



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Charlie Angus

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



May 16, 2013

**Ms. Lyse Ricard
Office of the Senate Ethics Officer
Thomas D'Arcy McGee Building
Room 526, 90 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5B4**

Ms. Ricard,

I am writing to ask you to investigate new troubling allegations surrounding Senator Mike Duffy. CTV has reported that a payment of over \$90,000 dollars was made to Senator Duffy. According to the network, Nigel Wright, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's chief of staff, wrote a cheque worth over \$90,000 to Mr. Duffy so that he could pay back living expenses he had claimed but was allegedly not entitled to.

The fact that Mr. Duffy has now claimed that Mr. Wright 'played no role' in his financial situation only increases the need for a speedy probe. I note that Senator Duffy's Public Disclosure Summary lists no loans or liabilities at this time.

Apart from the troubling fact that someone else is paying for Mr. Duffy's mistakes, it appears that in receiving this so called 'gift' the senator may have breached several ethical rules of the Senate.

Specifically, he may have violated articles 17.1 and 17.2 of the Conflict of Interest Code for Senators, which clearly stipulates that:

17. (1) Neither a Senator, nor a family member, shall accept, directly or indirectly, any gift or other benefit, except compensation authorized by law, that could reasonably be considered to relate to the Senator's position.

Exception

(2) A Senator, and a family member, may, however, accept gifts or other benefits received as a normal expression of courtesy or protocol, or within the customary standards of hospitality that normally accompany the Senator's position.

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Hill Office / Bureau de la colline

Room / Chambre 900, La Promenade
House of Commons / Chambre des communes
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel./Tél. : 613-992-2919
Fax:/Télé. : 613-995-0747

Constituency Offices / Bureaux de circonscription

Timmins
60 Wilson Ave., Suite 202
Timmins, Ontario P4N 2S7
Tel./Tél. : 705-268-6464
Fax:/Télé. : 705-266-9125

Kirkland Lake
30 Second St., Suite 201
Kirkland Lake, Ontario P2N 3H7
Tel./Tél. : 705-567-2747
Fax:/Télé. : 705-567-5232

It goes without saying that a cheque for such a large amount is far from a customary standard of hospitality, nor a normal expression of courtesy. But I also want to draw your attention to the fact that because this money served to reimburse overpayments received by Duffy as a senator, this is indeed a gift received in connection to his position.

Furthermore, we would also like you to look into whether Mr. Duffy declared the total value of this gift within the 30 days following its reception, as he is required to do according to article 17. (3).

Furthermore, I believe there may have been a violation of s. 16 of the Parliament of Canada Act which states:

16. (1) No member of the Senate shall receive or agree to receive any compensation, directly or indirectly, for services rendered or to be rendered to any person, either by the member or another person,

(a) in relation to any bill, proceeding, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest or other matter before the Senate or the House of Commons or a committee of either House; or
(b) for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence any member of either House.

(2) Every member of the Senate who contravenes subsection (1) is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than four thousand dollars.

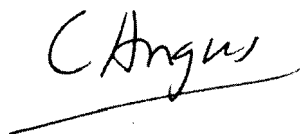
(3) Every person who gives, offers or promises to any member of the Senate any compensation for services described in subsection

(1), rendered or to be rendered, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year and to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars and not more than two thousand dollars.

As you know, article 44 of the Code allows you to launch an inquiry to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to establish that Mr. Duffy has breached his obligations as senator. We believe that a gift of such a large amount of money to a senator is sufficient evidence to launch an investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Charlie Angus, MP
Timmins-James Bay