

## Randall Garrison

Member of Parliament for Esquimalt–Juan de Fuca  
Député de Esquimalt–Juan de Fuca



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

January 14, 2014

The Honourable Steven Blaney, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you regarding the activities of Chuck Strahl, the Chair of the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC). Reports of Mr. Strahl registering as a lobbyist for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline are raising concerns with Canadians.

Canadians are concerned that Mr. Strahl, a former senior Conservative Minister handpicked to replace disgraced previous Conservative-appointed SIRC Chair Arthur Porter, is now lobbying for a pipeline seeking federal government approval while being compensated by the federal government. Many people are also expressed concerns that lobbying any level of government on any subject is incompatible with the role as chair of an oversight body related to national security.

In Mr. Strahl's case, the appearance of inappropriate activity is exacerbated by the fact that, as a former minister, he is prohibited from federal lobbying for five years after leaving office, yet seeks to accomplish indirectly what he cannot do directly. He is exploiting loopholes in the *Lobbying Act* that allow a former federal minister to lobby the provincial government, even if it is on behalf of a pipeline seeking federal approval.

This latest controversy comes on the heels of earlier reports of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) caught spying on behalf of natural resource companies – spying on Canadians opposed to the pipeline that Mr. Strahl is paid to lobby for.

This apparent conflict of interest serves to further undermine Canadians' confidence in the fairness of the pipeline approval process, the activities of the SIRC Chair in his capacity as lobbyist for Enbridge Northern Gateway and the impartiality of the Review Committee.

Therefore, I would like to request that you initiate an investigation into the activities of the Chair and Members of the Review Committee as per section 54. (2) of the *Canadian Security Intelligence Act*,

**(2) The Review Committee may, on request by the Minister or at any other time, furnish the Minister with a special report concerning any matter that relates to the performance of its duties and functions.**

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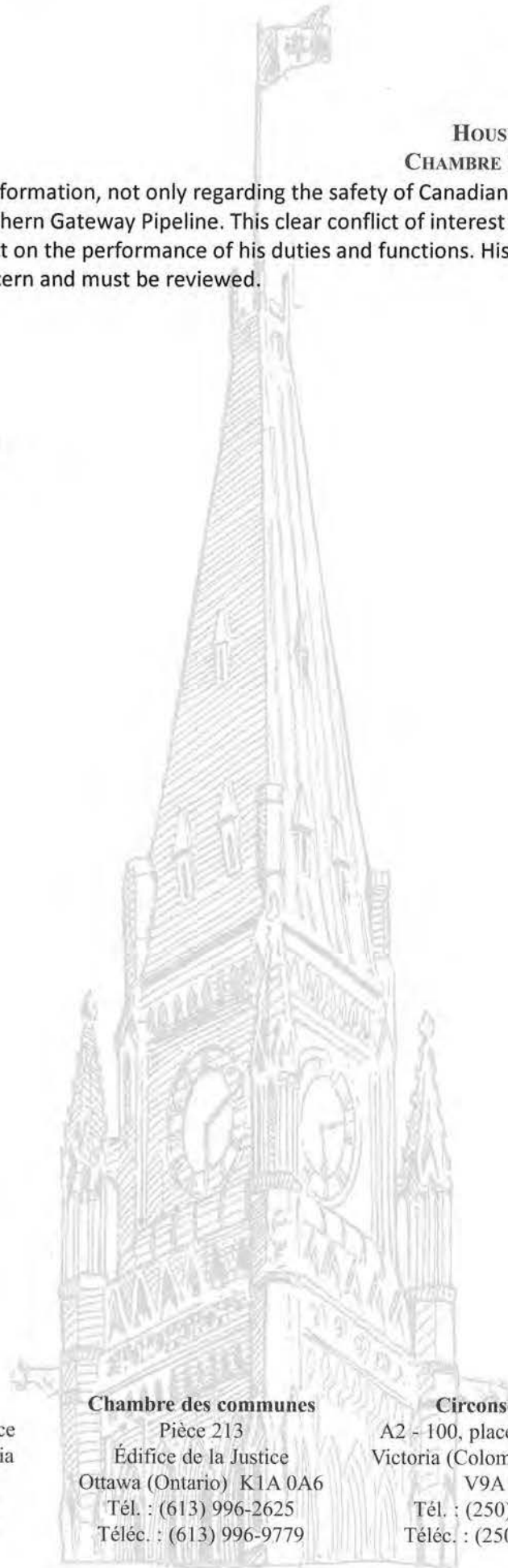


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The head of the SIRC is trusted with sensitive information, not only regarding the safety of Canadians, but relating to private projects such as the Northern Gateway Pipeline. This clear conflict of interest involving the head of the SIRC has a direct effect on the performance of his duties and functions. His lobbying on behalf of Enbridge is cause for concern and must be reviewed.

Sincerely,

Randall Garrison, MP (Esquimalt--Juan de Fuca)  
Official Opposition Critic for Public Safety



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