

Whistleblowing Canada Research Society

Research, Educate, Advocate

WHISTLEBLOWING CANADA NEWS

<http://www.whistleblowingcanada.com/>

August 24, 2020



IMPROVING WHISTLEBLOWING PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of *Whistleblowing Canada Research Society*. The organization officially launched on August 10th, 2020 on the occasion of its first meeting with its [Advisory Board](#) made up of national and international academics, professionals and other leaders in the growing field of whistleblowing. [A Press Release and letters of introduction](#) were sent to the Minister responsible for the whistleblower protection act - President of the Treasury Board, Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP- and leaders of the opposition and senate.

The letters contained [a summary](#) of Whistleblowing Canada's (WC) "raisons d'être", the direction of its work and the major issues plaguing whistleblowers identified in a seminal whistleblowing in-depth [case study](#) the results of which helped prompt the formation of the organization. These are the identified issues that will guide the direction of its research, education and advocacy:

- weak, ineffective whistleblower protection legislation,
- dysfunctional organizational cultures,
- dysfunctional political cultures, and
- attitudes and beliefs detrimental to whistleblowers in the courts.

Whistleblowing Canada also called on Minister Duclos to promptly rectify the lack of meaningful discussion in Parliament of the recommended amendments for improvement to the whistleblower protection law made in the 2017 unanimous Report of a Parliamentary standing committee, even if 3 years later. The government response – a 1 ¼ page letter - was a non-response as it did not address the recommended amendments to the law and is evidence of the lack of a serious, sincere effort to comply with the intent of the statutory review – to improve the legislation. The result? No improvements were made and the work of the committee was rendered a meaningless paper exercise. The law has been described as "a fraud" by international experts and held up in international forums as containing not one "best practice" for such legislation. As a result, most disclosers of wrongdoing at the federal level remain at risk.

Minister Duclos was also asked to champion the formation of a Standing Joint Committee of Parliament on whistleblowing to oversee the Act's implementation to ensure effective implementation, processes and oversight in the future. Opposition leaders and Senate leaders were asked to support this call as well. In lieu of a formal standing committee, Whistleblowing Canada called on MP's and Senators to establish, on their own initiative, an informal All Parliamentary Group on Whistleblowing (APPG) to help advance the file as elected representatives have done in the UK.



WHISTLEBLOWER STORIES

In addition to Updates on projects, campaigns etc., Whistleblowing Canada News will highlight current whistleblower stories, especially those with particular relevance for our work. A current story highlighting why whistleblowers must be protected is about problems with access to information laws which also do not function according to the laws' intent - to provide transparency to Canadians about what governments and organizations are doing. Without such access, whistleblowers provide the only window on what is really happening. [A current story](#) is an example of such problems at the provincial level entitled *Man suing P.E.I. government for millions seeks contempt ruling over fight for documents*, dated Feb. 6, 2020. The situation in PEI has gotten to the point where a [Special Committee](#) of the legislature has been set up to investigate the actions of politicians and bureaucrats concerning certain missing relevant documents and emails.

Another [relevant story](#) entitled *WE Charity whistleblowers will be protected*, dated August 6, 2020 highlights why the private sector, both federally and provincially needs whistleblower protection legislation. The House of Commons Finance Committee had to offer witness protection so WE charity employees could feel safe enough to come forward.

Whistleblowing Canada believes the success of its work will largely depend on the strength of the *political will* to lead change. Motivating the development of the political will for improving

the legal protections and culture around whistleblowing will depend on the strength of the *public will* to become informed and to campaign for needed improvements.

Your [support](#) is very much needed.

Whistleblowing Canada welcomes your feedback. Please comment to:

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