



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

## Alexandrine Latendresse

Députée / Member of Parliament  
Louis-Saint-Laurent



Wednesday, May 29th, 2013

Commissioner of Canada Elections  
c/o Elections Canada  
257 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0M6

Commissioner,

I am writing in order to bring to your attention recent revelations made in the media concerning questionable donations to certain political parties.

According to Radio-Canada, dozens of associates of the accounting firm Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton made donations on the same day to the same organisation. On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, a wave of donations swept through the Conservative Association of Pontiac and on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, another series of donations were made to the Conservative Party of Canada. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, it was the Liberal Party of Canada who was the recipient of another set of donations.

Certain recent public revelations concerning political donations made in Quebec have heightened my concerns in this matter. Indeed, the Charbonneau Commission has unmasked companies that made a point of using their employees to circumvent the ban on corporate donations to political parties by reimbursing their employees afterwards. It goes without saying that such a synchronisation of the donations originating from the associates of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton lends itself quite well to such a ploy.

If the individuals concerned used such an approach, they would be in violation of articles 405.2 and 405.3 of the Canada Elections Act:

**405.2 (1) No person or entity shall:**

- a) circumvent, or attempt to circumvent, the prohibition under subsection 404(1) or a limit set out in subsection 405(1) or section 405.31; or
- b) act in collusion with another person or entity for that purpose.

**405.3 No individual shall make a contribution to a registered party, a registered association, a candidate or a leadership contestant or a nomination contestant that comes from money, property or the services of any person or entity that was provided to that individual for that purpose.**

I offer these articles only as an example, but I do not want to limit in any way further investigation into these donations.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing your opinion on the matter.

  
Alexandrine Latendresse



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