



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Rob Moore

Member of Parliament
Fundy Royal

Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C.
Chair, Canadian Judicial Council
150 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, ON
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Dear Chief Justice,

I write to you today in your capacity as the Chair of the Canadian Judicial Council.

An article published today in the *Globe and Mail* suggests that there has been systemic, partisan interference in the vetting process for judicial appointments. While we have been aware of the Liberal Party's supporter database being used to critique appointments, this latest news goes far beyond that.

In emails obtained by *The Globe and Mail* they found significant partisan interference in the selection of judges. One example cited is a judge on the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, Colleen Suche, being involved in the selection of candidates for the bench. Ms. Suche's husband is a former cabinet minister and Member of Parliament, Jim Carr.

The fact a sitting judge is telling political staff in the Minister of Justice's office who should be appointed and where is extremely inappropriate. This situation appears to be another example of Liberal insiders putting pressure on then Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould to achieve a result they wanted.

Clearly a wide network of Liberal Party insiders are involved in the appointment of judges across Canada. This raises serious questions about whether or not the best candidates are indeed being appointed, or if it is only those whose Liberal connections pass a test.

The mandate of the Council is "to promote efficiency and uniformity, and to improve the quality of judicial service, in superior courts." This certainly includes issues of judicial independence. I would

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therefore hope that, at its next meeting, the Canadian Judicial Council would consider the partisan nature of Justice Suche's involvement in these appointments, and the resulting impact on judicial independence. Further, keeping Canadians apprised of this situation will strengthen their confidence in the independence of our judicial system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rob Moore', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Rob Moore

*Shadow Minister for Justice and Attorney General
Member of Parliament, Fundy Royal*