



Mathieu Ravnignat

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Office of the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Commissioner
Parliament of Canada
Centre Block, P.O. Box 16
Ottawa, Ontario
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RE: A Potential Pattern of Conservative Minister Finley violating the Conflict of Interest Act

Dear Ms. Dawson,

I was extremely disturbed to read your report, *The Finley Report*, where Minister Finley was found to have inappropriately approved a million dollar project that failed its initial assessment with a score higher than only three of 167 other proposals. Fifty thousand dollars ended up misspent on this project until it collapsed under the weight of its deficiencies.

You were clear that the funding was inappropriate, the Minister gave preferential treatment, the decision may have been influenced by political consideration, and these actions violated the act by putting the Minister in a conflict of interest.

Mr. Patrick Brazeau has publicly alleged that Minister Finley also politically interfered into the funding of the Jean Bosco Centre in Maniwaki. He claims that they were promised funds but when former Minister Lawrence Cannon lost the last election that Minister Finley pulled the funding. Mr. Brazeau also claims to have met with both Minister Finley and ex-Chief of Staff at the PMO Nigel Wright to discuss the matter. If true, I believe that these actions could have violated Sections 4 and 6 of the Conflict of Interest Act:

exercises an official power, duty or function that provides an opportunity to further his or her private interests or those of his or her relatives or friends or to improperly further another person's private interests.

[. . .]

6. (1) No public office holder shall make a decision or participate in making a decision related to the exercise of an official power, duty or function if the public office holder knows or reasonably should know that, in the making of the decision, he or she would be in a conflict of interest.

These latest allegations are disturbing; the government has a duty to govern for the greater good – which includes people who didn't vote for them. The ethical bar must be raised in Ottawa, Canadians deserve better.

I ask that you investigate these matters and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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MP Pontiac

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