

Ignatieff must finally support a vote of non-confidence, and the Governor General must call upon the opposition parties to form government

PEJ News - Joan Russow, Ph.D., Global Compliance Research Project - UPDATE; On [Monday, June 15,] ON FRIDAY JUNE 19, Michael Ignatieff has the opportunity of supporting a non- confidence vote in Parliament. While this motion would pass and would bring down the Harper government, it will not automatically result in an election. The Governor General erred in appeasing Harper through the dissolving and through the proroguing of Parliament. Now, if there is a successful vote of non-confidence in the Conservative government, she has the chance to rectify her errors by finally standing up to Harper, and calling upon the Opposition parties to govern. The time has come for the majority votes in parliament to count. How often, in the Harper years, have the Opposition parties voted together, and expressed the wishes of over 60 % of the public. Now in recent polls, the three opposition parties, along with the Green Party, have the support of almost 70% of the citizens of Canada. Harper can no longer speak for Canada.

www.PEJ.org **GOVERNOR GENERAL ERRED IN PERMITTING THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT WHEN OUTSTANDING UNRESOLVED ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HARPER EXISTED**

Prior to the calling of the 2008 election, the Conservative Party, under Stephen Harper, was being investigated by the Parliamentary Committee on Ethics, Access to Information and Privacy, for violation of the Elections Act, in the 2006 election. The Chief Electoral Officer appeared before the Committee and stated that the practice, which was described as an "in-and out" funding scheme, was in violation of the Elections Act. During the 2006 Election, the Conservatives appeared to be exceeding the spending limit at the Federal level. To circumvent this Federal limit, the Conservative administration transferred funds into 65 ridings where it was anticipated that the candidate would not arrive at the allotted riding spending limit. These funds were recorded in the candidates' income, returned to the Federal party to be spent at the national level, but the expenses were recorded not at the national level, but as a local expense which was contrary to the Election Act. It was the assigning of national expenses at the Federal level at the riding level that was in violation of the Act. When the Parliamentary Committee was investigating this practice, the candidates were going to be required to appear before the Parliamentary Committee. The Conservative Party administration, under the guidance of Stephen Harper, indicated to the candidates in 65 ridings that they did not have to appear before the Committee. When 27 subpoenas were issued, only three appeared before the Committee.

While the Committee was attempting to fully address the inquiry, Stephen Harper stepped down and asked the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call an election, which she did.

An election should never have been called, while there was still an investigation into fraudulent practices in the previous election.

As a result of the election being called, the Parliamentary Committee was dissolved.

The Governor General erred at this time.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ERRED IN PROROGING PARLIAMENT

The Governor General, through permitting the prorogation of Parliament, set a dangerous precedent in allowing a Prime Minister when facing an imminent non-confidence vote, to be permitted to evade a vote that was destined to pass.

She also failed to acknowledge that there was a credible coalition of opposition parties, representing over 60% of the Electorate that was willing to govern.

THERE IS SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO REMOVE AND SUSPEND STEPHEN HARPER

Under Article V of the Letters Patent of the Governor General, there is the following provision:

And We do further authorize and empower Our Governor General, so far as We lawfully may, upon sufficient cause to him appearing, to remove from his office, or to suspend from the exercise of the same, any person exercising any office within Canada, under or by virtue of any Commission or Warrant granted, or which may be granted, by Us in Our name or under Our authority.

There has been "sufficient cause" to remove Stephen Harper from office and suspend him from exercising his powers. Apart from the outstanding accusations of fraudulent election funding practices, there have been numerous cases where Stephen Harper, by failing to acknowledge the will of the majority of members of Parliament, has almost irreversibly damage Canada's international reputation related to human rights, and the environment.

The Governor General has now dissolved Parliament and permitted an election even when there were unresolved accusations against the Prime Minister and his party; has now permitted Stephen Harper and the Conservative party to evade a non-confidence vote, by her permitting the Prorogation of Parliament.

IT IS TIME FOR HER TO RECTIFY HER ERRORS AND WHEN THERE IS A VOTE OF NON-CONFIDENCE TO CALL UPON THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO FORM GOVERNMENT.