



**Whistleblowing  
Canada Research  
Society**

*- Research, Educate, Advocate*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 23, 2021 - *World Whistleblower Day***

**Whistleblowing Canada and UK's Parrhesia Join Forces To Protect Truth-tellers.**

*- No excuse in modern, democratic societies for reprisals.*

**Vancouver, British Columbia.** Today, as the world celebrates *World Whistleblowing Day*, Whistleblowing Canada announces its alliance with the UK's newly launched charity [Parrhesia](#), with whom it joins in common cause to build a community of practice nationally and internationally to improve the lot of whistleblowers in Canada, the UK and in concert with the growing international movement for change.

Canada suffers from a [sparse body](#) of established research and knowledge about why many whistleblowers continue to get punished in Canada which means there is little to inform the development of effective public policy. Emerging Canadian research indicates the reasons are complex and include weak laws, dysfunctional political and organizational cultures and attitudes in the courts. This lack is compounded by very strong resistance from successive Canadian governments who refuse to do anything at all to improve the situation even when they have been handed vital, credible, [evidence-based information](#) on what needs to be done. The resistance has risen to the extreme of apparent [law-breaking](#) by government itself in service of the status quo This helps explain why Canada's whistleblower protection legislation has been designated the worst in the world (tied with Lebanon) by a recent [international study](#).

These are some of the reasons why this alliance is so important as it makes direct links with the accumulated knowledge and expertise of researchers and others from around the world who have been investigating whistleblowing and whistleblowing systems over many years and which will help inform the needed changes in Canada and elsewhere.

The notion of parrhesia (truth-telling or brave speech) has been described by philosophers from the time of the ancient Greeks to modern times as the most important factor for how governments should communicate with their people and how the people should communicate with their government in democracies.

Ian Foxley, founding trustee and CEO at Parrhesia says, "Our goal is to contribute to whistleblower protection by making sure that lawmakers, and those who support whistleblowers, have the best information to do their jobs. Retaliation against whistleblowers is not bounded by international

borders. We are therefore delighted to join the Whistleblowing Canada Research Society, to help share best practice and experience further afield, and help support this vital work in Canada”.

As Whistleblowing Canada continues its work to expand and enhance whistleblowing research and practice in Canada, this alliance and the sharing and exchange of knowledge and ideas it brings will enrich that process.

“We at Whistleblowing Canada enthusiastically join with Parrhesia in its endeavours. There is just no excuse in modern societies for the continuing punishment of truth-tellers who act for the common good. Citizens from around the world are coming together to say – this is not acceptable behaviour – so let’s just stop it. Enough is enough!” says Pamela Forward, President and Executive Director of Whistleblowing Canada.

Joining Whistleblowing Canada in its work are two new appointments to its Advisory Board, both of whom bring much appreciated expertise, experience and commitment:

Marc Tasse, Part-time Professor, Dept. of Law and Telfer School of Management, Ottawa University and

Caroline Hunt-Matthes, Adjunct Professor at Grenoble Business School in France and Webster University, Geneva, and former UN whistleblower.

Their biographies are available at: [https://www.whistleblowingcanada.com/advisory\\_board](https://www.whistleblowingcanada.com/advisory_board)

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*Whistleblowing Canada Research Society (WC) is a non-profit charity dedicated to advancing education on the whistleblowing phenomenon in Canada through research. This research is shared publicly to inform public discussion and public policy development.*

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