

## **No More Cover-Ups: Scheer promises judicial inquiry into SNC-Lavalin scandal, more safeguards against corruption**

In 2015, Justin Trudeau said he would be accountable and ethical. Instead, he has used the power of his office to reward his supporters and punish his critics.

He is not as advertised.

As confirmed by hours of Parliamentary testimony, taped conversations, and an Ethics Commissioner's guilty verdict, Trudeau and his office politically interfered in SNC-Lavalin's criminal prosecution by trying to circumvent, undermine, and ultimately attempt to discredit former Attorney General Jody Wilson-Raybould.

However, to this day, Trudeau refuses to waive cabinet confidence, keeping important details of the scandal secret and preventing several key witnesses, including Ms. Wilson-Raybould, from disclosing evidence.

Canadians deserve answers. They deserve accountability and transparency. That's why a new Conservative government will launch a judicial inquiry into the SNC-Lavalin corruption scandal and pass the *No More Cover-Ups Act*, which will allow the RCMP to make an application to the Supreme Court of Canada to obtain evidence held behind cabinet confidence to allow for investigations to proceed.

### **THE ISSUE**

- Justin Trudeau was found to have broken the *Conflict of Interest Act* for attempting to stop the criminal trial of SNC-Lavalin. He abused the power of his office to try to illegally block the trial of SNC-Lavalin for fraud and corruption.
- Throughout the SNC-Lavalin scandal, each time new information was presented that contradicted his version of the story, Trudeau denied responsibility and lied to Canadians.
- The very first day the story broke in the newspaper, he said it was not true. **We know this is false.**
- Trudeau said he never pressured Jody Wilson-Raybould. **We know this is false.**
- Trudeau said Ms. Wilson-Raybould never went to him with her concerns. **We know this is false.**
- Trudeau said he would co-operate with the Ethics Commissioner. **We know this is false.**
- Trudeau said he granted the largest waiver of cabinet confidence in history. **We know this is false.**
- Between **2016 and 2018**, there were hundreds of meetings between Justin Trudeau, his staff, and SNC-Lavalin representatives.
- Between **September and December 2018** only, after SNC learned that they would have to stand trial, there were ten meetings and ten phone calls including,

at different times, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Clerk of the Privy Council – Trudeau's Deputy Minister – the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, his principal secretary, three of his main advisors, the Finance Minister's Chief of Staff, and his policy director.

- On **October 15, 2018**, SNC-Lavalin wrote directly to Justin Trudeau to ask him to stop the trial, as if the Prime Minister of Canada worked for a private company. Justin Trudeau used his majority government to prevent getting to the bottom of this scandal as he shut down three Parliamentary investigations.
- Now we know that the RCMP is looking into possible obstruction of justice, and Trudeau is blocking those efforts by refusing to waive cabinet confidence. He has claimed that all information is covered by cabinet confidence, and he has tried to place all the blame on a senior public servant. He will stop at nothing to hide information in this scandal. Canadians deserve better.

## THE PLAN

- The only way to get to the bottom of this scandal – and get the answers Canadians deserve – is to hold a judicial inquiry.
- A new Conservative government will launch a judicial inquiry into the SNC-Lavalin corruption scandal to get the answers Canadians deserve.
- A new Conservative government will introduce the *No More Cover-Ups Act* to allow the RCMP to access information protected by cabinet confidence by making an application to the Supreme Court of Canada. This will prevent corrupt politicians from hiding behind cabinet confidence to escape police investigation.
- Despite the text of the law and court rulings emphasizing the importance of disclosure, cabinet confidence is still applied too broadly.
- We will Amend s. 39 of the Canada Evidence Act to allow the RCMP to make an application to challenge a certificate of Cabinet Confidence during criminal investigations, including those pertaining to the administration of justice. This will cover both obtaining records as well as conducting interviews.
- Cabinet confidence is an important feature of cabinet governance, but it should not be absolute. In criminal investigations, this principle must be balanced against the need for police to fully investigate allegations of wrongdoing.

## THE CHOICE

These measures will safeguard our democracy against the whims of sleazy and unscrupulous politicians, but the best protection against the abuse of power remains the democratic vigilance of citizens.

Justin Trudeau has so far managed to avoid legal consequences for his actions. Now his case is before Canadians.

Trudeau has been found guilty of violating the *Conflict of Interest Act*, he has lied to Canadians, and has abused the power of his office to avoid telling the truth.

Trudeau's official verdict will arrive on October 21. He is not fit to lead.