

Updated list of 67 signatories as of September 5, 2018

May 7, 2018

Jagmeet Singh
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada
300 - 279 Laurier West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5J9

Dear Mr. Singh,

As former New Democrat Saskatchewan Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Legislature (MLAs), we are writing to you to express our serious concerns about the way you and your office have treated Saskatchewan New Democrat MP, Erin Weir. We believe that your decision to expel Weir from the federal NDP caucus is a serious mistake and has ramifications for the party not only here in Saskatchewan but across the country.

We want to recap the understanding of the situation and will do so in point form:

1. Erin Weir wished to put his name forward to serve as caucus chair and sent an email to his caucus colleagues.
2. MP Christine Moore responded with an email sent January 30, 2018, to all colleagues that alleged that Weir had engaged in harassing behaviour towards women, including party staff members. Moore indicated that she had not experienced such harassment. This email became public.
3. In response on February 1, 2018, you suspended Weir from the federal caucus pending a third-party investigation by University of Ottawa law professor Michelle Flaherty. *There was no specific complaint.* Potential complainants were given until Feb. 20 to report any incidents to the investigator.
4. Your office sent an email to national staff asking them to respond to the investigator should they have had an experience of inappropriate behavior by Weir. Weir's women staff members were contacted directly and asked to respond.
5. On May 1, 2018, CBC News reported that one of the anonymous complainants told CBC News *"that Weir spoke to her in an angry and belligerent way and that she felt physically intimidated."*

6. Weir suggests that this complainant is a former staff member in the (former) NDP leader's office who was sent to the 2016 Saskatchewan NDP Convention to stop him from speaking to a resolution on carbon tax. Weir said he wanted to debate a proposal calling for Canada to extend its carbon tax to imports from countries that do not have such levies and provide a rebate to Canadian-made exports. Of the four findings that were presented this is the one finding that Weir disputes.

7. Weir's press release dated May 3, 2018, indicates that CBC News contacted him to respond to the interview by this complainant. *"When CBC contacted me, I declined to comment, immediately informed Singh's office and sought guidance on whether he or I should respond,"* explained Weir. *"Singh's office provided no guidance and, when CBC put out its story that afternoon, I felt compelled to respond to the complaint that had been made public, while being careful not to name the complainant."*

8. Your interview on May 3, 2018, suggests that Flaherty found one substantiated claim of harassment (the complainant that went public on May 1, 2018) and three substantiated claims of sexual harassment, defined as "acts of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected to cause offence."

9. You expelled Weir from the federal NDP caucus because *"In his actions, in his comments, Mr. Weir made it clear he did not accept responsibility for what the inquiry found to be a fact. He, in addition, attacked someone who had come forward with a complaint. He'd also released details, which could identify the individual. All of this makes it clear that a rehabilitative approach is no longer possible."* You said Weir failed to read nonverbal cues in social settings, resulting in *"significant negative impact to the complainants."* Though, once told his advances were unwanted, you said Weir stopped.

10. Weir indicated that he had spoken to you prior to the complainant going public and his expulsion from the federal NDP caucus. He acknowledged that he had difficulty picking up social cues and was willing to take training and be rehabilitated. He continued to dispute the interaction with the former federal Leader's staff member at the 2016 Saskatchewan NDP convention. Your office has a draft letter of apology sent by Weir on April 21, 2018.

11. Weir has stated there were no allegations of comments that were sexual in nature; rather they were allegations about Weir's physical proximity and engagement in conversations with others for longer than the other person wanted.

12. Weir has publicly apologized to three of the complainants *"I apologize to anyone who felt uncomfortable because I stood or sat too close or spoke with them more than they wished to talk with me,"*

As former New Democrat MPs and MLAs from the Province of Saskatchewan we believe that any sexual harassment and workplace harassment is unacceptable.

We do believe that when it came to this case you and your staff set up a situation that was flawed from the beginning.

A third party investigator was appointed based on hearsay in an email from an MP. There was no official complaint that had been put in writing before an investigator was appointed.

A member of your staff sent out an email to hundreds of staff suggesting concerns about Weir should be forwarded to the investigator. If you ask enough people about anyone you are bound to find people who have something to say.

Your office was not nimble in responding to the leak by the complainant who was interviewed by the CBC. Weir asked who should respond and no one took the situation in hand.

To recap, harassment investigations are complaints based.

You don't appoint an investigator without an official complaint and you don't send out an invitation to anyone to put forward his or her complaint. There was an inherent bias in the process. This was a fishing expedition and the statement to the effect that anyone who complains is to be believed demonstrates this bias.

You take the position that Weir's response to one complainant going public was to identify the complainant and that he was critical of his former leader Tom Mulcair. This was the grounds for expelling Weir from the caucus.

We note that Charlie Angus was critical of you for taking away Dave Christopherson's position as vice chair of an important multi-party standing committee of the House of Commons. You reversed your decision and nothing happened to Angus. Where we come from you don't criticize the leader publicly. We note that Weir has not criticized you and continues to support you.

This situation is in your hands. We think you should figure a way back for Weir.

