrow or Tuesday.

Finally, please note that I have added my manager [REDACTED] to this email response as I will be away from the office [REDACTED] [REDACTED] will ensure that any additional questions you may have while I am away are answered by one of my colleagues.

Many thanks again for your attention, patience and continued cooperation.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Compliance Advisor, Advisory and Compliance

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél.: 613-[REDACTED] | General: 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | [@EthicsCanada](https://twitter.com/EthicsCanada)

Conseillère à la conformité, Conseils et conformité

Commissariat aux conflits d'intérêts et à l'éthique

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél. : 613-[REDACTED] | Général : 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | [@EthiqueCanada](https://twitter.com/EthiqueCanada)

From: Scott Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: October 4, 2023 6:36 PM
To: [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Re Bill C-56 (& Bill C-352): Compliance with Section 12 of the Code

H [REDACTED]

Thanks for pointing out that Bill C-352 triggers the same issues as Bill C-56---including the possibility of triggering the Section 12 obligation to notify the Clerk of the House, should I be present during consideration of the Bill. This bill has been on my radar since it was introduced---in fact, I referenced it in the email that I wrote to you on Sept. 19th, seeking the Commissioner's advice on how best to conduct myself in order to stay compliant with the Code.

Do you have any idea when I might expect to hear from the Commissioner? In the absence of any advice from him, I have simply taken the approach of recusing myself from all discussions---both in the House of Commons and in internal meetings---which I think conforms with the strictest possible interpretation of the rules under the Code. But there would be greater certainty if I were to hear from him on this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Reid

On Wed, Sep 27, 2023 at 6:36 PM [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Reid,

Many thanks again for your prompt response to my email.

I apologize for not having replied before now, but I want to confirm that your email has been shared with my director as well as manager. It will be discussed with the Interim Commissioner as soon as possible.

In the meantime, and considering what you indicated in your email, it may be advisable to also take the same approach about [Private Member's Bill C-352 \(44-1\) - Lowering Prices for Canadians Act - Parliament of Canada](#) if it does come to the floor of the House for debate.

Many thanks for your attention and continued cooperation.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Compliance Advisor, Advisory and Compliance

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tel.: 613 [REDACTED] | General: 613-995-0721
[ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca](#) | [@EthicsCanada](#)

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[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél. : 613-[REDACTED] | Général : 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | @EthiqueCanada

From: Scott Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: September 25, 2023 11:50 AM
To: [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca
Subject: Re Bill C-56: Compliance with Section 12 of the Code

H [REDACTED]

I'm following up on the following observation from your response on Friday afternoon. You wrote,

[I]t is quite possible that you will be required to disclose this private interest to the Clerk of the House under section 12 of the Code.

After I read this, I looked up Section 12 of the Code, which reads as follows:

*A Member who has a private interest that might be affected by a matter that is before the House of Commons or a committee of which the Member is a member shall, **if present during consideration of the matter**, disclose orally or in writing the general nature of the private interest at the first opportunity. The general nature of the private interest shall be disclosed forthwith in writing to the Clerk of the House.*

I have bolded a few words in the passage above. The bolded words make it clear that this particular form of proactive disclosure is only required in the event that I am present during consideration of the matter, which presumably means during debate on the matter, and during any votes on the matter. Therefore, assuming that I am not present when Bill C-56 is debated and / or voted upon, I do not think it would be necessary to raise the matter with the Clerk in the manner described in Section 12.

However, there are other ways in which an MP can have an effect on a Bill. The most obvious one is by trying to influence the outcome of internal discussions at either Caucus or Shadow Cabinet. Therefore, pending the Commissioner's response to my inquiry, I will do my best to avoid being present during the debate on Bill C-56 and on any votes that may arise. As well, I will proactively avoid being present when the bill is discussed in the Conservative Caucus; I will recuse myself from the Caucus chair and leave the room until the discussion is concluded. I should also mention that on Friday, I recused myself from a Shadow Cabinet meeting at which the Bill was discussed.

I hope that the foregoing will be to the interim Commissioner's satisfaction.

Regards,

Scott

On Fri, Sep 22, 2023 at 2:55 PM [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Reid,

Many thanks again for your prompt response and follow up. I greatly appreciate your frankness in answering my question about the proportion of grocery sales in your total shares.

As I indicated in my previous email, this question will be raised and discussed with the Interim Commissioner as soon as possible, but I can indicate immediately that it is quite possible that you will be required to disclose this private interest to the Clerk of the House under section 12 of the Code.

Again, this will have to be discussed with the Interim Commissioner and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Finally, and with respect to your Annual Review under the Code, please note that I will be going away on vacation [REDACTED] and that I would greatly appreciate receiving your spouse's financial statement next week so that I can prepare your new *Disclosure Summary* before going away.

