

Charlie Angus

Member of Parliament, Timmins - James Bay
Député, Timmins - Baie James



May 14, 2013

The Honourable David Tkachuk, Senator
Chair, Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

The Honourable George Furey, Senator
Deputy Chair, Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Dear Senators,

I read with interest a May 14, 2013 from Postmedia which states that your committee is in the process of obtaining a legal opinion on residency requirements for Senators. I think this is an excellent move, given the many serious questions being recently raised by Canadians about whether certain Senators have met their Constitutional requirements for holding office.

I note with interest comments from the Honourable Senator Marjory LeBreton on May 11th, where she stated that she had a legal opinion saying that simply by filing out a declaration, a Senator is automatically considered qualified. I have written to her separately asking for her to disclose the legal opinion she referenced when making those comments.

I contrast the view of Senator LeBreton with that of former Senator Lowell Murray, who stated on February 9th 2013:

If Mike Duffy or anybody else being a senator from Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia or Quebec files an income tax return stating that they're resident of Ontario, then they're finished.

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Certainly with these different views, I think it is incumbent upon you and the Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration to share with the public any legal opinion you obtain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C Angus", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins-James Bay

Cc: Members of the Committee, the Honourable Senators:

Larry Campbell
Claude Carignan
Marie-Paule Charette-Poulin
Jane Cordy
Percy Downe
Norman E. Doyle
Janis G Johnson
Noel A. Kinsella
Elizabeth Marshall
Jim Munson
Larry Smith
Carolyn Stewart Olsen
David Wells

Ex-officio Members:

Marjory LeBreton
James S. Cowan