

May 17, 2010

**Conflict of Interest Commissioner**

101 - 431 Menzies Street

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Dear Sir and /or Madam:

**Re: Members Conflict of Interest Act**

**Premier Gordon Campbell**

**Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant - Lara Dauphinee**

It has come to my attention that Premier Campbell and his Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant, Lara Dauphinee, have been involved in a sexual relationship for some time, that Premier Campbell was involved in the decision making that resulted in Ms. Dauphinee being selected for her present position as Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant and that Premier Campbell continues to be involved in decision making as to whether or not Ms. Dauphinee will accompany him on official trips and carry out other duties.

If these allegations about Premier Campbell having been involved in a sexual relationship with Lara Dauphinee are true then, in my opinion, there has been an ongoing, clear and unequivocal violation of the **Members Conflict of Interest Act**.

Put simply, if Mr. Campbell is receiving sexual favours from Ms. Dauphinee then he is in a conflict of interest situation because he has an ongoing personal interest in continuing those sexual favours that conflicts with his ongoing public duty to insure that Ms. Dauphinee is doing her job properly, that she is paid reasonably, not excessively, that she is qualified for the job, and that her travel expense is reasonably necessary for her job.

The payment of public monies to girlfriends and sex partners is a highly controversial matter in Canada. For example, in May, 2002, Canadian Government Defence Minister, Art Eggleton, was forced to resign when it was learned his ex- girlfriend was given a government contract that entitled her to a mere \$36,500. Ms. Dauphinee is reportedly paid in excess of \$150,000 per year.

More shocking is the revelation that Lara has been given access to highly classified secret government documents because Premier Campbell has cleverly disguised the relationship by giving Lara the title of Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Assistant which means that, in addition to allegedly providing sex services for the Premier, she is privy to official government secrets. As you are probably aware, in May 2008, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxine Bernier, was forced to resign from cabinet after a scandal involving his allowing a girlfriend to have access to secret government documents.

33-086-584 (98-10)

This is a serious public interest issue.

In his private capacity, Mr. Campbell is entitled to have sex with any consenting female over a certain age but, in his public capacity, the **Members Conflict of Interest Act** specifically restrains the Premier (and other members of the legislature) from entering a sexual relationship with a woman where his private interest in continuing to receive sexual favours conflicts with his public duties to insure public assets, i.e. money, are properly allocated. Simply put, how can the public be assured that Ms. Dauphinee is accompanying the Premier on official trips for a legitimate public purpose as opposed to Mr. Campbell's private interest in receiving sex. More broadly stated, has Mr. Campbell used his high office to reward his girlfriend with a high paying job in exchange for her ongoing companionship and other benefits.

I formally request that you investigate this matter and take appropriate remedial measures.

Yours very truly,

**John Frederick Carten**

PO Box 20227 RPO Towne Centre  
Kelowna, B.C.,  
V1Y 9JH2

E-mail [johnfcarten@yahoo.com](mailto:johnfcarten@yahoo.com)

Web Site <http://www.waterwarcrimes.com>

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