Again, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks for your attention and continued cooperation.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Compliance Advisor, Advisory and Compliance

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél.: 613-[REDACTED] | General: 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | @EthicsCanada

Conseillère à la conformité, Conseils et conformité

Commissariat aux conflits d'intérêts et à l'éthique

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél. : 613-[REDACTED] | Général : 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | @EthiqueCanada

From: Scott Reid [REDACTED]

Sent: September 20, 2023 7:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca>

Subject: Re: Request for advice from the Office of the Commissioner, re Giant Tiger

Dear [REDACTED]

That's a good question. In terms of floorspace, grocery items represent only about 1/4 of Giant Tiger. However, grocery sales represent over 50% of our total sales. To a large extent, grocery is what draws customers to Giant Tiger. We don't make very much money on grocery (indeed, we lose money on some of the larger-volume and more highly price-sensitive items). But these low prices serve to place our customers in a position where they will then (we hope) purchase higher-margin products like clothing, bedding, etc.

Sincerely,

Scott

On Wed, Sep 20, 2023 at 3:58 PM [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca> wrote:

Dear Mr. Reid,

Thank you for your email seeking advice from our Office on this matter.

I would first indicate that we do have now an Interim Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner (Interim Commissioner) as The Honourable Konrad von Finckenstein was appointed to the position on August 30, 2023.

(Statement on the appointment of an Interim Commissioner)

Having said that, this is simply to confirm that I have received your request and that it will be discussed with the Interim Commissioner as soon as possible.

I do have one question immediately as you indicate in your email: "A substantial proportion of Giant Tiger's sales are in groceries."

I understand that it may not be possible to share detailed information with us, but would it be possible to give us an estimate/percentage of the proportion of Giant Tiger's sales that are in groceries?

Finally, I would take this opportunity to remind you that in order to complete your Annual Review under the Code, we need all detailed financial statements of your spouse's various investment accounts.

Could you please indicate if your spouse will be able to send us these soon?

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks for your attention and continued cooperation.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Compliance Advisor, Advisory and Compliance

Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tel.: 613-[REDACTED] | General: 613-995-0721
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Conseillère à la conformité, Conseils et conformité

Commissariat aux conflits d'intérêts et à l'éthique

[REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca | Tél. : 613 [REDACTED] | Général : 613-995-0721
ciec-ccie.parl.gc.ca | @EthiqueCanada

From: Scott Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: September 19, 2023 4:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]@cie.parl.gc.ca
Subject: Request for advice from the Office of the Commissioner, re Giant Tiger

Dear [REDACTED]

Pursuant to Article 26(1) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*, I am seeking advice from the Office of the Commissioner. At present there is no incumbent in the role of Ethics Commissioner. However, I assume that the function of providing advice and direction to MPs has been given, on an interim basis, to someone at the Office of the Commissioner.

I have the following question for the individual to whom the Commissioner's advisory role has been assigned:

Recently, the issue of retail grocery prices has become the subject of a considerable amount of attention from federal legislators. This has included:

- ongoing hearings of the House of Commons Agriculture Committee, which in June released a report titled, *Grocery Affordability: Examining Rising Food Costs in Canada*;
- a highly-publicized meeting that took place yesterday between the ministers of finance and industry (on the one hand) and the CEOs of Loblaw, Metro, Empire, Costco and Wal-Mart (on the other); and
- a private member's bill, introduced yesterday in the Commons by my colleague Jagmeet Singh, titled the *Lowering Prices for Canadians Act* (Bill C-352, alternatively titled *An Act to amend the Competition Act and the Competition Tribunal Act*).

As your office is aware, I am the Chairman of the Board of Giant Tiger Stores, Ltd., a privately-owned Canadian company with over 250 outlets and sales in excess of \$2 billion. I sought, and received, the Commissioner's approval to take this role, in the summer of 2020.

A substantial proportion of Giant Tiger's sales are in groceries. While I take pride in Giant Tiger's role as a discounter that seeks to undercut the prices of its much larger competitors (Loblaws, etc.), the company has, in the past, been accused of participating in the kinds of activities at which the above-noted hearings are directed. Most notably, Giant Tiger was named by the Competition Bureau (along with all of the aforementioned companies), as being a possible participant in a bread price-fixing scheme, back in 2017. This investigation, which covers the period from 2001 - 2017, is still ongoing.

With these considerations in mind, 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? And what other restrictions are regarded by your office as being needed, in order to ensure that I remain compliant at all times with the requirements of the Code?

I look forward to receiving whatever advice your office can offer.

Sincerely,

Scott Reid

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AVIS DE CONFIDENTIALITÉ: Cette communication, ainsi que tout fichier ou toute pièce qui y est joint, est à l'intention du destinataire seulement. Cette communication peut contenir des renseignements protégés, confidentiels et soustraits à la divulgation en vertu de la loi applicable. Si vous avez reçu ce message par erreur, vous êtes prié d'en aviser immédiatement l'expéditeur par courriel, téléphone ou télécopieur, et d'effacer la communication et d'éliminer toute copie. Nous vous remercions de votre collaboration.