Yours Sincerely,

Vic Althouse, MP for Humboldt-Lake Centre and Mackenzie - 1980 - 1997

**Doug Anguish, MP for Battlefords Meadow Lake - 1980 -1984 and
MLA for The Battlefords - 1986 - 1996**

John Burton, MP for Regina East - 1968 - 1972

Ron Fisher, MP for Saskatoon Dundurn - 1988 - 1993

Ray Funk, MP for Prince Albert Churchill River - 1988 - 1993

Dennis Gruending, MP for [Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar](#) - 1999-2000

[Bill Knight](#), MP for Assiniboia - 1971 - 1974

Rod Laporte, MP for MP for Moose Jaw—Lake Centre in the 1988 - 1993

**Lorne Nystrom, MP for Yorkton Melville, Regina Qu'Appelle 1968 - 1993 and
1997 - 2004**

John Parry, MP for Kenora-Rainy River - 1984 -1988

Dick Proctor, MP for Palliser - 1997-2004

**Len Taylor, MP for The Battlefords - Meadow Lake - 1988-1997 and MLA for
The Battlefords - 2003-2011.**

**John Solomon, MP for Regina Lumsden and Regina Lake Centre 1993 -
2000 and MLA for Regina North West, Regina Rochdale, Regina Lumsden,
Regina Lumsden Lake Centre 1978 - 1982 and 1986 - 1993**

Graham Addley, MLA for Saskatoon Sutherland - 1999 - 2007

Bill Allen, MLA for Regina Rosemont - 1975 - 1982.

**Pat Atkinson, MLA for Saskatoon Nutana, Saskatoon Broadway, Saskatoon
Nutana - 1986 - 2011**

Dennis Banda, MLA for Redberry - 1975 - 1982.

Lon Borgerson, MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers - 2003 - 2007

Judy Bradley, MLA for Milestone, Weyburn Big Muddy 1991 - 1999

**John Brocklebank, MLA for Saskatoon City, Saskatoon Mayfair, Saskatoon
Westmount - 1964 - 1982 and 1986 - 1991**

Evan Carlson, MLA for Melville - 1991 - 1995

Irving Carlson, MLA for Yorkton - 1971 - 1975

Eric Cline, MLA for Saskatoon Idylwyld, Saskatoon Mount Royal and Saskatoon Massey Place - 1991 - 2007

Don Cody, MLA for Watrous and Kinistino - 1971 -1982

Joanne Crofford, MLA for Regina Lake Centre, Regina Rosemont - 1991 - 2007

Allen Engel, MLA for Notukeu-Willow Bunch and Assiniboia Gravelbourg - 1971 - 1975 and 1978 - 1986

Don Faris, MLA for Arm River - 1971 - 1978

Dale Flavel, MLA for Last Mountain Touchwood - 1991 - 1999

Darcy Furber, MLA for Prince Albert Northcote - 2007 - 2011

Reg Gross, MLA for Gravelbourg, Morse - 1971 - 1975 and 1978 - 1982

Glenn Hagel, MLA for Moose Jaw North - 1986 - 2007

Doreen Hamilton, MLA for Regina Wascana Plains - 1991 - 2007

Jerry Hammersmith, MLA for Prince Albert Ducklake - 1978 - 1983

Deb Higgins, MLA for Moose Jaw Wakamow - 1999 - 2011

Andy Iwanchuk, MLA for Saskatoon Fairview - 2003 - 2011

Lloyd Johnson, MLA for Turtleford, Shellbrook Spiritwood - 1975 - 1982 and 1991 -1999

Carolyn Jones, MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin - 1999 - 2003

Judy Junor, MLA for Saskatoon Eastview - 1998 - 2011

Myron Kowalsky, MLA for Prince Albert Carlton - 1986 - 2007

Jack Langford, MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers - 1991 - 1999

Eldon Lautermilch, MLA for Prince Albert Duck Lake, Prince Albert Northcote - 1986 - 2007

Dwain Lingenfelter, MLA for Shaunavon, Regina Elphinstone, Regina Douglas Park - 1978 - 1986, 1988 - 2000 and 2009 - 2011

Pat Lorje, MLA for Saskatoon Wildwood, Saskatoon South East - 1991 -2003

Bob Lyons, MLA for Regina Rosemont - 1986 -1995

Doug McArthur, MLA for Regina Lakeview - 1978 - 1982

John R. Messer, MLA for Tisdale Kelsey, Kelsey Tisdale - 1967 - 1980

David Miner, MLA for The Battlefords - 1980 - 1982

Suzanne Murray, MLA for Qu'Appelle Lumsden - 1991 - 1999

John Nilson, MLA for Regina Lakeview - 1995 - 2016

Allan Oliver, Shaunavon - 1971 -1975

Peter Prebble, MLA for Saskatoon Sutherland, Saskatoon University, Saskatoon Greystone - 1978 - 1982, 1986 - 1991 and 1999 - 2007

Andy Renaud, MLA for Kelsey Tisdale - 1991 - 1995

John Richards, MLA for Saskatoon University - 1971 - 1975

Herman Rolfes, MLA for Saskatoon Buena Vista, Saskatoon South, Saskatoon Nutana - 1971 - 1982 and 1986 - 1995

Lorne Scott, MLA for Indian Head Wolseley, Indian Head Milestone - 1991 -199

Maynard Sonntag, MLA for Meadow Lake - 1991 - 2007

Violet Stanger, MLA for Lloydminster - 1991 - 1999.

Alex Taylor, MLA for Kerrobert Kindersley - 1971 - 1975

Carol Teichrob, MLA for Saskatoon River Heights, Saskatoon Meewasin - 1991 - 1999

Kim Thorson, MLA for Souris Estevan - 1956-60 and 1971-75

Kim Trew. MLA for Regina Coronation Park - 1986 - 2011

Harry Van Mulligen, MLA for Regina Douglas Park - 1986 - 2009

Larry Ward, MLA for Estevan – 1995 - 1999

Mark Wartman, MLA for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley - 1999 – 2007

Grant Whitmore, MLA for Biggar, Saskatoon Northwest – 1991 -1999

Berny Wiens, MLA for Rosetown Elrose, Rosetown Biggar - 1991-1999

Kevin Yates, MLA for Regina Northeast, Regina Dewdney - 1999 - 2011