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*Erin Weir*

Member of Parliament / Député  
Regina—Lewvan

August 27, 2018

Jagmeet Singh  
Federal NDP Leader  
300 – 279 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5J9

Mr. Singh:

I write to follow up on our meeting of June 21, 2018 about reinstatement into the federal NDP caucus. Prior to that meeting, I had completed sensitivity training with the trainer recommended by your chief of staff. She reported to the House of Commons, "I do not see that any further immediate coaching is needed; he gets it." On June 21, you requested that I take several additional steps. Completing these steps has provided insight into – and strengthened – my relationships with several colleagues.

First, you asked me to apologize to Charlie Angus and Tom Mulcair for having named them in relation to the complaint against me that was made public. On June 30, I apologized to Mr. Angus. We had a constructive conversation and agreed to bury the hatchet on disputes between us going back to the Regina–Lewvan nomination and bans on my participation in Question Period.

I also attempted to contact Mr. Mulcair. On June 30, your chief of staff indicated that he unfortunately did not want to communicate with me, which I have respected.

More generally, I recognize that recent public conflicts within the federal NDP caucus have been harmful to our party. I am sorry to have become one of the participants in such conflict. I have learned, and will continue to learn, from the experience.

I have no prior history of engaging in public conflicts with my caucus colleagues. I did so only after an extremely unfortunate series of events that should not be repeated. I have since declined all requests to comment publicly on the Christine Moore investigation.

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Second, you asked me to reach out to the NDP women's council and to Sheila Malcolmson in her capacity as women's equality critic. I had already been trying to contact Ms. Malcolmson and, when we connected on August 7, she explained her concern about my reference to the public complaint as being "trumped-up" and asked that I reflect on this statement. I apologized, reflected and followed up with her on August 23. My fellow Saskatchewan MP, Sheri Benson, indicated that Ms. Malcolmson was pleased to have had the discussion with me.

At our June 21 meeting and subsequently, I asked for contacts on the women's council. On July 24, your chief of staff sent me names and e-mail addresses of its co-chairs. I sent my training report to both co-chairs and then spoke with one, Constance Barnes, who seemed quite sympathetic and supportive.

Third, you asked me to identify other women's organizations that would publicly vouch for me. Dozens of women who work in the field of harassment prevention or who have served as NDP elected officials report writing to you to advocate for my reinstatement. Many of these women would be willing to make a public statement in support of reinstatement if that would be helpful.

As discussed with your chief of staff the day after our meeting, I am not aware of women's organizations that would certify individual politicians. I am likewise unaware of any women's organizations that called for my expulsion from caucus. If there are specific women's groups that you would like me to engage, I would certainly do so.

Fourth, you asked me to apologize to the complainant who had made her complaint public. While I have deduced this complainant's identity, I have been careful to respect her anonymity. Her name has never been reported anywhere. Therefore, I am reluctant to make an unsolicited call.

Your chief of staff suggested that I go through the trainer, who explained that she has no authority to ask the investigator to reach out to a complainant and that any such request should come from your office, which employed the investigator. Your chief of staff then suggested I go through your lawyer. I did so and, on July 31, he responded that he would need your chief of staff's permission to make contact with the complainant. Your lawyer indicated that he received this permission on August 13 and had the investigator contact the complainant. He advised that I would hear back directly from your chief of staff, so I am deferring to your office on the way forward. I remain willing to participate in mediation with anyone who wants to do so.

Having done everything that has been asked of me, I am now seeking to confirm that you will approve my candidacy for the NDP nomination in the renamed Regina West for the upcoming general election.

As reported by CBC from Elections Canada data, our constituency association had amassed the most money of any NDP constituency association in Canada at the end of 2017. However, very little has been raised so far this year because supporters appear reluctant to contribute while my status is in doubt.

So far this summer, I have knocked on more than 6,000 doors in the constituency. Hundreds of people have asked about my status relative to the NDP caucus and expressed support for my re-election in any case. Turnout at our community BBQs has doubled from last summer.

These recent indications of local support, combined with all of my canvassing, mailing, fundraising and advertising since 2015, make me the candidate best placed to hold Regina West.

Everyone I have consulted sees this summer as the best time for reinstatement. I am hopeful that we can achieve a resolution by Labour Day.

If the current situation continues with no resolution after I have completed all the remedial activity you have requested, I would have to proceed on the assumption that you do not intend to reinstate me.

Last week, we commemorated the life and legacy of Jack Layton. A goal he often articulated, but did not live to see achieved, was regaining federal NDP seats in Saskatchewan.

As you know, most Saskatchewan ridings are NDP-Conservative races. The prospect of a divided Conservative vote should help us win more federal seats in the province. To ensure a united NDP and to build on our hard-won gains in Saskatchewan, I am asking to rejoin the federal NDP caucus.

Thank you for considering this solution.

Sincerely,



Erin Weir  
MP for Regina–Lewvan