(Disclaimer Posted by 4f45432d457863682d536572766572)



Office of the
Conflict of Interest and
Ethics Commissioner

Commissariat aux
conflits d'intérêts et
à l'éthique

PROTECTED - PERSONAL INFORMATION

October 6, 2023

Sent by email to: scott.reid.p9@parl.gc.ca

Mr. Scott Reid
Member of Parliament for Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston
House of Commons
Confederation Building, Suite: 413,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Reid:

This is further to your email of September 19, 2023, and the subsequent exchange of emails with the Office seeking guidance on the issue of retail grocery prices in connection with your private interest in Giant Tiger Stores Ltd. (Giant Tiger). You indicate that the issue of retail grocery prices has become the subject of a considerable amount of attention from federal legislators and since a substantial proportion of Giant Tiger's sales are in groceries, you questioned if additional compliance measures are required under the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons* (Code).

A Member is considered to further their private interest when the Member's actions result, directly or indirectly, in an increase in, or the preservation of, the value of their assets. Your ownership interest in your holding company that has a controlling interest in Giant Tiger and your position as Chairman of Giant Tiger are disclosed publicly. Because there are only a few major supermarket chains in Canada and that Giant Tiger is an important retailer in the grocery industry, it is apparent that you have a private interest that might be affected by a matter before the House or a Committee so you cannot participate in a debate on or vote on a question concerning retail grocery prices including [C-56 - Affordable Housing and Groceries Act](#) and [C-352 - Lowering Prices for Canadian Act](#).

Therefore, you are required to disclose your private interest to the Clerk of the House during discussions, debates or votes on C-56 or C-352 in the House of Commons or in Committee, only if you are present during consideration of the matter. In this instance, a disclosure will be recorded in the *Journals* and made public.

... / 2

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA

66 Slater Street, 22nd floor
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PARLEMENT DU CANADA

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However, as 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.

Thank you for seeking advice on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Konrad von Finckenstein'.

Konrad von Finckenstein
Interim Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

Ottawa

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House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-947-2277
Fax: 613-947-2278



Scott.Reid@parl.gc.ca



House of Commons
Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston

Constituency

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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
K1A 0A6

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)

Ottawa

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House of Commons
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16 October 2023

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

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

cc: Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner

Mr Speaker,

It is a practice of this House that when a Member realizes that he/she has a matter affecting the privileges of the House, the matter ought to be drawn to the attention of the House at the earliest possible opportunity. Therefore it is my obligation to inform the House that a letter from the Ethics Commissioner, confirming the existence of such a matter, arrived in my email inbox just after 2:00 pm on the most recent sitting day before the present day---that is to say, on Friday, Oct. 6th. The House rose less than half an hour after I received this email and the present moment therefore represents the first reasonably available opportunity.

The matter in question relates to Subsection 12(1) of the *Conflict of Interest Code for Members of the House of Commons*. Subsection 12(1) states,

"A member who has a private interest that might be affected by a matter that is before the House of Commons ... shall, if present during consideration of the matter, disclose orally or in writing the general nature of the private interest at the first opportunity."

The subsection continues,

The general nature of the private interest shall be disclosed forthwith in writing to the Clerk of the House. "

On Sept. 19th, I wrote to seek the Commissioner's advice, as I am the Chairman of the Board of a family business, Giant Tiger Stores. Although my family business is a small player in the great scheme of things, having a sales volume that is only about 5% that of Loblaws, it is nevertheless significant player in the discount side of the grocery industry. Therefore it seemed advisable to ask the Commissioner whether, in order to remain compliant with the Code, I might have to recuse myself from certain debates in the House and elsewhere.

As noted earlier, the Commissioner responded to me just after 2:00 pm on October 6, advising me that in his view, I would have a an obligation, pursuant to Subsection 12(1), to report to the House if I am present in the House during any debate or vote on Bill C-56, and also that the same restrictions apply to Bill C-352, a private member's bill covering much of the same subject matter.

I can advise the House that, in anticipation of precisely such a response from the Commissioner, I have been at pains to avoid being present during any such debates.

However, a strict reading of Subsection 12(1) would suggest that the reporting obligation would be triggered by the mere fact of being present during a Question Period when questions are raised, by any party, regarding grocery prices, or if I were to participate electronically in any such a vote---even if my intention were to register a formal abstention.

Therefore, pursuant to Subsection 12(1), I am tabling the following four documents:

1. The letter that I wrote to the Commissioner on Sept. 19th, in which I laid out the general nature of my private interest in my family's business.
2. An email thread containing subsequent correspondence with the Commissioner and his staff, leading up to his response email on Oct. 6th, in which he advised me that I should, indeed, recuse myself not merely from debates in the House of Commons, but also that:

"you should also exclude yourself from any discussion, debate or vote on these two bills that might take place during the Conservative Caucus meetings."

3. A further letter that I sent this morning, in order to comply with the Commissioner's further instruction that

"...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 [Bill C-56 and Bill C-352] and provide a copy of the correspondence to this Office. It will then be made public in accordance with the Code."

4. The cover letter to the Commissioner, delivered to his office earlier today, in which I confirmed to him that I have complied with this further instruction.

Thank you for affording me the time needed to carry out my obligations under this part of the Code.