



Transparency International Canada Inc.

21 December 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Transparency International Canada (TI-Canada) wishes to voice its concerns on the allegations of corruption made against the former Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney. These allegations go to the heart of the corruption issue in this country and they must be fully and properly investigated and resolved in a transparent, judicious, independent and expeditious manner.

Transparency International published its annual Global Corruption Barometer on December 6, 2007. Once again, its primary finding was that "citizens in countries across the globe continue to see political parties and parliaments as the institutions most compromised by corruption." Canada is no exception and Canadian political leaders must ensure that corruption is rooted out when it raises its ugly head in our political system. On October 2, 2007, the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, noted, when Canada ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption, "Ratifying the Convention is the international expression of the Government of Canada's commitment to deliver greater accountability in government and to fight the crime and costs of corruption." Your Government must first honour its commitment at home before it can be taken seriously on this issue in foreign lands.

Corruption shakes the foundations of civil society, weakens trust in the public institutions that Canadians hold dear and destroys faith in the leadership upon which democracy depends. As a result, serious allegations must be investigated quickly and resolved, either with prosecution if found to be accurate, or with closure if found to be untrue. TI-Canada is of the opinion that the Parliamentary House Ethics Committee was not the appropriate forum to properly and fully deal with these allegations. It had neither the ability, the resources nor the time to properly question Mr. Mulroney or Mr. Schreiber and to get to the bottom of these allegations. We strongly encourage the Government to urgently take full action to investigate these allegations, including a public inquiry if necessary. Any such public inquiry must not be derailed with a political agenda nor must it be denied the necessary resources to fully investigate the allegations. And if there is a shred of evidence that these allegations are true and the law of Canada has been broken, then they must be quickly prosecuted in order to restore the public's faith in a corruption-free government.

Such allegations must be investigated and prosecuted with great vigour. Otherwise, Canadians will continue to question the honesty of our politicians and the integrity of our institutions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clare M. Bonnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Bonnell (Ms.)
Chair and President
Transparency International Canada Inc.

cc: The Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of
Canada
The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board
Mr. William Elliott, RCMP Commissioner
Prof. David Johnston, President, University of Waterloo