



Whistleblowing
Canada Research
Society

Whistleblowing Canada Joins International Movement to Protect Whistleblowers. Enough is Enough!

Hello Everyone:

Today, June 23rd, 2021, is [World Whistleblowers Day!](#)

This is a day when communities around the world acknowledge and celebrate Whistleblowers without whose commitment to truth, fairness and justice our organizations and democracies could not function with integrity – and in reality would not be functioning democracies at all.

Whistleblowing Canada Announces Alliance with Parrhesia

Today we have further reason to celebrate *World Whistleblowers Day* as we are announcing our alliance with a new UK, non-profit Charity called Parrhesia – which means “bold speech” or “fearless speech”. Whistleblowing Canada is delighted to join with [Parrhesia](#) and partners as we work to achieve our shared goals and vision of building a community of practice nationally and internationally to improve the lot of whistleblowers everywhere.

We do this by advancing education on the whistleblowing phenomenon through research, sharing the information publicly and advocating for sound public policy. We enthusiastically join in this endeavor.

Quebec Takes Lead: Announces “*Whistleblower Awareness Day*” Supporting Whistleblowers

Did you know that on March 24, 2021, [the Office of the Quebec Ombudsperson \(Protecteur du citoyen\)](#) put out a Press Release announcing *Whistleblower Awareness Day: Strengthening Integrity in Public Bodies: In it together?* This will be an annual celebration on March 24 created by the *Quebec Public Integrity Partners Forum* which joined forces to establish the event. The Forum is made up of six public bodies that "oversee integrity in provincial and territorial jurisdictions". Further, the Forum takes an approach which demonstrates genuine commitment to their stated aims by:

- encouraging *anyone* who thinks they have witnessed public wrongdoing to report it;
- reminding public institutions of their obligation to protect the identity of whistleblowers and cooperate in investigations;
- and most importantly, reminding these institutions to ensure the whistleblower is not victimized.

The Forum also encourages the public to show support for Whistleblower Awareness Day on social media, even providing some # hashtags. **Kudos to the *Quebec Public Integrity Partners Forum* for sending out this important message.**

A number of other Ombuds Offices across Canada put out Press Releases in support of the March 24 proclamation; however, it is unclear how many have come together as a Forum of relevant organizations as in Quebec. We encourage the formation of such a Forum in each province. This is exactly the kind of public demonstration of serious commitment by those in leadership positions that will lead to culture change in society at large and in public and private organizations.

It will also contribute to restoring public trust which according to research is at an all-time low.

Of course, it goes without saying that it would be a hugely important message of encouragement and commitment if the *Office of the Federal Public Sector Integrity Commissioner* would join in with the development of a federal *Public Integrity Partners Forum* and proclamation of *Whistleblower Awareness Day* as well.

March 24, 2021 – International Whistleblower Day – Proclaimed by Southeastern Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection (SECWP)

March 24 has also been proclaimed since 2017, as a day of acknowledgement of the importance of whistleblowers to maintaining honest governments and organizations. It is a coalition of NGO's, journalists, lawyers, activists and professionals from 12 different countries working to improve protections and whistleblowing cultures in their various countries.

Yes, that is the same date as the Quebec proclamation of *Whistleblower Awareness Day*.

July 30, 2021, U.S. National Whistleblower Day

And last but not least, the U.S. is celebrating National Whistleblower Day on July 30. This celebration is often conducted with the participation of the U.S. Senate and has been taking place for a number of years.

We are happy to say we have been invited to join in these celebrations by participating in a panel discussion with other leaders from international NGO's – Darko Ivanovic, 35 mm, Montenegro; Gilbert

Sendugawa, the Africa Freedom of Information Centre, Uganda and moderated by Mark Worth, Whistleblower Network News from the U.S.

It seems safe to say that the alliance with Parrhesia and the declaration of Whistleblower Awareness and Appreciation Days – along with the adoption of whistleblower protection legislation in over 60 countries around the world - is indicative of a growing international movement (some say “revolution”) that acknowledges the importance of whistleblowers to maintaining honest organizations, our democratic institutions and our democratic way of life.

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!

All of us at Whistleblowing Canada enthusiastically join in this effort and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Pamela

Whistleblowing Canada

P.S. We are a charity and as such rely on donations from supporters.

Please consider donating today so we can continue our important work.

Whistleblowing Canada Research Society

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

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