



August 18, 2021

### **Via Electronic Mail**

Francis Drouin, Liberal ([Francis.Drouin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Francis.Drouin@parl.gc.ca))

Kelly McCauley, Conservative ([Kelly.McCauley@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kelly.McCauley@parl.gc.ca), [edmontonwestcpc@gmail.com](mailto:edmontonwestcpc@gmail.com))

Julie Vignola, Bloc Quebecois ([Julie.Vignola@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Julie.Vignola@parl.gc.ca), [julievignola@bloc.quebeca](mailto:julievignola@bloc.quebeca))

Matthew Green, NDP ([Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Matthew.Green@parl.gc.ca), [matthew.green@ndp.ca](mailto:matthew.green@ndp.ca))

Paul Manly – Green Party ([Paul.Manly@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Paul.Manly@parl.gc.ca))

Dear former Members of Parliament and candidates for re-election,

### **Who we are**

I am writing to you on behalf of Whistleblowing Canada Research Society (WCRS). WCRS is a Canadian non-profit corporation and registered charity. Our leadership and supporters come from every region of Canada.

WCRS's mandate is focused on research and education related to whistleblowing. It is clear that insiders — such as public servants in the public administration — are best placed to assist in the early detection and correction of wrongdoing in public administration because of their access to the information/knowledge of what is being done. Facilitating the reporting of wrongdoing by such insiders is one of the most effective ways to dissuade wrongdoing and to limit its harm through early detection and correction.

Fostering early and effective reporting of wrongdoing requires both a sound legal regime to foster whistleblowing and to protect whistleblowers and an organizational culture of openness to reflection, learning and improvement when errors are detected or criticism is raised. Good legislation is necessary, and for that good legislation to be implemented effectively, the active support and ongoing communication of that support by leaders is equally needed. Without both, our public service will be closed and defensive instead of open, learning-oriented, and focused on the public good.

### **An e-forum to explore positions/commitments on whistleblowing**

A federal election has been called, and WCRS wishes to ensure that voters have the information they need to make informed choices, including information as to the parties' commitments to the integrity of public administration.

WCRS is organizing an e-forum in which representatives of federal political parties can explore the subject of whistleblowing with other participants and present their own parties' views and commitments with regard to whistleblowing.

WC will be inviting each participant to state what their party plans to do with respect to whistleblowing including with regard to

- a. amendments to the current *Public Service Disclosure Protection Act* and, in particular, the amendments recommended in the unanimous report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates presented in June 2017 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament (now the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of OGGO readopted during the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the 43<sup>rd</sup> parliament and presented Feb. 25, 2021) entitled “Strengthening the protection of the public interest within the *Public Servants Disclosure Protection Act*”;
- b. other measures to foster a culture of openness and learning in the federal public administration such as
  - leadership by political and bureaucratic leaders in actively championing the reporting of wrongdoing
  - raising awareness of the importance of reporting;
  - training and dissemination of information related to reporting, skill development and capacity-building;
  - legal support and psychosocial support to whistleblowers;
  - prompt investigation of reprisals and corrective action taken to protect reporting persons;
  - remediation of the wrongdoing; and
  - disciplinary measures for any reprisals taken.

### **Your willingness to participate**

Please advise whether you or someone else from your party is, in principle, willing to participate in the planned forum. A reply to the email from which this is sent would be most efficient.

Once we know who is willing to participate, we will communicate further to arrange a mutually suitable time.

### **Further information**

For more information about WCRS, consult our website, [www.whistleblowingcanada.com](http://www.whistleblowingcanada.com).

Best regards,

**Whistleblowing Canada Research Society by:**



Edgar Schmidt  
Director

ccs to: Party leaders ([Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca); [assistance@liberal.ca](mailto:assistance@liberal.ca); [Erin.O'Toole@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Erin.O'Toole@parl.gc.ca); [Yves-François.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Yves-François.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca); [Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca); [info@annamiepaul.ca](mailto:info@annamiepaul.ca))